

# 2024 CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

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GLOBAL IMPACT: SCHOLARSHIP, LEADERSHIP, AND EXCELLENCE

## THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

**12:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

### **REGISTRATION**

Conference Registration Desk  
Main Concourse

**1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

### **SELF GUIDED CAMPUS WALKING TOUR & CAMPUS DEPARTMENT VISITATIONS (HYBRID)**

Walk to the main campus to explore the University of Maryland. Visit the main campus, academic and administrative buildings, and campus attractions.

Please arrange your individual or group department visitations. Contact info for all UMD academic departments and programs is as follows:

University of Maryland Academic Departments and programs Info

<https://www.umd.edu/academic-departments-and-programs>



University of Maryland Virtual Campus Research & Cultural Tour

<https://go.umd.edu/ogdiumdtour>



African-American History and the University of Maryland: A Campus Landmark Tour

<https://go.umd.edu/umdaahisttour>



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**4:00 PM – 5:45 PM**

## **OPENING SESSION**

Vessey Ballroom

### **WELCOME FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**

**Dr. LaToya Walters**, McNair Director

Co-Chair: McNair Scholars and Undergraduate Conference University of Maryland, College Park

### **INTRODUCTION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Eduardo Figueroa**, McNair Scholar

Junior, Psychology Major

University of Maryland, College Park

### **OPENING REMARKS**

**Dr. Jerry L. Lewis**, Executive Director Academic Achievement Programs

Chair: McNair Scholars and Undergraduate Research Conference

University of Maryland, College Park

### **INTRODUCTION OF DEAN**

**Brayan Ruiz-Lopez**, McNair Scholar

Senior, Neuroscience Psychology

Saint Mary's College of Maryland

**Dr. Lawrence Clark**, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies

University of Maryland, College Park

### **INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER**

**Dr. Nthakoana Peko**, First McNair Scholars Program Director

University of Maryland, College Park

(retired)

### **OPENING SPEAKER**

**Dr. Wallace Southerland, III**, Former McNair Scholars Program

Director, University of Maryland, College Park

Vice President, Student Affairs

Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois

### **MCNAIR SCHOLARS PLEDGE**

Lead by Dr. Wallace Southerland III (author)

\*The Pledge is at the front of the Conference Proceedings Book. Please stand.\*

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## **TRANSITION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. LaToya Walters, McNair Director

Co-Chair: McNair Scholars and Undergraduate Conference University of Maryland, College Park

**5:45 PM – 7:00 PM**

## **SCHOLARS' RECEPTION**

**SPONSORED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

Chesapeake Ballroom

## **WELCOME FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

**Dr. Georgina Dodge**, Vice President

Office of Diversity and Inclusion

University of Maryland, College Park

**7:30 PM – 10:00 PM**

## **NETWORKING SOCIAL: BOWLING, BILLIARDS/POOL & FLATSCREEN TVS**

(Shuttle to the main campus departs the hotel lobby at 7:30 PM)

TerpZone – Stamp Student Union

Enjoy a night of bowling, billiards/pool, basketball games on big screen

T.V.s, fellowship, music, & light refreshments

The last shuttle departs for the hotel at 10:00 PM

## **FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024**

**7:30 AM – 5:00 PM**

## **REGISTRATION**

Conference Registration Desk Main Concourse

**7:00 AM – 7:45 AM**

## **POSTER PRESENTATION SET-UP**

Vessey Ballroom

**8:00 AM – 9:20 AM**

## **GENERAL SESSION AND BREAKFAST**

Chesapeake Room A, B, & C

## **COLLEGE PRESIDENTS' CONVERSATIONS: MCNAIR SCHOLARS AND THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

### **MODERATOR**

**Dr. Dana Williams**, Dean

Howard University, Washington, DC

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**Dr. Mark Ginsberg**

President of Towson University

## TRANSITION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Dr. LaToya Walters**, McNair Director

Co-Chair: McNair Scholars and Undergraduate Conference University of Maryland, College Park

**9:30 AM - 10:45 AM**

## ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION (Staff Only)

U.S. Department of Education's TRIO Office  
Patuxent Room

## INTRODUCTION AND MODERATOR

**Dr. Jerry L. Lewis**, Executive Director Academic Achievement Programs

Chair: McNair Scholars and Undergraduate Research Conference  
University of Maryland, College Park

## PANELISTS

U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal TRiO Programs  
McNair Representatives

**9:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

## WORKSHOP SERIES

### MCNAIR GRADUATE STUDENT PANEL

Room 2115

#### MODERATOR

**Michael Hunt**, Director, McNair UMBC

Ph.D.Candidate,

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

#### PANELISTS

**Andrew Lowe-Mohammed**, Ph.D. student in Communication, Rhetoric and Political Culture, McNair Graduate Fellow, UMD  
McNair Alumnus: University of Maryland, College Park

**Xandie Iti Lusakbi**, M.A., Ph.D. student in Criminology and Criminal Justice, McNair Graduate Fellow, UMD

McNair Alumnus: The University of Oklahoma

**Divon Pender**, M.A. student in Higher Education, UMD

McNair Alumnus: Rutgers University

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*GLOBAL IMPACT: SCHOLARSHIP, LEADERSHIP, AND EXCELLENCE*

## **STRATEGIES FOR DEVELOPING A COMPETITIVE GRADUATE SCHOOL PERSONAL STATEMENT**

Room 2102

PRESENTER

**Dr. Linda C. Macri**, Director Academic and Professional Development  
The Graduate School  
University of Maryland, College Park

## **MAKING THE JOURNEY ABROAD: OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES EDUCATION ABROAD STUDY**

Room 2112

PRESENTER

**Asia King**, Program Manager for Global Learning Abroad  
Educational Abroad Program University of Maryland, College Park

**Joy Gursky**, Global Learning Advisor

Educational Abroad Program University of Maryland, College Park

## **RECLAIM YOUR CAREER AND LIFE: I WOULD RATHER DIE DANCING THAN SITTING AT MY DESK**

Room 2100 and 2101

PRESENTER

**Dr. Marcal Graham**

Director, Educational Opportunity Center Author-Book Title: MOVEME  
University of Maryland, College Park

## **GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS FOR PH.D. APPLICANTS - OPPORTUNITIES AND STRATEGIES (MORNING ONLY)**

Room 2110 and 2111

PRESENTER

**Dr. Francis DuVinage**, Director of National Scholarship Office  
University of Maryland, College Park

**10:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

## **GRADUATE SCHOOL FAIR SPONSORED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COLLEGE PARK GRADUATE SCHOOL**

Chesapeake Foyer

**12:45 PM – 2:30 PM**

## **GENERAL SESSION AND LUNCHEON**

Chesapeake Room A, B, & C

## **DEAN'S PANEL**

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## **MODERATOR**

**Dr. Rhea Roper Nedd**, Former McNair Director  
University of Maryland, College Park  
Director, Center for Student Diversity  
Towson University  
Baltimore, MD

## **PANELISTS**

**Dr. Stephen Roth**, Associate Provost and Dean, Graduate School  
University of Maryland, College Park  
College Park, MD

**Dr. Janet C. Rutledge**, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
Baltimore, MD

**Dr. Karen Panetta**, Dean for Graduate Education  
Tufts University School of Engineering  
Medford, MA

**Dr. Kimberly Griffin**, Professor and Dean of the College of Education  
University of Maryland, College Park  
College Park, MD

**Dr. Miriam Okine Davies**, Assistant Dean, Howard University Graduate  
School  
Washington, D.C.

**2:45 PM – 4:15 PM**

## **STUDENT RESEARCH POSTER PRESENTATIONS (POSTER GALLERY)**

Vessey Ballroom

Presentations are organized alphabetically by presenter last name  
beginning on page [insert page number here]

Ja’Kala Barber, Ph.D. Student, McNair Graduate Assistant

Ruchi Saini, Ph.D. Student, Academic Achievement Programs Assistant

Poster set-up 7:00 AM – 7:45 AM and displayed through 4:15 PM.

Posters will be critiqued by an evaluator. Please break down poster  
presentations at 4:15 PM. Poster boards and binder clips are available on  
each presentation table in the Vessey Ballroom.

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*GLOBAL IMPACT: SCHOLARSHIP, LEADERSHIP, AND EXCELLENCE*

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

## WORKSHOP SERIES

### MCNAIR GRADUATE STUDENT PANEL

Room 2115

#### MODERATOR

**Michael Hunt**, Director, McNair UMBC  
Ph.D. Candidate,  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

#### PANELISTS

**Andrew Lowe-Mohammed**, Ph.D. student in Communications  
University of Maryland McNair Alumnus  
University of Maryland, College Park

**Xandie Iti Lusakbi**, M.A., Ph.D. student in Criminology and Criminal  
Justice at the University of Maryland, College Park  
The University of Oklahoma McNair Alumnus

**Divon Pender**, M.A. student in Higher Education, UMD  
McNair Alumnus: Rutgers University

### STRATEGIES FOR DEVELOPING A COMPETITIVE GRADUATE SCHOOL PERSONAL STATEMENT

Room 2102

#### PRESENTER

**Dr. Linda C. Macri**, Director Academic and Professional Development  
The Graduate School  
University of Maryland, College Park

### MAKING THE JOURNEY ABOARD: OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES EDUCATION ABROAD STUDY

Room 2112

#### PRESENTER(S)

**Asia King**, Program Manager for Global Learning Abroad  
Educational Abroad Program  
University of Maryland, College Park

**Joy Gursky**, Global Learning Advisor  
Educational Abroad Program University of Maryland, College Park

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## **RECLAIM YOUR CAREER AND LIFE: I WOULD RATHER DIE DANCING THAN SITTING AT MY DESK**

Room 2100 and 2101

PRESENTER

**Dr. Marcal Graham**

Director, Educational Opportunity Center Author-Book Title: MOVEME  
University of Maryland, College Park

## **MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING: STRATEGIES FOR STUDENTS' SUCCESS IN THE POST-COVID COLLEGE ENVIRONMENT**

Room 2110 and 2111

PRESENTER

**Dr. Alex Agiliga**, Staff Psychologist

University of Maryland, College Park

**7:00 PM – 9:15 PM**

## **THE SCHOLARS' BANQUET**

Chesapeake Room A, B, & C

Elegant Attire: Suit/tie/cocktail dress/pantsuit

## **PRESIDING & INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Dr. Jerry L. Lewis**, Executive Director Academic Achievement Programs

Chair: McNair Scholars and Undergraduate Research Conference

University of Maryland, College Park

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Dr. Chelsey Green**, The Green Project

## **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

## **CLOSING REMARKS & TRANSITION**

**Dr. Jerry L. Lewis**, Executive Director Academic Achievement Programs

Chair: McNair Scholars and Undergraduate Research Conference

University of Maryland, College Park

**9:30 PM – 12:00 AM**

## **SCHOLARS PARTY with D.J.**

Patuxent Room

Light Refreshments Provided

**9:30 PM – 10:30 PM**

## **MCNAIR STAFF FELLOWSHIP (Special Refreshments)**

Concierge Lounge (Hotel Registration/Check-in Side)



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## SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024

**7:30 AM – 3:30 PM**

### **REGISTRATION**

Conference Registration  
Desk Main Concourse

**7:45 AM – 9:00 AM**

### **GENERAL SESSION AND BREAKFAST**

Chesapeake Room A, B, & C

### **THE PROOF IS IN THE PANEL: MCNAIR SCHOLARS' SUCCESS STORIES**

#### **CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTION & MODERATOR**

**Dr. Stephanie Miller**, Project Director Office of Civil Rights  
U.S. Department of Education Washington, DC  
McNair Alumna, University of Maryland, College Park

#### **PANELISTS**

**Dr. Chanel Harley**, Department of Political Science, Georgia State University  
McNair Scholar Alumna, University of Maryland, College Park

**Dr. Christopher Travers**, University of Maryland, Visiting Clinical Professor  
Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education (CHSE), College of Education  
University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland  
McNair Alumni, University of Maryland, College Park

**Dr. Yixin Ren**, Scientist III  
US Pharmacopeia  
Germantown, MD  
McNair Scholar Alumna University of Buffalo

**Dr. Matthew J. Crawford**,  
Chair, Department of Chemistry & Physics  
Associate Professor of Chemistry, Frostburg State University  
McNair Scholar Alumna, University of Maryland, College Park

**9:15 AM – 12:45 PM**

### **ORAL RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

**SPONSORED BY ETS AND VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY**  
(Student Room Assignment in Conference Proceedings Book)

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*GLOBAL IMPACT: SCHOLARSHIP, LEADERSHIP, AND EXCELLENCE*

**1:00 PM – 2:15 PM**

## **GENERAL SESSION AND LUNCH**

McNair Scholars, Frostburg State University

St. Mary's College of Maryland, University of Maryland. College Park

## **EVALUATIONS**

**Dr. LaToya Walters**

Director of Ronald E. McNair Program University of Maryland, College Park

## **ROLL CALL**

## **TRANSITION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**3:00 PM – 9:30 PM**

## **DINNER ON YOUR OWN. SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF WASHINGTON, D.C. (advance registration required for the bus)**

Bus to Washington, D.C. departs from the hotel lobby at 3:30 PM– Bus leaves Washington, D.C. for the hotel at 9:30 PM

Explore Washington, D.C. - Shop, Dine, & Visit Museums A coach bus will drop off and pick up registrants at the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024**

**9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

## **CLOSING SESSION AND BREAKFAST**

Chesapeake Room A & B

## **CALL TO ORDER AND PRESIDING & COMMENTS**

**Dr. LaToya Walters**, McNair Director

Co-Chair: McNair Scholars and Undergraduate Conference University of Maryland, College Park

## **OPEN MIC: CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS**

Conference Attendees

## **OPEN MIC: CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS & ENCOURAGEMENT**

McNair Scholars Directors

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATION: GIVE-A-WAYS**

**Frances Woods Suku**, Assistant Director of Personnel and Finance

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## **CLOSING REMARKS**

**Dr. Jerry L. Lewis**, Executive Director Academic Achievement Programs

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