Minority Fellowship Program Announces New Fellows

by Mercedes Rubio, Director, Minority Affairs Program

The Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) of the American Sociological Association is pleased to introduce its seven new Fellows. These fellows comprise the 30th cohort of ASA’s 30-year-old MFP program. The MFP Advisory Panel had selected these students as the new fellows based on applications it reviewed in April, culling the group from a highly competitive pool of applicants. The seven students began their three-year MFP Fellowship on August 1, 2003.

MFP Cohort 30 is consists of PhD candidates with much promise in the sociological study of mental health and in the discipline in general. The fellows attended the ASA Annual Meeting in Atlanta, where they received a day-long orientation and met many sociologists whose research interests match their own.

The Minority Fellowship Program is funded primarily through a training grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). The program is also made possible by generous member contributions and donations from Alpha Kappa Delta, Sociologists for Women in Society, the Association of Black Sociologists, the Pacific Sociological Association, the Midwest Sociological Society, and the Southwestern Sociological Association.

Alondo C. Campbell
Undergraduate Institution: California State University-Long Beach
Graduate Institution: Purdue University

Alondo C. (A.C.) Campbell grew up in East Saint Louis, IL. He is a second-year PhD student at Purdue University. A.C. earned a Masters in sociology from California State University-Fullerton. His Master’s thesis was titled “Labor Market Experiences of African-American Males.” As an undergraduate student, A.C. co-authored a paper with Dr. Jeffrey Davis. Titled, “Minority Health, Labor Quality and Job Quality in California,” this research showed that the poorer health of racial and ethnic minorities limits productive capacity and labor market chances. His current research interests include the psychological development of the Black child under the sociopolitical domination of Eurocentric pathology. A.C. has presented papers at the Pacific Sociological Association conference and at the Association of Black Sociologists conference. In addition to his intellectual pursuits, A.C. was a founder of a student organization called The Alliance for the Preservation of African Consciousness (APAC) at California State University-Fullerton and currently mentors at-risk youth.

Jason L. Cummings
Undergraduate Institution: Fairfield University
Graduate Institution: Indiana University

Jason L. Cummings is a graduate student in the Department of Sociology at Indiana University-Bloomington. He received a BA in sociology and English from Fairfield University in 2002. Jason’s research interests are in the areas...
of Medical Sociology, Demography, Race & Ethnicity, and Social Stratification. He intends to bridge these areas by exploring the relationship between parent’s socioeconomic status and the mental health trajectories of their children as they progress though adulthood. Jason is currently working on his master’s thesis on racial and gender differences in psychological distress among married and unmarried parents.

**Jesse Diaz**  
**Undergraduate Institution:** Pitzer College  
**Graduate Institution:** University of California-Riverside

Jesse was born in Ontario, CA, but grew up in Chino, CA. After dropping out of high school in 1982 and working as a landscaper for many years, he decided to earn his GED and did so in 1997. He enrolled in Chaffey Community College and graduated in 2000. He began his education at Pitzer in the fall of 2000 where Jose Calderon, Norma Rodriguez, and Halford Fairchild mentored him. Jesse is active in bridging theory and practice by serving on the executive board of the Pomona Day Labor Center where he serves as President and volunteer. As a recipient of the Ernesto Galarza Research Center Faculty Grant, he intends to further his research on the mental health and psychosocial well-being of day laborers. He has presented his research at various conferences on topics such as Chicano gangs, Mexican day laborers, and mental health. He plans to teach and conduct research in the area of criminology, race and class inequality, and mental health.

**Donald Hutcherson**  
**Undergraduate Institution:** Bowling Green State University  
**Graduate Institution:** Ohio State University

Donald Hutcherson is a native of Cleveland, OH. He is starting his second year of doctoral studies at the Ohio State University. His educational background and his area of interest is criminology. Donald received a Master’s degree in criminal justice administration from the State University of New York-Albany and a Master’s in sociology from Bowling Green State University. He was the recipient of the American Society of Criminology Minority Fellowship, the Simon Dinitz Fellowship, and was selected to participate in the Ninth Annual National Institute of Justice Data Resource Program Workshop on “Prisoner Reentry and Community Justice,” which took place at the University of Michigan. Donald’s research experiences span a wide range of criminal justice topics such as prison culture; the disproportionate number of minorities in the Ohio Juvenile Justice system; and crime patterns in Ohio cities. For the latter, he used the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s National Incidence Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data. He hopes to bridge his work-related and research experiences with public policy.

**Shalon Irving**  
**Undergraduate Institution:** Hampton University  
**Graduate Institution:** Purdue University

In May 2002, Shalon graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in sociology from Hampton University. As an undergraduate, she was a National Institute of Mental Health Career Opportunities in Research (NIMH-COR) Scholar and took a research-intensive course load while working as a research assistant in a lab focused on urban stress and that explored the effects of violence exposure on African American and Latino youth. In addition, she served as President of Alpha Phi Sigma, the National Criminal
Justice Honor Society, and was a member of Alpha Kappa Delta, and Golden Key International Honor Society.

Since matriculating at Purdue University in the graduate sociology program, Shalon has served as a research assistant in a health and aging lab and recently completed a paper on parental death and self-rated health that was presented at the ASA Annual Meeting in Atlanta. The topic of her Master’s thesis is the physical and mental health consequences of child abuse on adults. In the spring of 2003, she was elected as Vice President of the Purdue University Black Graduate Association. She is interested in the African American family and the development of self-esteem among African American female adolescents. Upon completing her PhD, she plans to teach and conduct research at a Historically Black Institution.

Jose “Joey” Mata  
**Undergraduate Institution:** Pitzer College  
**Graduate Institution:** Indiana University

Born in the Pearl of the Pacific, Joey moved from one side of the Pacific to the other by immigrating with his family at the age of six from the Philippines to the United States and settling in California. After completing high school at Sierra Vista High School in Baldwin Park, Joey entered Pitzer College of the Claremont Colleges in the fall of 1997. During his four years at Pitzer, Joey received the Pitzer College Trustee Community Research Fellowship, the John W. Atherton Scholarship, and the ASA MOST Summer Research Fellowship. In the spring of 2001, Joey graduated from Pitzer with a Bachelor’s degree in English and world literature and with honors in sociology. In the fall of the same year, Joey accepted Indiana University’s Chancellor’s Minority Fellowship and an offer to study in Indiana University’s Department of Sociology where he continues his studies today. Presently, Joey is working on several projects involving his research interests, including the sociology of culture, urban and community sociology, the sociology of mental health, and social psychology more broadly.

Lawrence Voegele  
**Undergraduate Institution:** University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
**Graduate Institution:** University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Lawrence Voegele is a member of the Hunkpapa band of Lakota. He is studying sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). Lawrence received his Bachelor’s degree in psychology from UNL in 2002. While completing his BA, he worked with Nebraska inmates as a GED instructor and as a board member of the Native American inmate cultural organizations at the state penitentiary. His research experiences included an applied investigation of the bi-directional relationship between psychological well-being and physical illnesses among elderly nursing home residents. He also assisted the Director of Nursing at an Omaha, NE, nursing home to improve infection-control policy. Working on the McNair research project, under the guidance of Dr. Les Whitbeck, he assisted the Healing Pathways Project team at UNL to identify subpopulations with bicultural identity within the reservation communities of a Northern Midwest Tribe. Lawrence’s research and professional goals include understanding and seeking culturally sensitive solutions to the substance abuse and mental health challenges facing Native American communities.