The McNair Program is proud to congratulate the Program’s Director, Dr. Jessica Gordon Nembhard, on the publication of her new book “Collective Courage: A History of African American Cooperative Economic Thought and Practice” (Penn State Press). In her book, Dr. Gordon Nembhard examines the role that African American cooperative business ownership has played in the fight for civil rights and economic parity. This book explores an important, yet overlooked, element of African American history.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

-Nelson Mandela

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 (Rm. 9.62.11NB, ext. 8760), or our Program Assistant Ms. Stephanie Rojas (Rm. 9.62.01NB, ext. 8765).
Two McNair Scholars Present at NCUR Conference

From April 3-5, 2014, McNair Scholars Karla Alfaro and Jamel Love presented at The National Conferences on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in Lexington, KY. NCUR, established in 1987, is dedicated to promoting undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity in all fields of study by sponsoring an annual conference for students from across the country. At the conference, Jamel presented his paper entitled, “In Defense of Marriage: How Young Liberals and Conservatives Debate About Same-Sex Marriage on Facebook” and Karla presented her research entitled, “The Impact of Prison Deinstitutionalization on Community Treatment Services”.

McNair Scholar Accepted to Summer Research Program

In addition to presenting at the NCUR Conference, Jamel Love, a Political Science major, was selected into the Leadership Alliance’s Summer Research Early Identification Program at Vanderbilt University. Through this program, Jamel will spend 10 weeks this summer on Vanderbilt's campus conducting research with a faculty member from the university’s Political Science Department.

Kevin Constante - First Year Scholar on the Rise!

The McNair Program is happy to spotlight one of its rising stars. Kevin Constante, a senior Forensic Psychology Major and First Year Scholar, has accomplished a lot in less than a year in the McNair Program. Under the mentorship of Dr. Jill Grose-Fifer of the Psychology Department, Kevin has flourished as a burgeoning researcher. Dr. Grose-Fifer informed the Program that Kevin was “co-author on 4 poster presentations (with my graduate students, another UG (undergraduate) student, and myself) at the 2014 Annual Meeting Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Boston, MA, one of the foremost international neuroscience conferences!” To pay for this conference, Kevin applied for and was awarded a John Jay STA (student travel) award - that covered the cost of the conference. In addition, Kevin presented twice during John Jay’s research week. Finally, Kevin’s research paper has been awarded the 2014 Cheryl Williams Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research, which the Psychology Department awards annually. Kevin will graduate in August and plans to apply for doctoral programs in Neuroscience in the fall.
McNair Alumni Awarded Fellowships for Doctoral Study

Two John Jay College McNair Alumni have been awarded fellowships to pursue their PhDs.

Nadiya Kostyuk (left), who graduated from John Jay in 2011 with a BA in International Criminal Justice and from NYU in 2013 with a Masters in Global Affairs, has been accepted to the University of Michigan to pursue a joint doctoral degree in Political Science and Public Policy with a focus on cyber security. Her funding package includes - Five years tuition ($41,000/year) and stipend support at $19,000 for the academic year + $3,500/summer for 5 summers. No teaching will be required during the first and fifth academic years. Health and dental insurance included. The total value of this award is $265,000.

Susybel “Roxy” Pimentel (pp. 4), who graduated in 2012 with her BA/MA in Forensic Psychology, has been accepted to the University of Cincinnati’s Criminal Justice PhD Program. Her funding package includes a Graduate Research Assistantship of $51,000 over a three-year period and a McNair Incentive Fellowship of $3,000 for the fall of 2014 only.

Annual McNair Roundtable

On Wednesday April 30th, the McNair Program held its Annual McNair Roundtable as part of John Jay College’s Research Week. This event allowed our Second Year Scholars to present the results of their research studies that they had conducted for the past two years. It was also an opportunity for our First Year Scholars to see completed McNair Projects. Overall, the event was successful.

Second Year Scholars, along with the Director and Assoc. Director, during Research Week at the Annual McNair Roundtable

Annual McNair Bowling Event

On Friday April 11, the McNair Program held its Annual bowling event at Frames bowling venue in the Port Authority. A good time was had by all regardless of whether they were a novice or experienced bowler.
McNair Program heralds birth of future McNair Scholar

In addition to becoming a mother, Melissa also presented her research at the Latina Researcher Conference held at John Jay from April 3-5.

McNair Scholar Melissa Manrique (left) and son Isaac Alexander Balladares (right)

McNair Program would like to announce the birth of Isaac Alexander Balladares, who was born on April 23, 2014 at 1:53pm and weighed in at 5 lbs. 11 oz. Isaac’s Mother is Melissa Manrique, a Second Year Scholar and BA/MA student majoring in Forensic Psychology. Melissa will be returning to finish her degree and apply for doctoral programs in the fall. We will hold a spot for Isaac in our McNair 2033 cohort.

McNair Alumnus Roxy Pimentel

Model UN And McNair - A Great Combination

The McNair Program would like to congratulate those scholars who participated in John Jay College’s United Nations Student Association. For the 10th consecutive year, John Jay has fielded a team that has won awards at the annual National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference. This year, the team won multiple awards at the conference, which took place from April 13-17, and included 5,500 students from around the U.S. and 30 countries. The team was led by head delegate and UN Student Association President John Bae, a senior BA/MA student in Criminal Justice, and also included UN Student Association Vice-President Imtashal Tariq, Ofia Ali, and Ossama Ayesh. The faculty adviser was Professor Jacques Fomerand of the Department of Political Science.
On Monday, April 21, the McNair Program travelled to Dr. Gordon Nembhard's family conference center in Rockland County. During this event the First Year Scholars benefited from a workshop on “How to get the most out of your McNair Mentor Relationship” that was given by Dr. Kwando Kinshasa. They also heard words of advice from Second Year Scholars who will complete the program this semester. After the hard work, Scholars were able to take part in a nature hike, swimming and an art exhibit. It was a great opportunity to relax and enjoy getting away from the hectic pace of the city.

This year John Jay College has instituted a new Student Travel fund. This fund provides the resources for students to travel to conferences for professional and academic development. The maximum award for an individual proposal is $1500 and for a group of 4 or more students is $5000. This year McNair Scholars were awarded funds for the below conferences:

- **Anna Micek** - 85th Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel (March, 2014)
- **Kevin Constante** - 2014 Annual Meeting Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Boston, MA
- **Ofia Ali, Yajaira Cabrera, Chavel Guzman, Liudmila Shapoval, Dominika Szybisty** – The SAEOPP/McNair Research Conference, Atlanta, GA (June 26-29, 2014)
During the 2013-14 academic year, McNair Scholars have won the following awards:

- **Emiliya Abramova, Liudmila Shapavol and Radhalisa Zarzuela** - Undergraduate Research Scholarship
- **Emiliya Abramova** - Ethics Across the Curriculum Grant
- **John Bae and Radhalisa Zarzuela** - The Upper Division Scholarship
- **John Bae** - Thurgood Marshall Scholarship and the Jay Walk Scholarship
- **Alexis Hiralall** - Distinguished Service Award 2014 Commencement Award
- **Kevin Constante** – 2014 Cheryl Williams Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research (Psychology)
At the end of the Spring 2014 semester, the McNair Program will say goodbye to the below graduates from Cohort 21. This group includes:

Emily Abramova will graduate with her Bachelors in Political Science/Philosophy from the prestigious CUNY Baccalaureate Program.

Karla Alfaro will graduate with her Bachelors in Criminal Justice. She has been accepted into American University's Masters in Criminal Justice Program.

John Bae will graduate with both his Bachelors and Master’s degrees in Criminal Justice.

Mario Benabe will graduate with his Bachelors in Culture and Deviance Studies. He has been accepted to the “Teach for America” Program and will enroll in a Master’s in Education Program.

Alexis Hiralall will graduate with her Bachelors in Forensic Psychology. She has been accepted to St. John’s University’s Master’s Program in Experimental Psychology.

Introducing Our New Mentors

In the Spring 2014 semester the McNair Program welcomed a couple of new mentors. Both Dr. Mark Fondacaro, Professor in the Psychology Department, and Dr. Shuki Cohen, Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department, joined the McNair Program as mentors. We would like to extend our warmest welcome to them.

New Scholars

This Spring 4 new Scholars entered our McNair Program. They are:

Ossama Ayesh (Political Science)
Geury Cruz (Forensic Psychology)
Joshua Medas (Forensic Psychology)
Jesus Santana (Criminal Justice)

Website

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