

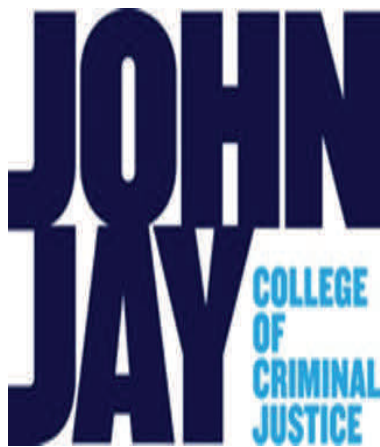
The John Jay Challenger



Dr. Ronald McNair

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McNair Program

TRiO

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From the Director

This has been another terrific semester. We spent a fun Friday night bowling. We traveled to and presented at the University of Maryland McNair Conference in College Park. First years have been working with their mentors, completing literature reviews, working on research proposals, learning about a variety of research methods, and dialoguing with President Jeremy Travis about gun control and public policy making. Second years have been seeing the fruits of their labors ripen: completing their research and papers, finishing their bachelor's degrees – and getting accepted to graduate school! Our scholars will be off to Oxford, University of Chicago, Boston College, University of Rochester, Stony Brook University and CUNY and John Jay; and the Peace Corps. We have a Marshall Scholar and an NSF (National Science Foundation) Fellow. Full funding

for many of them (I haven't added up the total yet). Congratulations to all!



Director, Jessica Gordon
Nembhard, Ph.D.

Summer will find us traveling to the conferences at Buffalo and Atlanta. First years will be studying for the GRE and working on their research projects. We are interviewing a new cohort to start in the fall. We will hold our second annual mentor's retreat on May 17, 2013. Thanks to support from the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Anne

Lopes, and for her support for GRE vouchers for our scholars. Many thanks to the Honors program and the Office of Undergraduate Research for continued support; and especially to the Africana Studies Department for in kind and multiple supports. And finally, thanks to all the mentors for their dedication and hard work.



Associate Director, Ernest Lee
Jr., Ph.D.

The McNair Program is intended to help increase the participation of first generation, low-income students and students from under-represented groups (especially African-Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans) in graduate education, specifically in doctoral programs of study.

For more information:

Contact the Associate Director, Dr. Ernest Lee (Room. 9.63.11NB, ext. 8760) or our Program Assistant Ms. Nadiya Kostyuk (Room 9.62.01NB, ext. 8765).

England or Bust! Trading Starbucks for Tea!



McNair Scholar, Nicolas Montano

This year two of our McNair Scholars were accepted for prestigious placements to pursue graduate degrees abroad in England.

Nicolas Montano has won the prestigious Marshall Scholarship to study abroad in the United Kingdom. Niko is the first John Jay and the 4th CUNY student to ever win this award. He will pursue

both his M.A. in Research Methods in Social Policy from the University of Liverpool and his MA in Criminal Justice Police at the London School of Economics.

Popy Begum was accepted into the University of Oxford's MSc/PhD program in Criminal Justice and Criminology



McNair Scholar, Popy Begum

Meet John Jay McNair's First NSF Winner!



McNair Scholar, Nikoleta Despodova

Nikoleta Despodova has been awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) Fellowship. She is the first McNair Scholar from John Jay to win this award. This award comes with three years of funding at \$30,000 a year to pursue a graduate degree. Nikoleta will use her award to enrol in John Jay's PhD Program in Psychology in the fall. We wish her the best and hope that this serves as an example to future scholars that you cannot win a competitive fellowship if you do not apply.



Antoine Jones: Graduate School Application Superstar!

We are very pleased to report the outstanding success that one of our alumni, **Mr. Antoine Jones** ('12), had in the graduate school application process. Antoine is a testament to the great results that come from hard work and dedication in this process. He has decided to attend the University of Chicago but below is a sampling of some of the offers he received:

University of Chicago (PhD Sociology). Full tuition Scholarship (Appx. \$40,000/year x5 Years), Stipend \$22,000 x5 Years, Summer Stipend \$3,000 x4, Health Insurance Covered, No teaching first two years. Including the health insurance, this award total is in excess of \$340,000.

University of California, Irvine (PhD Sociology): Total Award Package including tuition, stipend and health insurance for five years: \$146,000

University of Pittsburgh (PhD Political Science): Full tuition Scholarship, Stipend \$20,000 x5 years, no teaching first year

University of Washington (Seattle) (PhD Sociology): Full tuition Scholarship, Stipend \$13,700 x5 years, Health Insurance

Also offered admission to Stony Brook University (PhD Sociology), CUNY Graduate Center (PhD Sociology), and University of Delaware (Funded MA in Urban Affairs and Public Policy). Financial awards have yet to arrive.



McNair Scholar, Antoine Jones

McNair Alumnus Presents at Cyber Security

*True courage comes
in enduring...
persevering...
And believing in
oneself.*

- Ronald E. McNair



On March 5, **Nadiya Kostyuk** ('11-center left in picture with her co-presenter **Marielle Ali**), McNair alumnus and a current NYU student at the Center for Global Affairs, presented her paper entitled, "The Cyber Dogs of War: Joint transatlantic efforts of future leaders in the prevention of cyberwarfare" at the **Second International Conference on Cybersecurity, Cyberpeacefare and Digital Forensic** in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Professionals and experts from over 30 countries participated in this conference at the Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation (APU) in Malaysia. The conference ranged over the course of two days is part of The World Congress on Computing and Information Technology (WCIT). Their article will be included in The Society of Digital Information and Wireless Communications (SDIWC) digital journal and Partnership for Research in International Affairs and Development (PRIAD) peer-review journal. Nadiya will graduate in May with her Master's degree.

McNair Roundtable



Second Year Scholars during Research Week at the Annual McNair Roundtable

On Friday, May 3, the McNair Program held its annual McNair Roundtable as part of John Jay College's Research Week, which highlights undergraduate research. This event provided an opportunity for our graduating Scholars/Associates to present the culmination of two years research. As always, the research topics were engaging and timely and the questions from the audience were lively. For some of our Scholars, this event was upwards of their sixth conference presentation, and this experience was evident in both their presentation and in the ease at which they addressed question.



Bowling: Unwinding At the Alley

On Friday, April 13, McNair Scholars participated in the 6th Annual McNair Bowling Event. The event took place in Frames Bowling Lanes in the Port Authority. This event provided an opportunity for First and Second Year Scholars to bond over a little competitive activity. And while no one bowled a 300, a fun time was had by all.

McNair Scholars (and future Scholars) at the Annual McNair Bowling event (left)

Spring Conference at Maryland

From March 14-17, 2013, several McNair Scholars presented their research at the University of Maryland's National Research Conference in College Park, MD. These Scholars included:

Rebecca Cerezo, Nicolas Montano, Kamar-Jay Foster and Chassitty Whitman

The Program also took three First Year Scholars to the conference to expose them to the conference experience. These Scholars were:

Navila Abbas, Ronald Curtis and John Bae



McNair Scholars at the MD conference with Director and Associate Director

In addition to the presentations and workshops offered by the conference, the Scholars had the opportunity to meet with two of our John Jay McNair Alumni who are enrolled in doctoral programs at the University of Maryland. Both **Robert Reynoso** ('07-Sociology/Social Psychology) and **Simon Lou** ('12- Criminal Justice) are completing their first year in their respective programs.



McNair Alumnus Simon Lou ('12-2nd from right) on the graduate panel at the MD conference

Acknowledgments

Best Wishes

At the end of the Spring 2013 semester, the McNair Program will say goodbye to the below graduates. This group includes:

Popy Begum has been accepted into both the University of Oxford's MSc program in Criminal Justice and Criminology and the University of Delaware's Ph.D. program in Criminology with full funding. Popy decided to attend the Oxford University in the fall of 2013.

Rebecca Cerezo has been accepted into the University of Rochester's M.A. program in Mental Health Counseling.

Nikoleta Despotova has won the prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) Fellowship to fund her graduate studies. As a NSF Fellow, Nikoleta will pursue her Ph.D. in Psychology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Levi DeCaille is still awaiting news from Masters Programs in Taxation.

Kamar-Jay Foster has been accepted to the Peace Corps volunteer program and will spend next two years teaching English abroad.

Khrys-Ann Josephs has been accepted to Boston College's Masters in Developmental Psychology Program.

Kemar McIntosh has been accepted into the Stony Brook University's M.A. program in Philosophy.

Nicolas Montano has won the prestigious Marshall Scholarship to study abroad in the United Kingdom. He is the first John Jay student to win this award. As a Marshall Scholar, Nicolas will pursue both his M.A. in Research Methods in Social Policy from the University of Liverpool and his MA in Criminal Justice Police at the London School of Economics.

Makeba Lavan has been accepted into CUNY Graduate Center's Ph.D. program in English with full funding.

Chassitty Whitman has been accepted into John Jay's Ph.D. program in Psychology with full funding.

Yuriy Zevelez will enter the NYPD full time as he contemplates applying to graduate school.

Newsletter Editors

Dr. Jessica Gordon Nembhard & Dr. Ernest Lee

Introducing Our New Mentors

In the Spring 2013 semester the McNair Program welcomed a new mentor. **Dr. Beverly Frazier**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Law, Police Science, and Criminal Justice Administration. We would like to extend our warmest welcome to Dr. Frazier.

Welcome Back

In other mentor news the McNair Program would like to welcome back three mentors. **Dr. Rosemary Barberet**, Associate Professor in Sociology, **Dr. Demis Glasford**, Associate Professor in the Psychology Dept., and **Dr. Elizabeth Yukins**, Assistant Professor in the English Dept. returned as mentors in the Spring 2013 semester.

New Scholars

This Spring 3 new Scholars entered our McNair Program. They are:

Karla Alfaro (Criminal Justice)

Alexis Hiralall (Forensic Psychology)

Yalitza Rodriguez (Deviant Behavior and Social Control)

Website

The John Jay College McNair webpage (www.jjay.cuny.edu/McNair) is in the process of being updated. Please stop by the page and give us feedback on what can make the page better.

John Jay McNair Scholars Program



City University of New York

Director:

Dr. Jessica Gordon Nembhard

Associate Director:

Dr. S. Ernest Lee Jr.

Program Assistant:

Ms. Nadiya Kostyuk

