Minority Fellowship Program Announces New Fellows

by Alfonso R. Latoni-Rodríguez, Director, Minority Affairs Program

The Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) of the American Sociological Association is pleased to introduce the 14 new Fellows in Cohort 28. The Advisory Panel of the Program made these recommendations in April, from a highly competitive pool of applicants. The 14 students selected this spring commence their MFP Fellowship on August 1, 2001. MFP Cohort 28 includes both beginning and continuing graduate students with promise of developing highly successfully careers in sociology and in the sociology of mental health. They will attend the Annual Meeting in Anaheim.

The MFP Program is primarily funded through a training grant from the National Institute of Mental Health. In addition to ASA member contributions, donations from Alpha Kappa Delta, Sociologists for Women in Society, the Association of Black Sociologists, Midwest Sociological Society, and the Southwestern Sociological Association, also make possible this Fellowship Program.

The new MFP Fellows are:

**Nadine J. Barrett**
*Undergraduate Institution: University of Central Florida*
*Graduate Institution: Texas Woman's University*

Barrett earned a BA and MA in liberal arts and sociology, respectively, from the University of Central Florida. She has completed her first year as a doctoral student in sociology at Texas Woman's University (TWU). Prior to pursuing her PhD studies, she taught a course on sex roles in modern society at the University of Central Florida. She is the President of the TWU Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Delta Honorary Society and is a graduate student representative on the Executive Board of the Southwestern Sociological Association. Her research interests focus on the experiences and challenges of people of color in communities of low socioeconomic status. Her goal is to examine social inequality as it relates to the mental health of black women, children, and adolescents.

**Andrew Cho**
*Undergraduate Institution: University of Washington, Seattle*
*Graduate Institution: University of Washington, Seattle*

Cho earned his BA in international business and marketing from the University of Washington with Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude honors. In fall 2001, he starts his second year of graduate school in the Department of Sociology at the University of Washington. His research focuses on race relations, ethnic stratification, and the sociology of Asian Americans, with special interest in mental health issues pertaining to Southeast Asian refugees and immigrants. Prior to graduate school, Cho worked as an advisor and instructor for six years at South Seattle Community College.

**David A. Cort (non-NIMH Fellow)**

http://www.asanet.org/footnotes/julyaugust01/fn6.html
Cort will begin his doctoral studies at the University of California, Los Angeles in the fall of 2001. He has a BS in psychology from Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama, and an MA in sociology from George Washington University. As an undergraduate student, he was awarded a Mellon Undergraduate Research Fellowship. Cort worked at the Urban Institute, at the Department of Veteran Affairs, and at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. His MA thesis examines race differences in native-born Americans’ attitudes toward immigrants. He plans to continue research on the effect of changing public policy initiatives on the educational and social well-being of women, minorities, and other members of underrepresented groups.

Alfred W. DeFreece

Undergraduate Institution: Hunter College, New York  
Graduate Institution: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

DeFreece received his BA in sociology from Hunter College in New York. He has his first year as a graduate student at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Prior to becoming a graduate student, DeFreece was a Research Fellow at Hunter College funded by the National Institute of Mental Health’s Career Opportunities in Research Education and Training Program (NIMH-COR). He worked on the National Program Evaluation Study of Early Head Start. DeFreece has presented his research at several professional meetings, such as the Psi Chi Honor Society Annual Psychology Convention and the NIMH-COR Annual Meetings. His research interests focus on the understanding of race relations, by assessing patterns and possible directions of African-American concepts of self-determination and self-realization, and linking these conceptualizations to differentials in mental health status.

Lisette Haro

Undergraduate Institution: Chicago State University  
Graduate Institution: University of Minnesota

Haro graduated magna cum laude in psychology from Chicago State University. Last June, she completed her second year as a graduate student in sociology at the University of Minnesota. She has been a MacArthur Interdisciplinary Graduate Program Fellow and was the recipient of an Alliance for Minority Participation Scholarship, and a Presidential Scholarship. She has also been a Teaching Assistant in the Department of Sociology at the University of Minnesota for the past two years. In summer of 2001, she has a research assistantship funded by the Life Course Center at Minnesota. Her graduate research will focus on gender and ethnic differences in mental health, and the social psychological processes that produce those differences, with particular emphasis in studying the mental health of Hispanic women compared to that of white women.

Anqelique C. Harris

Undergraduate Institution: University of Massachusetts, Boston  
Graduate Institution: City University of New York, The Graduate Center

Harris graduated magna cum laude in applied sociology and social psychology from the University of Massachusetts, Boston, where she earned a combined BA/MA degree. In the fall of 2001, she will begin her doctoral studies in the Department of Sociology at the Graduate Center at the City University of New York. She has been a Fellow in the Ronald E. McNair
Michelle M. Jacob  
**Undergraduate Institution:** California State University, San Marcos  
**Graduate Institution:** University of California, Santa Barbara

Michelle M. Jacob was a recipient of several awards, such as the UMASS/Boston Leadership Recognition Award and the Upward Bound Peer Recognition Award. Her research interests include race and ethnicity, gender studies, urban studies, HIV/AIDS, and mental health. Harris is interested in examining how societal stigmatization, particularly multiple stigmatizations, affects mental health.

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**Michelle M. Jacob**  
**Undergraduate Institution:** California State University, San Marcos  
**Graduate Institution:** University of California, Santa Barbara

Michelle M. Jacob was a recipient of several awards, such as the UMASS/Boston Leadership Recognition Award and the Upward Bound Peer Recognition Award. Her research interests include race and ethnicity, gender studies, urban studies, HIV/AIDS, and mental health. Harris is interested in examining how societal stigmatization, particularly multiple stigmatizations, affects mental health.

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Cassandra A. Logan  
**Undergraduate Institution:** Pennsylvania State University  
**Graduate Institution:** Pennsylvania State University

Cassandra A. Logan worked for two years as Program Coordinator for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Southern Rural Access Program. Her primary responsibility was improving access to basic health care in eight of the most rural, medically underserved states in the United States. She began her doctoral studies in 1999 pursuing a dual degree in rural sociology and demography and has presented papers at meetings in those fields. Logan's research has focused on the intergenerational transmission of family structure; the health effects of marriage and cohabitation; teenage pregnancy; and currently, the relationship between marital status and mental health for adult women in rural and urban areas. She is a research assistant on the project Welfare, Children, and Families: A Three City Study.

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Freda B. Lynn (non-NIMH Fellow)  
**Undergraduate Institution:** University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
**Graduate Institution:** Harvard University

Freda B. Lynn was the recipient of many awards, such as the University of Michigan Regents-Alumni Scholar, the Mellon Scholarship for Creative Writing, the Robert C. Angell Award for Best Senior Honors Thesis, and the Chrysler Leadership Scholarship. As a PhD student at Harvard, Lynn pursued research in the areas of education and mental ability, investigating the use of synthetic cohorts and longitudinal data formats to enhance current estimation procedures. She has also done research on the economic consequences of low educational attainment using a counterfactual framework. She has been a teaching consultant for the Bok Program. Also, during her combined BA/MA studies, she was a recipient of several awards, such as the UMASS/Boston Leadership Recognition Award and the Upward Bound Peer Recognition Award. Her research interests include race and ethnicity, gender studies, urban studies, HIV/AIDS, and mental health. Harris is interested in examining how societal stigmatization, particularly multiple stigmatizations, affects mental health.
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Leslie S. Paik
Undergraduate Institution: Brown University
Graduate Institution: University of California, Los Angeles
Paik earned a BA in literature and society from Brown University. Last May, she completed her first year as a PhD student in sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles. Prior to graduate school, she worked for six years in the criminal justice system. Her goal is to build social scientific foundations with which to craft new forms of public policy evaluation, specifically in the area of innovative justice collaborations with other service systems such as health, mental health, drug treatment, and education. Paik’s research interests focus on how people perceive and interact with institutions such as mental health services, hospitals, the court system, and so forth.

Elizabeth E. Piatt
Undergraduate Institution: Kent State University
Graduate Institution: Kent State University
Piatt received a BA degree in pan African studies at Kent State University, and an MA in educational administration at the University of Akron before returning to Kent State for doctoral studies. While working as an academic advisor for several years, Piatt taught courses on university orientation, and won two teaching awards at Kent State. She was very active in the National Academic Advising Association. She is currently working on a paper that focuses on the relationship between perceived discrimination and psychological well-being with special interest in the ways that race moderates the impact of perceived social support and the utilization of support services. For her dissertation, Piatt plans to examine the differential effect of role transitions on the mental health of white and non-white men and women.

Fernando I. Rivera
Undergraduate Institution: University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez
Graduate Institution: University of Nebraska, Lincoln
Rivera earned a BA in sociology from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez (UPRM), and an MA in sociology from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, where he is currently a doctoral student. As an undergraduate, he participated in an undergraduate research program sponsored by the National Science Foundation, was a research assistant for several years at the Center for Applied Social Research, and was an instructor at UPRM for two years. Rivera’s research focuses on the family (with a significant emphasis on Latino families), medical sociology, and the sociology of health and race. He is currently studying the relationship between assimilation and depression among Latinos and Latinas in the United States, the impact of intergenerational stress on Latino family relations, and models for the effective delivery/access to mental health care in the Latino community in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Zoua Vang
Undergraduate Institution: University of Pennsylvania
Graduate Institution: Harvard University
Vang graduated magna cum laude in sociology and psychology from the
University of Pennsylvania. She will begin her PhD studies in the Department of Sociology at Harvard University in the fall of 2001. Her research has focused on developing and implementing comprehensive evaluations of programs serving disadvantaged/at-risk youth. Also, she has developed research protocols, conducted site observations, facilitated focus groups, and analyzed quantitative and qualitative data. Prior to graduate school, her research addressed Asian youth gangs, youth’s coping behavior, parenting styles and mode of acculturation as potential factors influencing youth’s affinity for gangs. As a graduate student, she plans to build upon that research and continue to address issues pertinent to at-risk, disadvantaged youth. She brings interest in immigration, immigrant assimilation/adaptation, ethnic identity, juvenile delinquency, social stratification/inequality, race and ethnic relations, and poverty.

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**Gail Wallace**

*Undergraduate Institution:* University of California, Davis  
*Graduate Institution:* Iowa State University  
  
Wallace earned her BA in sociology from the University of California, Davis, and an MA in sociology from California State University, Sacramento. As an undergraduate student, she was a member of ASA’s Honors Program. She worked in grassroots programs assisting underrepresented populations characterized by stress and hopelessness, as well as with men and women of impoverished social and cultural communities. Gail performed significant demographic research for the State of California Student Aid Commission. In August of 2001, she will begin her third year as a doctoral student at Iowa State University. Her research interests include coping mechanisms among poor and underrepresented groups, with the major emphasis being on mental health, social inequality, and disparities in mental health outcomes. She is also interested in examining the influence of psychosocial stressors, psychopathological processes, and mental health disparities among different racial, ethnic, and gender group populations.

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**MFP Alternates Also Honored**

The Minority Fellowship Program and its Advisory Panel designated 11 applicants as alternates for MFP Fellowships. All of these alternates are receiving MFP recognition awards to assist in their attending the ASA Annual Meeting. The MFP Alternates are:

- Kimberly R. Barber, Michigan State University  
- Latricia E. Best, Pennsylvania State University  
- Youldanda M. Gibbons, University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
- Ronald L. Lewis, University of Michigan  
- Yndia S. Lorick-Wilmot, Northeastern University  
- María C. Morales, Texas A&M University  
- Rika Morioka, University of California, San Diego  
- Feven Negga, Howard University  
- Tariqah Nuriddin, Purdue University  
- Tia N. Pratt, Fordham University  
- Jessica M. Vasquez, University of California, Berkeley