W
atch out for the dream stealers, says Carl McNair: “They may be friends or family and they may mean well but they can rob you of your future. They may say it’ll take too long to get a Ph.D., that you’ll be too old when you finish. Well, if you’re going to get old anyway, why not have a doctorate when you get there?”

Carl McNair, surviving brother of Ronald E. McNair, one of the astronauts who died in the Challenger explosion in 1986, and for whom the McNair Program is named, came to the MTSU campus to deliver his message that “to succeed, you can’t quit.”

There will be times en route to the doctorate, or in any other pursuit, that you may be tempted. “You have to decide, right now, that quitting is not an option. When things get tough, and they will, if quitting is one of your options, you may take it,” McNair says. “You can’t be lukewarm. You have to be totally committed.”

He tells the story of his brother, who wanted to get a degree in physics but felt so intimidated by the other students because of their strong educational backgrounds that he switched to music. He was afraid he couldn’t compete. Thanks to a mentor who had confidence in him, Ronald McNair went back to physics and went all the way to the Ph.D. and became a NASA astronaut. This was no mean feat for a black man who grew up without indoor plumbing in the small town of Lake City, South Carolina, during the height of racial discrimination. “If he could do it,” says Carl McNair, “so can you.”

McNair’s presentation followed a dinner for approximately 150 attendees, mostly students, and including a delegation from Fisk University. Afterward, a drawing for $100 gift certificates to Phillips Bookstore went to six MTSU students in the audience. The drawing also included the Ronald McNair biography by his brother, Carl.
How can I save money while I’m in school?

Of course you’re poor! You’re a student! But you might be surprised how much wealth is at your fingertips. If you start McNair at the beginning of your junior year, by the time you complete your second year of graduate school, you could have more than $5000 stashed away earning tax-free interest. Most of that amount will come from saving $3.00 a day. You may be thinking, “How can I possibly save $3.00 a day when I can barely keep up with my bills?” Well, smokers somehow find the three bucks to support a pack-a-day habit. It’s there somewhere. The key is to pay yourself first. Pay yourself that three dollars before you pay any other bill. You’ll find a way to make ends meet.

As soon as you have saved $50, go to a bank and buy a $100 Series E savings bond. The interest you’ll earn is quite low — it’ll be 20 years before the bond is worth $100, but it’s tax-free interest. The major value, however, is that you can’t spend a savings bond like cash. This forces you to save. Each time you save another $50, buy another $100 bond.

How else can you find extra money to sock away in savings bonds? One strategy is to buy one less of something you ordinarily buy regularly. This requires you to make an inventory of your expenses and then to find something to buy less of. For instance, suppose you get a regular haircut or order in a pizza twice a month or go to Starbucks a couple days a week or whatever. Let’s say you decide to buy one less pizza a month at $10 a pie. That’s an extra $480 in four years.

Cash for Christmas is another strategy. Let’s say you ask your parents for $50 cash at Christmas and $20 for your birthday. Let’s say you have one set of grandparents who will give you $20 for Christmas and $10 for your birthday. In four years, that’s $400.

The total in four years:

- Pay yourself first: $4380
- Buy one less: $480
- Cash for Xmas: $400
- Cash for birthday: $400
- Total: $5260

Put aside 3 of these every day to get $4380 in 4 years.

Russell presents his research (top) to symposium attendees.

The Sixth Annual International Student Symposium took place in Prague, the Czech Republic, in early January, and McNair’s Russell Parman was on hand to deliver a paper as well as to participate in various UN simulations. Highly competitive, this symposium was composed of just 35 students from a dozen nations. In addition, ambassadors from Canada, Finland and Bulgaria made brief appearances.

Russell was one of three student presenters. His paper, written to fulfill McNair’s summer program requirements was titled, "Terrorism in a Unipolar World." Given the controversial nature of the subject, not surprisingly his paper spurred many and sometimes heated responses from the attendees.

Russell presents his research (top).}

Russell, second from left, on the streets of Prague with new-found colleagues.
New McNair scholars: welcome!

Kim Johnson has been accepted into the Master’s program in Special Education at UT/Chattanooga.

Monte Hendrickson has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in Anthropology at Vanderbilt University.

Brad Bennett has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at the University of South Florida in the Physics Department.

Deidre Cullom has been accepted into the Masters of Public Administration program at Indiana State University.

Russell Parman has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in Political Science at Vanderbilt University.

Chris Pierce has been accepted into the Master’s of Liberal Studies at the New School for Social Research.

Stephanie Renner has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in Education at Syracuse University.

Nick Shimokochi has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in Applied Mathematics at the Oakland University.

New McNair grad students: congrats!

Deidre Cullom has been accepted into the Master’s program in Special Education at UT/Chattanooga.

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Brad Bennett has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at the University of South Florida in the Physics Department.

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From left to right: Catie Cameron, Brandy Dacus, Logan Grant, Claire Marshall, and Julia Martin.
In a continuing series, McNair Moments will feature profiles on two Advisory Board members per issue. Our current guests are Mr. Hutton and Dr. McDaniel.

Mr. David Hutton, Director of Financial Aid

Bio
Mr. Hutton, CPA, obtained a BBA and an MS degree at Middle Tennessee. He has more than 26 years of higher education experience. In 2001 he received the first MTSU Administrative Employee of the Year award and in 2002 he received the Ebony Achievement Award for Outstanding Administrator of the Year. He and his wife, Patricia Turner, have three children and enjoy raising cattle on a farm.

Vision for McNair
I would like to see every single student in the McNair Program graduate from Middle Tennessee State University. I strongly believe that each McNair scholar can be a success if he and she will just concentrate on their goals. But I often remind students that their loftiest of goals or highest of ideals will never work unless they are willing to put forth the effort to bring them about.

Dr. John McDaniel, Dean, College of Liberal Arts

Bio
Dr. McDaniel served as chair of the English Department at Middle Tennessee before becoming dean. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Hampden-Sydney College, a master’s degree from Johns Hopkins and a Ph.D. from Florida State. His published research includes a monograph on Philip Roth and a translation of Giuseppe Cocchiara’s seminal Italian text, “The History of Folklore in Europe.”

Vision for McNair
The McNair Program should ideally reach every eligible undergraduate on campus in a timely fashion to allow for a strong mentor/student relationship that will prepare the students for doctoral study and provide them with guidance and encouragement of the highest personal and professional quality from the finest research-oriented professors in the students’ chosen fields.

The College of Basic and Applied Sciences at MTSU sponsored the first Posters-at-the-Capitol in February for students to display their research findings to the governor and state legislators. In addition to MTSU, APSU, TTU and TSU were on hand. McNair’s own Terri Proctor (second row, far left) and Ashley Kite-Rowland (third row, second from left) joined state rep John Hood (first row, far left), dean of CBAS at MTSU Tom Cheatham (next), governor Phil Bredesen (center) and interim dean of Graduate Studies at MTSU Robert Carlton (first row, second from right).

Several McNair scholars already have or soon will be presenting their research at professional conferences. Anna Fitzgerald went to Chicago in March to discuss the role of women in poster art at the National Art Education Assn. conference. Terri Proctor was recently in Atlanta for the Southeastern Psychological Assn. conference to report her findings on college adjustment. Collin Davey will travel to Kalamazoo, Michigan, in May to present an alternative perspective on the Norman Conquest at the International Congress on Medieval Studies. Also this month, Megan Musick will head to Orlando to share the news about her latest batch of microbes at the meeting of the American Society of Microbiology.

L. Diane Miller, PhD, Director
Steve Saunders, Program Coordinator, Editor
Mary Enderson, PhD, Academic Coordinator
Cindy Howell, Secretary

WITH THE GUY

MCA officers, Sarafina Croft (M), President and Linda Selby (R), Vice President presented a check for $300.00 to Bryan Wiles, Principal of Bradley Elementary School, during spring break.