These papers are an inspiration! Penn’s McNair Scholars provide us with a glimpse into many different scholarly domains and cover a variety of themes: a discussion about how parents’ backgrounds impact young people’s perceptions of discrimination, an ethnographic portrait of Afrocentricity as educational curricula, a nuanced depiction of contemporary transgender subjectivities, an analysis of neoliberalism and post-Soviet politics as structural contexts for unearthing fault-lines between and among nation-states in the European Union, an examination of Hispanophone Caribbean literary deployments of HIV/AIDS, a close reading of Julia Alvarez’s “political” poetry, and an attempt to test the Parent-Nominated Symptoms Questionnaire as a mechanism for better understanding (and potentially treating) autism.

These papers demonstrate an impressive range and rigor, speaking volumes about the value of McNair’s mentoring interventions. As a former McNair Scholar myself (in the early 1990s), I am proud to claim these undergraduates as heirs, and I’m excited to see how their promising academic futures will unfurl.

John L. Jackson, Jr.
Richard Perry University Professor of Communication and Anthropology &
Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Annenberg School for Communication
University of Pennsylvania