

# Minority Fellowship Program Presents New Fellows

*by Edward Murguia, Director  
ASA Minority Affairs Program*

The twenty-sixth cohort of fellows supported by the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) is ready to begin graduate work this fall. The biographical sketches and pictures will introduce you to this outstanding group of young sociologists. Many will attend the ASA Annual Meeting where you can meet and greet them. The Program lists all the MFP Fellows, across all cohorts, who are participating in the Meeting.

## **Elbert P. Almazan**

*Race/Ethnicity:* Asian American (Filipino)

*Undergraduate Institutions Attended:* San Bernardino Valley College, University of California, Riverside

*Graduate Institution Chosen:* Indiana University As an undergraduate at the University of California, Riverside, Elbert received the prestigious University of California Presidential Undergraduate Research Fellowship which allowed him to select a sample, to develop and analyze a survey of his own. Based on his first year of graduate work at Indiana University, his professors express confidence in his ability to handle the multiple tasks required of graduate students and to think analytically in terms of researchable questions which will inform his studies.

## **Michelle M. Balan**

*Race/Ethnicity:* Asian American (Filipino)

*Undergraduate Institution Attended:* Louisiana State University

*Graduate Institution Chosen:* Louisiana State University

Michelle did her undergraduate work at Louisiana State University and has completed a year of graduate work at Louisiana State. As an undergraduate, she completed pre-med requirements but, she says, " was more challenged by the complexities of the social world than those in medicine or biology". She developed a survey on attitudes towards mental health, which will serve as the

basis for data for her thesis already in the planning stages.

### **Stephani L. Hatch**

*Race/Ethnicity:* African American

*Undergraduate Institution Attended:* Indiana University

*Graduate Institution Chosen:* University of Maryland

After completing her undergraduate studies at Indiana University, Stephani received an MA degree in sociology at Georgia State University. At Georgia State, she conducted both ethnographic and survey research interviews with female drug users and her work in Atlanta led to co-authorship of 8 publications and 4 presentations (2 at national conferences) in the area of female illicit drug use. She worked for a year as a research interviewer and participant observer in state prisons in Delaware at the University of Delaware's Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies, and, most recently, has completed a year of graduate work at the University of Maryland.

### **Kenya J. Lucas**

*Race/Ethnicity:* African American

*Undergraduate Institution Attended:* Johns Hopkins University

*Graduate Institution Chosen:* Brown University

Kenya was involved with several research projects during her undergraduate work at Johns Hopkins University. She worked with researchers in two HIV prevention projects at the School of Public Health and Hygiene at Johns Hopkins, was a research interviewer in a project on HIV sociobehavioral intervention involving at-risk minority women, and was an ethnographer/qualitative analyst in a project concerning HIV intravenous drug users. Her work as an undergraduate resulted in two co-authored publications, two articles under review, and five scholarly presentations. She will begin her graduate studies at Brown University this fall.

### **Tassy Parker**

*Race/Ethnicity:* Native American (Senica)

*Undergraduate Institution Attended:* University of New Mexico

*Graduate Institution Chosen:* University of New Mexico

Tassy received her BA in sociology summa cum laude and was valedictorian of her graduating class at the University of New Mexico in 1966. She received her MA in sociology with distinction in 1998 and is continuing at the University of New Mexico for her PhD. Her undergraduate thesis was published in a peer-

reviewed journal and involved the first use of a psychiatric screening instrument in a Native American primary care setting. A second manuscript, on sources of disharmony in the doctor-patient relationship among Native Americans, is under review.

**Eric A. Stewart**

*Race/Ethnicity:* African American

*Undergraduate Institution Attended:* Fort Valley State University

*Graduate Institution Chosen:* Iowa State University

After his BA at Fort Valley State University in 1995, Eric received his MA from Auburn University in 1996. In 1997, he began his graduate work in the Department of Sociology at Iowa State University and with the Institute for Social and Behavioral Research at Iowa State. He published an article on the discrimination of Hispanics by the criminal justice system in the *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Science*, and has a second article, on delinquency and legal sanctions on family functioning, under review.

**Nadia Y. Kim**

*Non-NIMH, area of specialization open*

*Race/Ethnicity:* Asian American (Korean)

*Undergraduate Institution Attended:* University of California-Santa Barbara

*Graduate Institution Chosen:* University of Michigan

After graduating magna cum laude from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1996, Nadia entered the graduate program at the University of Michigan in 1997. She intends to study Korean-Black relations in the United States. Her paper entitled, "South Korea 1980-1992: A Product of Political Revolution" is in process of revision for publication.