



## Inventory of the Ronald McNair Collections, Box #2.

### **Contact Information**

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### **Descriptive Summary**

#### **Repository**

F. D. Bluford Library Archives & Special Collections

#### **Creator**

Ronald McNair

#### **Title**

Ronald McNair Box #2

#### **Language of Materials**

English

#### **Extent**

1 archival boxes, 97 items

## **Abstract**

Born Ronald Erwin McNair on October 21, 1950 in Lake City, South Carolina. In 1971, he received a bachelor of science in Physics from North Carolina A&T State University. He received a doctor of philosophy in Physics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1976. He was presented with an honorary doctorate of Laws from NC A&T State University in 1978 and an honorary doctorate of Science from Morris College in 1980. He flew on a Challenger mission in February 1984. He died January 28, 1986, one of the astronauts in the Challenger disaster.

The collection contains newspaper articles, recognition programs and other papers relevant to his life, both shuttle flights, and the years following the Challenger disaster in 1986.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Restrictions to Access**

No Restrictions

### **Acquisitions Information**

Transferred from the Office of the Chancellor. Please consult Archives Staff for additional information.

### **Processing Information**

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### **Preferred Citation**

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## **Biographical Note**

Dr. Ronald E. McNair (1950-1986) was a native of Lake City, South Carolina. He attended North Carolina A&T State University and earned a degree in physics in 1971. He majored in music for a week before deciding to pursue his degree in physics. He obtained his Ph.D in laser physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1976 and began a career as a research scientist. Dr. McNair applied for and was selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA in January 1978. He maintained a relationship with A&T, visiting and giving speeches inspiring future generations to pursue careers in the sciences.

On February 3, 1984, Dr. McNair made his first trip into space as a mission specialist on the space shuttle Challenger. He was the second African-American to go to space.

On January 28, 1986, he was on board the Challenger for his second trip when the space shuttle disintegrated just over a minute into its flight. Also lost were Ellison Onizuka, school teacher Christa McAuliffe, Gregory Jarvis, Judith Resnik, Michael J. Smith, and Francis "Dick" Scobee. Smith was a native of Beaufort, North Carolina.

McNair was also an accomplished jazz saxophonist and taught karate in which he held a black belt. Before his last mission he had worked with composer Jean Michael Jarre on a piece of music. It had been intended that McNair would record his saxophone solo on board the shuttle which would have been the first original music recorded in space. The piece now has the name of "Ron's piece".

He was married to Cheryl Moore and had two children, Reginald and Joy.

In 1987, the newly built engineering building at A&T University was dedicated and named Ronald E. McNair Hall. MIT named the building for astrophysics and space research after McNair. The U.S. Department of Education offers the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program for students with low income, first generation students, and/or under represented students in graduate education for doctorate education.

## **Collection Overview**

### **Container List**

- 2.1 Ronald E. McNair. Biographical Data by United Press International. No publication. No date.
- 2.2 Spectator joy turns to horror. Pictured: Challenger crew. No publication. No date. 3 copies
- 2.3 Weather Forecast for launch time, Monday, Jan. 27. No publication.
- 2.4 McNair's hometown notes achievements. Pictured: Ronald McNair. No paper. No date. 3 copies.
- 2.5 Statement of Chancellor Edward B. Fort (at the loss of the astronauts). 1986.
- 2.6 Current disperses wreckage. Pictured: Willie Davis. Pictured: Charles F. Bolden, Reginald McNair. No paper. Greensboro. February 4, 1986. 3 copies.
- 2.7 McNair the astronaut a genuine U.S. hero. By Giles Lambertson. News & Record. April 3, 1984.
- 2.8 A&T scraps plans to honor alumnus. By Allison Foreman. News & Record. January 26, 2001.

- 2.9 A&T Graduate McNair to get honor with his special day on March 30. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Greensboro Record. March 7, 1984.
- 2.10 Astronaut Sees Dreams Begin To Take Flight. By Schott Shane. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Greensboro News & Record. November 22, 1980. 2 copies.
- 2.11 Astronaut to address Honors Day convocation. March 25, 1980. 2 copies.
- 2.12 Aggie pride: A&T celebrates Ron McNair's rocketing career. By Bernadette Hearne. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Photograph by Jim Stratford. Greensboro Daily News. March 31, 1984. 2 copies.
- 2.13 A&T grad is an astronaut. By Ronnie Waddell. Peacemaker. February 25, 1978. 2 copies.
- 2.14 A&T plans busy day to honor astronaut. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Greensboro News & Record. March 29, 1984. 2 copies.
- 2.15 First African American in Space Marks 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Flight. Astronaut Giuon Bluford. Carolina Times. September 6, 2003.
- 2.16 Celebrating Black History Month: Ronald E. McNair. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Pictured: Chancellor Edward Fort, Dr. Daniel Goldin, Cheryl McNair. Charlotte Post. February 11, 1993.
- 2.17 McNair remains high flier at A&T. By Lanita Withers. Pictured: Ronald McNair. News & Record. January 27, 2006.
- 2.18 'World-class' building to carry hero's name. Pictured: Ronald McNair. News & Record. June 11, 1987.
- 2.19 NASA boss gives students a boost. By Kelvin Hart. Pictured: Daniel Goldin, Cheryl McNair. Photograph by John Page. News & Record. January 29, 1989
- 2.20 A&T prepares to challenge proposed policy changes. By Ann Morris. News & Record. February 27, 1986.
- 2.21 Challenger mourners recall lessons of tragedy. News & Record. January 28, 2001.
- 2.22 Duplicates, moved to 2.38.
- 2.23 The Ron McNair Symposium on Science Frontiers: The Role of HBCU's in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Higher Education. Draft booklet. Pictured: Ronald McNair. NC A&T State University. January 28, 2002.
- 2.24 Chancellor of A&T looks to the future. By Donald W. Patterson. Pictured Edward B. Fort. News & Record. August 14, 1986.
- 2.25 Film shows flame on rocket booster. By Harry Rosenthal. News & Record. February 2, 1986. 3 copies.
- 2.26 McNair's death stuns A&T students, town. By Don Patterson and Jim Schlosser. Pictured: Dr. Ronald McNair. Pictured: Jonathon Hampton, Sai S. Vallabha, William Humphrey, Sailaja Vallabha. Photograph by Tina Gerson. News & Record. January 29, 1986. 3 copies.
- 2.27 Photograph moved to Photo Files. Space Shuttle Orbiter OV-102 (Columbia) crew members. 8x10 Color Photograph.

- 2.28 Metal, tiles recovered from ocean. By Harry F. Rosenthal. News & Record. January 30, 1986. 7 copies.
- 2.29 Sculpture will honor McNair. By Mark McDonald. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Pictured: Janos Farkas working on sculpture. Photograph by Rob Brown. News & Record. May 22, 1986.
- 2.30 Alumni Association Tribute. Newspaper photograph. Pictured: Earl Brown, Mrs. Annie M. Brown, F.H. Mebane. Photograph by Tommy Forrest. The Daily Reflector. No date. 1936.
- 2.31 School's enthusiasm still high for space program: 'Ticket' earned for A&T's place aboard shuttle. By Lawrence Spohn. News & Record. June 8, 1986.
- 2.32 Ron McNair's day. News & Record. March 30, 1984.
- 2.33 A&T Prepares for McNair Forum. By Andrea Fuller. Pictured: Ronald McNair. A&T Register. January 20, 2005.
- 2.34 Technical Report #1: Crew Interaction with the "Chix in Space" experiment.
- 2.35 James R. Brannon letter to Ron McNair. March 27, 1984.  
James R. Brannon note to Mr. Dick Moore. February 6, 1986.
- 2.36 Space Shuttle Lesson Plan Free to Teachers. Summary of chicken eggs experiment. Kentucky Fried Chicken. Circa 1986.
- 2.37 Eggs, Incubator Ready for Spaceflight. Summary of chicken eggs experiment. Kentucky Fried Chicken. Circa 1986.
- 2.38 He won't speculate on shuttle blast. Pictured: Jesse Moore. News & Record. January 30, 1986. 7 copies.
- 2.39 New panel to probe explosion. Pictured: William Rogers, Neil Armstrong, Chuck Yeager, Dr. Sally Ride, William Graham. News & Record. February 4, 1986. 4 copies.
- 2.40 Memorial honors shuttle crew. News & record. February 2, 1986. 3 copies.
- 2.41 Challenger's timetable, pad differed from other flights. No paper. Greensboro. February 6, 1986. 4 copies.
- 2.42 Life, legacy of McNair remembered. By Melde Rutledge. Pictured: Carl McNair, Mary McNair. Carolina Peacemaker. February 1-7, 2007.
- 2.43 Nation mourns Challenger crew: Reagan extends condolences to 7 families. News & Record. January 30, 1986. 3 copies.
- 2.44 DUPLICATES. Moved to 2.28.
- 2.45 Mother, daughter have vivid memory of shuttle pilot. Pictured: Jennifer Beckner. Photograph by Gerry Broome. News & Record. January 30, 1986. 6 copies.
- 2.46 A mission remembered. Pictured: Michael Massimino, Bernard Westbrook. Photograph by Schott Hoffmann. News & Record. January 29, 1998.
- 2.47 Disappointed. Pictured: Cheryl McNair, Dr. Sturat Ahrens, Dr. A. James Hicks, Chancellor Dr. Edward B. Fort. The Carolinian. September 13, 1994.

- 2.48 Voice of the people: Dr. Ronald McNair. By Cecile Lennon. Letter to editor. No paper. January 29, 1986.
- 2.49 Letter to A&T Faculty and staff from Chancellor Edward B. Fort. Re: Dedication of New Engineering Building. May 13, 1987.
- 2.50 Astronaut's passion took him into space. By Cathy Gant-Hill. Pictured: Ronald McNair. News & Record. July 19, 1994.
- 2.51 Remembering Ronald E. McNair: 3-day event honors fallen A&T astronaut. By Sierra Napier. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Register. February 1, 2006.
- 2.52 Dr. Ronald McNair. Biographical information. Army/Air Force ROTC Banquet and Ball. Program. NC A&T State University. March 30, 1984. 2 copies.
- 2.53 Congratulations to Dr. Ron McNair. Pictured: Dr. Ron McNair. Pictured: Reverend Jesse Jackson. Petition/flyer. National Black Organizer's Congress. 1984.
- 2.54 McNair memorial program slated. Pictured: Ronald McNair. News & Record. January 23, 1994.
- 2.55 Insurance gift covered McAuliffe. News & Record. January 22, 1986.
- 2.56 Tiles may be only part of problem, NASA says. By William J. Broad and James Glanz. News & Record. February 2, 2003.
- Authorities gather debris across Texas. By Pam Easton. News & Record. February 2, 2003.
- 'Our journey into space will go on'. By Seth Borenstein. News & Record. February 2, 2003.
- 2.57 Speakers link Ronald McNair to today's A&T. By Ethan Feinsilver. News & Record. January 29, 1999.
- 2.58 NASA engineer will speak at McNair program. Pictured: Aprille Joy Ericsson-Jackson. News & Record. January 26, 2000.
- 2.59 The shuttle tragedy. News & Record. February 2, 2003.
- 2.60 Professor: Price of space flight too high. By Lawrence Spohn. News & Record. January 29, 1986.
- 2.61 Smith's success predicted. By Seth Efron and Chuck Alston. News & Record. January 29, 1986.
- 2.62 Aggeland advertisement. Illustrations by Sherry Poole Clark. News & Record. January 26, 2003.
- 2.63 A&T to pay tribute to McNair. Pictured: Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Alvin Drew. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Chronicle. January 23, 2003.
- 2.64 Astronaut's widow shares pain. By Thomas Boyer. Virginian-Pilot. Norfolk, VA. February 18, 1986.
- 2.65 Cheryl McNair: Surviving the Shuttle Disaster. Pictured: Cheryl McNair. Pictured: Reginald McNair. Pictured: Cheryl McNair, Reverend Lester Brown, Mrs. Pearl McNair. Pictured, Cheryl, Reginald, Joy McNair. Pictured; Cheryl McNair giving tv interview. Pictured: Cheryl McNair at sign of Ronald E. McNair Junior High School. Ebony. May, 1987.
- 2.66 Honors Day Convocation. Program. Address by Ronald McNair. N. C. A&T State University. March 26, 1980.

- 2.67 A&T recalls life of its own shuttle victim. By Donald W. Patterson. Pictured: Ronald McNair. News & Record. February 2, 2003.
- 2.68 NCA&TSU to honor Ron McNair Jan. 28. Carolina Peacemaker. January 23, 2003. 2 copies.
- 2.69 Challenger launch, orbit fine. Greensboro Record. February 3, 1984.
- 2.70 Ronald E. McNair symposium sees success in first year. Pictured: Keith Baker. Photograph by Sharon Eggleton. Register. February 4, 2002.
- 2.71 Ronald E. McNair, NASA Astronaut/Mission Specialist. Article by McNair on Black colleges & universities. No publication. No date.
- 2.72 A&T honors Ron McNair. Carolina Peacemaker. January 27 – February 2, 2000.
- 2.73 North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University Invites you to attend a Memorial Program honoring The Late Dr. Ronald E. McNair. Flyer. NC A&T State University January 28, 1991.
- 2.74 \$8.5 Million McNair Building Honors Astronaut. Pictured: Cheryl, Reginald, and Joy McNair. Pictured: Cheryl McNair, Chancellor Emeritus Dr. Lewis C. Dowdy, Chancellor Dr. Edward B. Fort, Janos Farkas. Photograph by Otis Hairston Jr. Campus Courier. NC A&T State University. August 1987.
- 2.75 The Ronald E. McNair Program Now Recruiting. Flyer. Pictured: Ronald McNair. No date.
- 2.76 Greensboro man had close tie to first tragedy. By Kelly Mitchell-Clark. News & Record. January 29, 1986.
- 2.77 Aggies witness take-off. By Derek McLendon. Pictured: Ronald McNair. A&T Register. February 10, 1984.
- 2.78 MOVED: Blinding Light. 'Fragment G' hits Jupiter with the biggest explosion yet. Journal. July 19, 1994.
- 2.79 Astronauts Fact Sheet. Booklet. Ronald McNair on list of Astronaut candidates on page 3. National Aeronautics and Space Administration. March 1979.
- 2.80 A Hero's Story. Pictured: Ronald McNair. General Foods Corporation. 1986.
- 2.81 Ronald McNair was a man 'destined to be famous'. By Richard E. Moore. Pictured: Ronald McNair. News & Record. January 31, 1986. 3 copies.
- 2.82 Journalist flight probably not scrapped. News & Record. January 29, 1986. 2 copies.
- 2.83 A&T insects to fly on shuttle mission. By Jim Schlosser. News & Record. No date.
- 2.84 Warnings on rockets found in NASA files. No paper. February 10, 1986. 2 copies.
- 2.85 Apollo fire pointed up risk. News & Record. January 29, 1986.
- 2.86 Fuel tank suspected in Challenger blast. News & Record. January 29, 1986.
- 2.87 Reagan postpones speech, vows to keep space program. By Bernard Weinraub. No paper. January 29, 1986.

- 2.88 The shuttle crew: Dick Scobee, Sharon Christa Corrigan McAuliffe, Judith A. Resnik, Ellison S. Onizuka, Gregory B. Jarvis. News & Record. January 29, 1986.
- 2.89 A&T hails many successful alumni. By Richard E. Moore. Pictured: Richard Moore, Dr. Ronald McNair, Reverend Jesse Jackson, Brigadier General Clara Adams-Ender, Justice Henry E. Frye. News & Record advertising supplement. January 13, 1991.
- 2.90 Building for an astronaut. News & Record. June 13, 1987. 17 copies.
- 2.91 Technical Report #2: Incubator components involved with the "Chix in Space" Experiment. Student experimenter: John Vellinger. Sponsor: Kentucky Fried Chicken Corporation. No date.
- 2.92 News release. Kentucky Fried Chicken. No date.
- 2.93 Is there a future for blacks in space? By Jay Buchanan. Pictured: Ronald McNair. The Black Collegian. December 1980/January 1981.
- 2.94 VIP's at Dedication of Ronald E. McNair Hall. June, 1987
- 2.95 Project helps students understand shuttle. By Bernadette Hearne. Pictured: Karen Sidbury. News & Record. April, 1986.
- 2.96 School of Engineering Admission packs. Pictured: Ron McNair. Biographical data of Ron McNair. NC A&T State University. Post 1989. 8 copies.
- 2.97 Personal letter from alumnus Reginald L. Goodwin to "My Friends" remembering Ronald McNair. No date, circa 1986.
- 2.98 Remembering Ronald McNair. By Joya Wesley. Pictured: Ronald McNair. A&T Today. Spring 1998.
- 2.99 McNair: He saw space as a key to world peace. By Mary Kraull and Julie Morris. Pictured: Ronald McNair. USA Today. January 29, 1986.