Dean’s Letter

John Jay scholars continue to set records and impress with their creative and ingenious approaches to major societal issues. Social scientists such as Javier Osorio and his Academy for Security Analysis, and Margaret Kovera and her work on phenotypic bias in suspect identification, are breaking new ground in areas that have represented persistent problems in modern society. Humanities scholars such as Crystal Endsley are helping us to understand the role of poetry and other literary forms in advancing dialogue on social justice. And scientists including Marta Concheiro-Guisan are discovering patterns of drug use and abuse that help us identify emerging issues and better target intervention and prevention plans. The work of these and other scholars have contributed to yet another major research milestone—in 2016, the college’s scholarly productivity surpassed 2,000 works for the first time in the institution’s history. These works are broad in scope and focus, but they share one thing in common—they have contributed to our growing national, and international, reputation as a leader in the areas of criminal and social justice reform. Congratulations to all of our scholars and artists who have made this possible.

Research Mission

The mission of the Office for the Advancement of Research is to promote scholarly activity, publication/performance of works, and grantsmanship at John Jay College. The Office works with key stakeholders, including faculty, Center directors, staff and administrators to disseminate this mission via workshops, one-on-one mentoring, collaboration, and internal programs aimed at professional development. Working with the Office of Sponsored Programs, which operates within OAR, the Office serves as a liaison and resource to faculty and staff submitting grants to federal, state, and private sources. The Office works with our Office of Marketing and Development to promote the scholarly mission of the College to the external research communities and the general public.
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Visit our website  [http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/research/](http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/research/)
Follow us on Twitter  [@JohnJayResearch](http://twitter.com/JohnJayResearch)
View us on YouTube  [http://www.youtube.com/JohnJayResearch](http://www.youtube.com/JohnJayResearch)
In the face of an increasingly challenging federal funding climate for justice research and reform, John Jay researchers and centers continue to benefit from the concerted efforts of private, state, and municipal funders to take up the cause. Two college centers—the Research and Evaluation Center (REC) and the Misdemeanor Justice Project (MJP)—began a long-term partnership with the New York City Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) in 2017 that will see MOCJ invest close to $20 million in collaborative projects like the Mayor’s Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety over the next 3 years. The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) made diverse investments in John Jay projects ranging from the Prisoner Reentry Institute’s (PRI) Prison to College Pipeline Project, to the National Network for Safe Community’s (NNSC) Intimate Partner Violence Intervention Initiative in the Hudson Valley community of Kingston.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1</th>
<th>Grant and Funding Awards to John Jay Faculty¹</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding Agency Category</td>
<td>Number of Submissions²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State/Local</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC CUNY (Trad A)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC CUNY (Trad B)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC CUNY (Enhanced)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Please note that because (1) submission and award count columns do not account for multi-year awards, (2) grants submitted in Fiscal Year 2016-17 may not be awarded until the following fiscal year, and (3) grants awarded in FY 2016-17 may result from submissions made the previous year, each of the columns in this table effectively represents a different data stream. See individual column footnotes for further clarity.

² Submitted during FY 2016-17

³ Awarded during FY 2016-17

⁴ Total external funds received during FY 2016-17, regardless of submission or award date
**Funded Project Profile: Javier Osorio**

Why are some countries ravaged by high levels of organized crime? What are the paths to building safer, more peaceful and democratic nations? These are both questions that Political Science Professor Javier Osorio has used to guide his research on political and criminal violence in Latin America. They’re also questions that undergird his work as project director of the Academy for Security Analysis, an initiative at the forefront of evaluating the factors that contribute to endemic crime and figuring out the most effective methods for thwarting it. The program focuses specifically on El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, the three countries that make up the “Northern Triangle of Central America”, an area saddled with some of the highest murder rates in the world. Supported by the United States Agency for International Development - El Salvador, the Academy partners with government agencies and civil society organizations to design and implement pilot policy projects, the effects of which can be rigorously studied, while also providing training to local law enforcement and justice system personnel on best practices for quantitative research. The goal, says Osorio, is to “improve the security conditions in the region by strengthening local government capacity and advancing evidence-based policy making.” The recipient of numerous scholarly achievement awards, Osorio is also part of a National Science Foundation-supported research team at the University of Texas-Dallas that is developing the next generation of automated event coding in multiple languages.

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**Funded Project Profile: Al Coppola**

The great legacy of the Enlightenment, says Assistant Professor of English and expert on 18th century science and culture Al Coppola, is the “rendering into knowledge of the heretofore invisible, unknowable and ephemeral.” Coppola, who was selected to participate in the Dibner Library Resident Scholar Program at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. this year, has set out to capture that legacy and its influence on 21st century culture in a new book titled *Enlightenment Visibilities*. The book offers a critical history of developments that are seen as hallmarks of the modern age. These include everything from the “world of tweets, status updates and email threads that renders the category of the ephemeral obsolete” to the “ techno-utopianism that dreams that all tasks, all organizational systems, all forms of knowledge production render themselves liable to capture, analysis and optimization according to the logic of Big Data.” The book aims to present a range of strategies for “knowing the formerly unknowable”, Coppola says. During his fellowship, he plans to use the Dibner Library’s wealth of holdings, including foundational texts and artifacts, to complete a chapter of the book on sensory prostheses, analyzing how early scientific instruments such as the microscope and barometer were borne of the same appetite for knowledge as latter-day gadgets like Google Glasses and the Fitbit.
Funded Project Profile: Margaret Kovera

Presidential Scholar and Professor of Psychology Margaret Bull Kovera is a social psychologist who studies how situational factors influence decision-making in legal contexts, examining everything from judges’ and jurors’ decisions about evidence, to attorneys’ decisions about which questions to ask and which jurors to exclude during jury selection, to witnesses’ decisions during eyewitness identification. Her latest research, for which she’s obtained funding from the National Science Foundation, will focus on the ways in which phenotypic bias—or the role one’s skin or physical features play in shaping others’ perceptions—impacts witness’ ability to accurately identify suspects in a lineup. Specifically, Kovera and her team are looking to answer the question: are black suspects who look more African—a phenotype marked by physical features like darker skin—more likely to be misidentified than other suspects? She notes a number of negative outcomes that arise from the racist association of the African phenotype with criminality: individuals who appear more African are at a greater risk of being shot when unarmed and receiving a death sentence when convicted of a capital crime. Kovera’s project, which the NSF is supporting until 2020, seeks to find out whether this association also extends to misidentification. Kovera is a former president of the American Psychology-Law Society and the current editor-in-chief of Law and Human Behavior, one of the top 10 law journals in the country.
John Jay faculty scholars continued to expand their reach in calendar year 2016, adding over 100 works to an already impressive 2015 total and marking the third consecutive year of record-breaking scholarly activity. Of particular note is the near doubling (from 56 to 105) of creative works produced by John Jay faculty artists, performers and creative writers. While the college’s Art and Music Department deserves particular credit for this accomplishment, creative works came from scholars in diverse departments, from Anthropology to Law and Police Science. Institutional resources like the college’s Shiva Gallery, black box theater, and *J Journal* provide John Jay scholars with high quality outlets for sharing their creative work directly with the college community and the people of New York.

**TABLE 2  Scholarly Productivity for John Jay Faculty**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of Work</th>
<th>OAR Funded Faculty</th>
<th>John Jay Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Reporting</td>
<td>79 of 79 (100%)</td>
<td>81 of 81 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 (1%)</td>
<td>4 (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'No Work to Report'</td>
<td>88 (21%)</td>
<td>68 (17%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>37 (.47)</td>
<td>21 (.26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Chapters</td>
<td>47 (.59)</td>
<td>40 (.49)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Presentations/Invited Lectures</td>
<td>285 (3.61)</td>
<td>309 (3.81)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Articles</td>
<td>182 (2.30)</td>
<td>150 (1.85)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News Articles – Reviews – Commentaries</td>
<td>63 (.80)</td>
<td>121 (1.49)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Works</td>
<td>26 (.33)</td>
<td>50 (.62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>641 (8.11)</td>
<td>691 (8.53)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Per Capita Productivity Rate</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.4</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.8</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1.6 (1.9)</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.7 (2.1)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[5] **Table Notes:** Data reported is for Calendar Years 2015 & 2016, per CUNY reporting requirements. While CUNY divides faculty into 'Mandatory Reporting' (full-time faculty) and 'Optional Reporting' (lecturers, substitutes, faculty on leave or sabbatical for any part of the calendar year in question, etc.) categories, we choose here to present only the total of both of these categories. In each cell, first number represents the total number of works by category and faculty type, while number in parentheses represents either percentage of faculty reporting, or per capita productivity rate, as indicated.

[6] ‘OAR Funded Faculty’ include all faculty receiving funding through formal OAR support programs during the calendar year in question.

[7] Includes conference presentations published as proceedings.

[8] Previously labeled ‘Other.’ Includes art shows curated, performances directed/choreographed/produced/dramaturged, exhibitions at curated shows, music compositions published, plays produced/Performed, short stories and poetry published, and performances (music, dance, theater, etc.).

[9] As calculated using CUNY formulae. Categories counted by CUNY vary from year to year. In 2016, CUNY counted: Books authored, book chapters, conference presentations published as proceedings, peer reviewed journal articles, exhibits at curated art shows, direction/choreography/dramaturgy/design, music composition published/Performed, plays produced/Performed, peer-reviewed technical reports, poetry, and short stories. **Bold number in parentheses is official CUNY per capita rate based on mandatory reporters (see footnote 5 above).**
Scholar Profile: Elizabeth Jeglic

Professor of Psychology Elizabeth Jeglic is a seasoned researcher with a litany of publications and awards under her belt, including the Fay Honey Knopp Award for her work in sexual violence prevention. Lately, though, she’s turned her attention to the practical applications of her research, trying to communicate her findings on sex offender and suicide risk assessment to those who might use them in real-world situations. “We largely talk to those in the field who are doing the work—but we have to share what we have learned with the larger community,” says Jeglic. To that end, her newest project, co-authored with fellow John Jay Professor Cynthia Calkins, is a book directed at parents, instructing them on how to keep their children safe from sexual abuse. She and Calkins are also co-directors of the Sex Offender Research Lab (SORL), which works in collaboration with state and academic agencies to come to a better understanding of effective sex offender management, treatment, and assessment. In addition to her 2016 scholarly output, Jeglic continues to serve as associate editor of Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment and on the editorial board of Psychology, Public Policy and Law.

Scholar Profile: Hyunhee Park

In an age when increasing globalization has many scholars looking toward the future, Associate Professor of History Hyunhee Park has kept her eyes trained on the past, uncovering and studying instances of early cross-cultural contacts in an effort to understand how those interactions shaped societies in the premodern world. Perhaps her best and most significant example of this focus is her 2012 book entitled Mapping the Chinese and Islamic Worlds: Cross-Cultural Exchange in Pre-Modern Asia, in which she utilized original Chinese and Arabic sources to explore the development of transfer and exchange between China and Islamic empires from 750 to 1500. “I was fascinated,” Park says, “by the fact that the two major societies in Asia had many active contacts with each other and influenced each other in the premodern period, and a possibility that accumulated wisdom of Asian geographers and mapmakers underpinned the celebrated voyages of European explorers like Vasco da Gama.” She's built on this work with a number of major grant-winning publications in recent years, including one in 2016 called “The Rise of Soju: The Transfer of Distillation Technology from ‘China’ to Korea during the Mongol Period (1206–1368).” She received a Field Research Fellowship from the Korea Foundation that will allow her to draft a similarly titled book in the fall of 2017.
Scholar Profile: Marta Concheiro-Guisan

Using a broad array of technical skills and practices specific to her field, Assistant Professor of Forensic Toxicology Marta Concheiro-Guisan has spent much of the last year honing in on a particular, important problem: tracking drug exposure among some of society’s highest-risk populations. Her 2016 study on pregnant women, which employed in vitro methods to analyze over 700 mother-newborn pairs for exposure to cocaine, opioids, methadone, and amphetamines, found that maternal hair was the most sensitive specimen for detecting drug traces during gestation. Other work, including revealing the toxicological aspects of new and popular psychoactive substances such as synthetic cannabinoids sold under brand names like “K2” and “Spice”, have produced similarly useful findings. Such information, says Concheiro-Guisan, can later be used by health providers to “improve clinical outcomes, by policy makers to increase public safety, and in the forensic field to pursue justice”—ultimately having a positive impact on the well-being of these groups and society as a whole. With several active grants buttressing her current efforts, Concheiro-Guisan has published more than 40 articles in peer-reviewed journals and has presented her work at more than 30 professional toxicology meetings.
Beginning in the 2017-18 academic year, the newly formed Office for Student Research and Creativity will be incorporated into the OAR organizational structure and mission. In taking on this new remit, we are immensely fortunate to have the support of a number of active student research enterprises pioneered by faculty around the college. These include the PRISM (Program for Research Initiatives in Science and Math) Program, now in its tenth year; the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program; the Macaulay Honors College; and the Neighborhood Crime and Drug Project (NCDP). In the coming months, the Office for Student Research and Creativity will provide a broad spectrum of support services to these programs and other ongoing research efforts across undergraduate and graduate programming at John Jay, and develop new structures for promoting and evaluating their accomplishments.

[1] Student Citations counts the number of students presenting or publishing, including multiple publications/presentations by the same student, and multiple student contributors on a single publication/presentation. Publications, Posters, Presentations counts the number of projects published or presented to an audience outside of the confines of the sponsoring program.
Student Researcher Profile: Zenab Khan and Donovan Trinidad

On paper and in person, graduates Zenab Khan and Donovan Trinidad might not have seemed like your average college students. The Forensic Science and Cell and Molecular Biology majors (respectively) kept incredibly active over their four years at John Jay, managing to attain such impressive achievements as getting published in academic journals, presenting their research at various academic conferences and symposiums, and finding time to mentor and tutor other students along the way. As a team, their work on necrobiomes—the mini-ecosystems of various bacteria and insects that flourish throughout the human body once deceased—has won several accolades and awards, including an Honorable Mention at this year’s national CSTEP (Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program) conference. Trinidad, who had initially studied forensic science before switching to the recently-created cellular and molecular biology major, won a travel award to present a poster based on the research at the Society for the Advancement of Chicano/Hispanic and Native American Students (SACNAS) National Conference in 2016. Khan, who was the only science student to compete in the college’s ePortfolio competition, was honored with John Jay’s Alexander Joseph Memorial Award for achieving the highest GPA in the department’s graduating class. Both are pursuing further education, with Trinidad beginning a PhD through the University of California, San Francisco’s Biomedical Sciences program this fall.

Student Researcher Profile: Tabrina Youmans

Summer classes at many colleges and universities can be dull affairs—but not at John Jay, where students get the opportunity to head outside and play a hands-on role in producing research that both surprises and inspires them. Such is the experience of Criminology student Tabrina Youmans, who found herself interviewing and collecting data about heroin users in the South Bronx during her class with adjunct Anthropology Professor Leonardo Dominguez this summer. As part of Anthropology Professor Ric Curtis’ lauded Neighborhood Crime and Drug Project, Youmans joined other students in asking users about their backgrounds and personal lives, often to enlightening effect. “Living in East New York and commuting via subway to and from school and working in the city you become somewhat desensitized to what’s going on around you,” Youmans said. “The homeless person asking for change, the drug user battling with withdrawal. You see them and you sort of think to yourself, it’s their fault that they’re in the predicament they’re in. You don’t put all the pieces together until you sit and talk with them and realize how easily that could be you or someone you know or love.” From an academic standpoint, Youmans said the experience also showed her how important choosing the right research methods is in carrying out a successful experiment or study. A rising senior, she plans to continue her studies through a master’s program at John Jay after graduation.
The Office for the Advancement of Research continued to reinvest indirect recoveries from external grants in a range of targeted internal funding programs, again increasing fiscal 2017 awards to faculty by over $10k from 2016. In addition to its established array of 13 competitive, peer-reviewed award programs, OAR partnered with the college’s Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) to offer the Funded Research Development seminar series. An 8-session series of workshops spanning the 2016-17 academic year, Funded Research Development guided a cohort of 17 John Jay researchers and scholars step-by-step through the process of applying for grants and other sources of external funding. Supporting participants through this process was a smaller cohort of experienced faculty mentors, composed of individuals with strong track records in securing external support for their research. OAR funded mentors and participants alike, and will offer the program a second time in 2017-18.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Program</th>
<th>Applications Funded</th>
<th>Total Awards (Average Award)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discretionary Funding</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed Funding</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Scholarship</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Funding</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Publication</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Access Publication</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal Peer Review</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Event</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhanced Travel</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Reception</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Scholar Release</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Career</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Scholarly Excellence</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Development Mentorship</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Development Participation</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>113</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Funded Researcher Profile: John-Paul Narkunas

Many studies about the changing landscape of higher education in the U.S. today focus on the increasing privatization of public universities in the face of waning state investment and rising costs. Less explored are the underlying social and economic dynamics driving these changes that Associate Professor of Literary and Social Theory John-Paul Narkunas tackles in his latest work. Edu-Futures: Private Equity, Philanthropy, and the Monetization of Higher Education, which Narkunas won a Mid-Career Scholar Award to complete, will closely examine the accepted factors involved in the restructuring of higher education. Narkunas ultimately argues that they are symptoms of a larger problem: namely, the capitulation of all human practices to the demands of financial and speculative capital, aided by new digital technologies that make possible such things as online education. “As humans are conceived as capital, assets, or potential risks to be managed (for example, students and their debts), public responsibility for education is transforming,” says Narkunas, who will use his grant money to attend national and international conferences on the financialization of the public sector and compile two new chapters of the book, says. “As a humanist, funding opportunities are increasingly rare; this award has literally opened new avenues of intellectual exploration for me,” he adds.

Funded Researcher Profile: Gail Garfield

Earlier this summer, The New York Times reported that the Justice Department will begin investigating affirmative action admission policies under claims that they unfairly discriminate against white applicants. According to Professor of Sociology Gail Garfield, the department’s move can also be seen as part of a larger shift in U.S. legal and administrative policies that is having a “devastating effect on the already small numbers of black faculty in places of higher education.” Garfield’s latest work, a book project that she will spend the next semester completing with the help of funding from a Senior Scholar Award, is about just this shift. Tentatively titled Black Knowing & Black Knowledge: The Black Professoriat in Higher Education, her book will trace the trajectory of black professors in U.S. higher education, combining historical perspectives on the Civil Rights movement with contemporary analysis. Examining the current makeup of faculty at both predominantly white and historically black colleges and universities, Garfield will show how black scholars are “increasingly marginalized or replaceable.” Garfield scoured databases at the Department of Education and visited colleges and universities to collect anecdotal stories from black professors, whom she notes only constitute about 5 percent of all faculty members at higher education institutions across country. “What I really want to know,” Garfield says, “because my whole book is predicated on the shift that has occurred in education in general and in higher education in particular with regards to race relations, is how those relations have changed.”
Funded Researcher Profiles: Nina Rose-Fischer

Before coming to John Jay’s Interdisciplinary Studies Department, Assistant Professor Nina Rose-Fischer worked for over 20 years on the ground in the field of juvenile justice, engaged in positions as disparate as clinician, administrator, and policy analyst in the governor’s office. During that time she got a first-hand look at the how the juvenile justice system “sets up youths to fail”—“it became very clear what policies were in place that created obstacles for youth to be able to thrive after functioning in the system,” she says. These experiences inspired her to get involved with programs aimed at preventing young people from entering that system in the first place, such as the Youth Police Initiative, founded in 2002 and now present in over 30 cities nationally and internationally, that connects vulnerable adolescents with front-line officers working in their neighborhoods in an effort to improve relations. With the help of internal OAR seed funding, Rose-Fischer has spent the last year evaluating the effectiveness of YPI in places like Brownsville, New York, where she says there has been “tremendous anecdotal success.” Rose-Fischer and her team have also applied for a research grant from the National Institute of Justice, which will issue a final decision in the fall.
PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP PROFILE

Public scholarship at John Jay College came into its own during the 2016-17 Academic Year, through the efforts of a critical mass of college-affiliated researchers and scholars to bring their work to the general public. Newcomer and Franklin A. Thomas Professor Phillip Atiba Goff and his Center for Policing Equity brought evidence-based discussion of police-community relations to a range of audiences via the Justice Nerds lecture series, editorials in the pages of The New York Times and elsewhere, and an active presence on Twitter. Prison to College Pipeline Director and English Professor Baz Dreisinger followed up the publication of her book, Incarceration Nations, with a whirlwind of public speaking engagements—supplementing her social media activity and writing for popular media outlets like The Washington Post and The New York Times. And Art Crime Professor Erin Thompson writes across genres in outlets from Inside Higher Ed to The Kenyon Review, while providing frequent expert commentary for CNN and numerous radio stations. These faculty, along with their public scholar peers, are working hard to expand the meaning of “Educating for Justice” to a wider constituency throughout the US and around the world. With the hiring of a new Research Communications Manager in Fall 2017, the OAR will develop new and innovative capacities to support them in this essential endeavor.

John Jay Research Events

Now in its 6th year, the OAR Book Talk series remains an important part of John Jay College’s community and cultural life. The talks provide a public forum to highlight the relevance of John Jay faculty research to larger conversations around topics of justice and the full breadth of the liberal arts, as well as exposure to important perspectives from widely recognized external guests. Faculty regularly incorporate series offerings into course curriculum—a practice that OAR encourages through convenient scheduling and regular outreach. In addition to the annual Book Talk series, OAR was privileged to contribute the closing event to the college’s Spring 2017 initiative “America’s Gun Epidemic”.

FALL 2016 BOOK TALKS

BAZ DREISINGER
John Jay English
Incarceration Nations: A Journey to Justice in Prisons Around the World
—October 13, 2016

NATHAN LENTS
John Jay Sciences
Not So Different: Finding Human Nature in Animals
— November 15, 2016
SPRING 2017 BOOK TALKS

BLANCHE WIESEN COOK
John Jay History
Eleanor Roosevelt Volume 3: The War Years and After
—March 6, 2017

MICHELLE HOLDER
John Jay Economics
African American Men and the Labor Market During the Great Recession
—April 5, 2017

BENJAMIN BIERMAN
John Jay Art and Music
Listening to Jazz
—April 20, 2017

Gun Violence in NYC Neighborhoods: Complementary Solutions from Law Enforcement and Public Health
May 9th, 2017

As part of the college-wide Spring 2017 initiative “America’s Gun Epidemic”, OAR partnered with Office of Development and the John A. Reisenbach Foundation to sponsor an event exploring New York City’s historically successful approaches to past gun violence—and innovative public health solutions for current and future issues. Staff from John Jay’s Research and Evaluation Center and Punishment to Public Health initiative joined experts from the Center for Court Innovation, New York City Police Department, and Mayor’s Office to Prevent Gun Violence for a series of frank and wide-ranging discussions examining the benefits and detriments of diverse violence-reduction strategies, paying particular attention to the importance of addressing historical harms associated with overpolicing of NYC’s communities of color.
Public Scholar Profile: Crystal Endsley

When asked what inspires her scholarship, Assistant Professor Crystal Endsley recounts how, following her very first open mic performance, she was approached by a teary-eyed audience member who wanted to tell her how deeply moved she was by her piece. “In that moment, I realized the incredible power of performance and how someone like me, a nobody with no training, was able to connect to a complete stranger and move her to tears just by telling the truth,” Endsley says. “I have never been the same since that moment.” Indeed, Endsley is both scholar and artist, a performer and professor using critical pedagogy to inform her creative output and vice versa. As a member of John Jay’s Africana Studies department, Endsley has studied how the medium of performative art—specifically spoken word poetry—can be used as a tool for social justice and inspire new ways of teaching and learning. As a world-renowned spoken word performer, Endsley helped bring Dr. Elaine Richardson’s Hip Hop Literacies Conference to John Jay in spring 2017; the event attracted over 200 scholars, educators, and activists from dozens of universities to participate in a dialogue about the social and political issues facing black and brown communities today. Her forthcoming book, Open Mic Night: Campus Programs that Champion College Student Voice and Engagement, considers how college students, particularly students of color, are empowered through performance opportunities offered on their campuses.

FIGURE 5  AY2016-17 Faculty Media Appearances, Top 10 (Affiliation)
Public Scholar Profile: Jonathan Gray

The late literary giant Norman Mailer once called for a “revolution in the consciousness of our time”—a call that today instructs the work of Associate Professor of English Jonathan W. Gray. Gray’s revolutionary public scholarship on contemporary American literature and culture introduces readers across a range of audiences to new ways of thinking. In addition to publishing academic articles on everything from modernism and the Harlem Renaissance to Jay Z’s relationship to black masculinity, Gray also makes it a point to disseminate his ideas in the public sphere, writing about comics and popular culture for media outlets like The New Republic and Salon. Those publications have garnered him considerable attention on social media, including on Twitter, where he boasts nearly 2,000 followers and posts regularly. Gray has also edited the Journal of Comics and Culture, is the author of Civil Rights in the White Literary Imagination, and is currently working on a book project titled Illustrating the Race: Representing Blackness in American Comics, which will trace depictions of African Americans in comics from 1966 to the present.
The Office for the Advancement of Research has continued to curate the John Jay Research social media profile since the project’s 2012 launch, providing a vital platform for the engagement of diverse audiences. As John Jay scholars grow increasingly active in responding to the need for evidence-based discourse outside of their disciplines and in the public sphere, institutional resources serve an essential need. Starting in the 2017-18 academic year, the Office for the Advancement of Research will have a dedicated staff member serving as the college’s Research Communications Manager, coordinating the office’s support services for public scholarship endeavors.