



**Nicole Marie Alexander**  
Major: Social Problems  
Mentor: **Lori Martin, Ph. D.,**  
Department of Africana Studies

A native New Yorker raised in Georgia, Nicole Marie Alexander has faced many challenges, but has successfully transformed those challenges into opportunities, using them to shape and outline her professional goals. As a first generation high school graduate attending college, from a low-income background and immigrant parents, she has committed herself to research and advocacy related to disadvantaged groups in our society. As a CUNY Baccalaureate student, Ms. Alexander is designing a unique study program, named *Social Problems and Community Solutions*, which explores the various problems that plague societies, as well as communities' attempts to eliminate these problems. Ms. Alexander has had 3 community-focused internships at: The All-Stars Project (an organization with the goal to help expose underprivileged youth to various job opportunities in theater), Legal Information for Families Today (a non-profit organization that gives free legal information for people facing child support, custody and other family court cases), and Edison Learning, where she is currently working with the Community Outreach Department on the organization's dropout recovery programs. As a John Jay College Honors Program student, New York Needs You Fellow and a Thomas W. Smith fellow, Ms. Alexander has developed an interest in prisoner reentry, gang desistance and community-based approaches to justice and hopes to focus on these areas in a doctoral program.



**Elizabeth Calixto**  
Major: Forensic Psychology  
McNair Mentor: **Isabel  
Martinez, Ph. D.,** Latin  
American and Latin/o Studies

Elizabeth Calixto is a first generation Mexican American Student whose parents emigrated from Mexico in the 1980's. She is a rising senior at John Jay College of Criminal Justice majoring in Forensic Psychology with a minor in the Latin American and Latina/o Studies. Ms. Calixto is also Co-founder/President of the La Voz de Latino America Club here at John Jay College. The club was created to educate and promote the social/economic/ and political issues of Latina/o in the United States. The club also works side by side with the Latin American and Latina/o Studies Department to develop a Newsletter which is entitled La Voz, for which Elizabeth is also an editor. This past February, in conjunction with the Inter-University Policy for Latina/o Research Conference at John Jay College, Ms. Calixto organized and conducted a three hour Teach-In to raise awareness on Senate Bill 2281 that prohibits Ethnic Studies Programs, primarily focusing on the Mexican American Studies program in Tucson

Unified School District in Arizona. The event was called “We are all Librotraficante: Fighting 21<sup>st</sup> Century Censorship” for which she was later interviewed by the New York Daily News. Ms. Calixto has also participated at the American Ethnological Society (AES) New York City Spring Conference 2012: Anthropologists Engage the World. She was a participant on a Roundtable entitled: “Engaging Student Activism” where she spoke about her participation with the Librotraficante Movement. Ms. Calixto is also involved with Community Board 12 Youth and Education Committee in Washington Heights.



**Rebecca Cerezo**

Major: Forensic Psychology  
Mentor: **Carlton Jama Adams, Ph. D.**, Department of Africana Studies

As a first year generation student, Rebecca Cerezo will be the first person in her family to graduate from college. She has been on the Dean’s List (2008-2009, 2010-2011) and has received the Peter F. Vallone academic scholarship (2008-2009). As a member of honor societies such as Phi Eta Sigma and Psi Chi, Ms. Cerezo has participated in volunteer activities. She completed the Peer Counseling Training Program and will work as a Peer Counselor to during the 2012-2013 academic year. Ms. Cerezo plans to continue gaining research experience by working in a research lab in the psychology department in the upcoming academic year. She will apply to PhD programs in Counseling Psychology in Fall 2012.



**Levi Decaille**

Major: Economics Minor:  
Forensic Accounting  
Mentor: **Randall LaSalle, Ph. D.**, Department of Economics

Levi Decaille is a native of the Island of St. Lucia. As a first generation college student he plans to continue his education to pursue a PHD in Accounting. At the Borough of Manhattan Community College he completed his initial college degree with an AAS in Accounting in 2009. He then transferred to John Jay College of Criminal Justice to pursue his Bachelors in Economics (specialization in forensic accounting). After starting out his freshman year in remedial math and English, he went on to earn a spot on the Dean’s List throughout the rest of his college tenure. Mr. Decaille is now focused on utilizing his research skills and his drive for scholastic excellence to prepare for graduate school. He is on pace to finishing his McNair research project on Fraudulent Financial reporting by the end of the 2012-2013 academic year.



**Kamar-Jay Foster**

Major: English

Mentor: **P. J. Gibson, Ph. D.**,  
Department of English

Kamar-Jay Foster is a Rising Senior at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. As an English major, he is a research assistant for Professor Toy Fung-Tung, of the English department, and Professor Isaac Malki, of the Africana Studies department. Kamar has also interned in Washington D.C for New York Congressman Eliot Engel (D-17). Mr. Foster has had an article published in *John Jay's Finest* called "Colonialism and Literature: A Relation Reargued". Mr. Foster's academic path started when he interned at an NGO company researching U.S immigration and deportation trends in the Fall of 2010. This summer, as an Office of Undergraduate Research (O.U.R) research intern, he will be researching and examining the political identity in the francophone poetry and poetics of Martinican Aimé Césaire (1913-

2008) and Saint-John Perse (1887-1975). This project will also have a comparative dimension with

Anglophone African literature, including excerpts of works by Chinua Achebe, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, Ben Okri, and Wole Soyinka. All of these authors explore themes of black identity and pride, but from a uniquely continental perspective. Mr. Foster will be applying to English PhD programs in the fall.



**Khrys-Ann Josephs**

Major: Forensic Psychology

Mentor: **C. Jama Adams, Ph. D.**, Department of Africana Studies

Ms. Josephs is a first generation college student. She plans to apply to Clinical Psychology Programs in the fall focusing on the psychopathology of children in relation to child development. Ms. Josephs was recognized on the Dean's List for her academic excellence during the 2010-2011 year and was inducted in the Phi Eta Sigma society. Her goals for the fall 2012-2013 academic year are to analyze the results of her study in relation to her initial hypothesis and examine the potential implications involved in the differences between men and women. She also wants to examine the effects of attachment relationships

on child development into adolescence, and determine its role in child psychopathology.

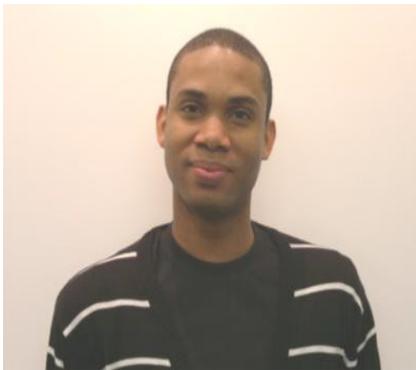


**Nicolas Montano**

Major: Juvenile Delinquent  
Psychology & International  
Criminology

Mentor: **Maureen Allwood,  
Ph. D.**, Department of  
Psychology

Mr. Montano is a rising senior at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He is a CUNY Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies student majoring in Psychology of Juvenile Delinquency and International Criminology. He is a Latino, first generation college student who plans to apply to doctoral programs in Criminology. Since enrolling at John Jay, he has consistently been on the Dean's list, and has been inducted into both the Phi Eta Sigma and Psi Chi Honor Societies. In addition, Mr. Montano is in the Honors Program, and has received The New York Needs You Fellowship, The Thomas W. Smith Fellowship and will begin as a Vera Institute of Justice Fellow in Fall 2012. Mr. Montano's research interests include violence exposure and adolescent delinquency. He has served as a research assistant for Professor Maureen Allwood, his McNair and CUNY BA mentor on child and adolescent research projects. He has also worked with Dr. Richard Curtis on the South Bronx Project that examines community perceptions of youth and crime. As a result of that project, he interned at Community Connections for Youth as a School/Educational Advocate. In the Fall 2012, Mr. Montano will be conducting research on threat bias among adolescents with PTSD.



**Kemar McIntosh**

Major: English

Mentor: **Catherine Kemp, Ph.  
D.**, Department of Philosophy

Kemar McIntosh is a senior Philosophy major. He is also pursuing minors in the Humanities & Justice and Law. Mr. McIntosh believes he has found his place in academia, because it creates a space to manifest positive and perhaps even material changes within society. He also believes that being a scholar brings a seasoned awareness about social responsibility, because knowledge inherently drives the human spirit into action. Mr. McIntosh plans to pursue a doctoral degree in Philosophy. He has developed a personal philosophy which essentially rests on keeping motion alive; because "as long as one keeps moving, hope, dreams and even small aspirations may come to fruition." Kemar has also been the winner of John Jay College's Study Abroad Scholarship; Zenith Media Scholarship, and The Hetrick-Martin Scholarship. As an active member within the school's community, he is currently working with John Jay's Center for International Human Rights, where he will assist, through research, to create a heightened awareness about human rights violations, particularly, in response to the LGBTQ community. Kemar ultimately wants his scholarship to extend beyond the walls of academia; as he knows that knowledge should propel us toward crucial social reform.



**Fatou Talla**

Major: Political Science, Minor: History

Mentor: **Issac X. Malki, Ph. D.**, Department of Africana Studies

Fatou Talla was born in Senegal, West Africa. She and her family moved to Harlem when she was 13 years old. This move was a critical turning point in her life as she learned the English language, adjusted to a new climate, experienced snow for the first time, and adapted to a new culture. Ms. Fatou's father brought her and her family to this country so that they could further their education. Being the first woman in her family to graduate from high school and attend college compelled her to pursue a doctoral degree. She has served as the vice president of the African Students Association at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and also as a member of the non-profit organization American Foundation for African Children Education (AFACE). In the 2012-2013 academic year, she will focus on completing her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and applying to graduate programs in Foreign Affairs.



**Chassitty N. Whitman**

Major: Forensic Psychology

Mentor: **William H.**

**Gottdiener, Ph. D.**,

Department of Psychology

Chassitty Whitman is a first-generation college student considering graduate programs in Clinical and Forensic Psychology. During the 2012-2013 academic year, she will participate in the Jumpstart Internship Program encouraging language, literacy, and social-emotional development in 4-year olds. Ms. Whitman will also participate in the Fieldwork in Human Services internship performing clinical duties in the field of counseling. Thus far, she has received scholarships from New York University and John Jay College including the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship, The Upper Division Scholarship, The NYU Steinhardt Scholarship, the Glen Bell Scholarship as well as the AmeriCorps Segal Education Award for service. Ms. Whitman is currently conducting a multi-study project evaluating the interactions of various social variables such as aggression and social networking on aspects of personality such as self-esteem, personal potential, coping mechanisms, and identity perceptions. The first study in this series, "Facebook and Personality" was presented as a poster at the Eastern Psychological Association 2012 conference in Pittsburgh, PA.



**Yuriy Zevelev**

Emigrating from the former Soviet Union (now Ukraine) at the age of seven, Yuriy Zevelev entered the country with the desire to strive for success. As an immigrant, Mr. Zevelev has sought to take advantage of every opportunity since coming to the U.S. After graduating in the top ten of his high school, Mr. Zevelev was accepted into John Jay College as a part of the prestigious Honors Program. Since entering John Jay, Mr. Zevelev has received scholarships that have paid for his tuition. These scholarships include the Peter F. Vallone scholarship, the Merit Scholarship and the NYC Merit

Major: International Criminal  
Justice  
Mentor: **Maki Haberfeld, Ph.  
D.**, Department of Criminal  
Justice

Scholarship. Mr. Zevelev has been on the Dean's List during his entire tenure at John Jay. He has also been inducted into honors societies including the Phi Eta Sigma freshman honors society, the Alpha Phi Sigma national honors society and is a member of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. In addition to his many academic achievements, Mr. Zevelev has sought to further diversify his learning. He was admitted into the highly competitive New York City Police Department internship program (known as the Cadet Corps). Upon completion of training, Mr. Zevelev was assigned to the NYPD's Community Affairs Bureau where he works closely with high ranking members of the department in improving police-community relations. Recently, Mr. Zevelev was promoted to the rank of sergeant in the Cadet Corps where his responsibilities include supervising fellow cadets.