APSA Names 2007–2008 Minority Fellows

In recognition of their outstanding academic and personal achievements, APSA is pleased to announce the APSA Minority Fellows for the 2007–2008 academic year. Awards are based on the students' undergraduate course work, GPA, GRE scores, extracurricular activities, and recommendations from political science faculty. A selection committee designated 11 Fellows to receive financial support from the Association. Members of the selection committee for this year's Fellows included Rodolfo Rosales, University of Texas, San Antonio; Mark Q. Sawyer, University of California, Los Angeles; and Janelle Wong, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. This year's Minority Fellows are:



Angela Boyle graduated *cum laude* from Loyola University of New Orleans in May of 2006 with a B.A. in political science and a minor in Spanish. She is a member of Pi Sigma Alpha and Sigma Delta Pi honor fraternities, a Gates' Millennium Scholar, and a recipient of the Louisiana TOPS Scholarship, the Goizueta Foundation Scholarship, and the Loyola University of New Orleans Academic Scholarship. She is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program in international relations at the University of New Orleans with a 4.0 GPA, and has recently been awarded the institution's Dean II Scholarship. Recent topics of interest include civil conflict, terrorism, and the effects of IMF structural adjustment programs in nations facing balance-of-payments deficits.



Michael Castro is currently a senior majoring in political science and linguistics at the University of Rochester. A proud Colombian-American, he has been actively involved in the University's Spanish and Latino Students' Association (S.A.L.S.A), holding various executive positions. He has also been a member of the College Diversity Roundtable, Minority Student Advisory Board, and the Black Student's Union. He spent a semester abroad in Senegal as a Benjamin E. Gilman International Scholar. Living abroad made him realize the importance of understanding societal caveats both domestically and internationally. Thus, he believes traveling and living abroad are integral to being a scholar.



Karen Ellis is currently a senior at William Paterson University. Through the support of her department she has been exposed to several academically enriching programs, like the APSA Ralph Bunche Summer Institute and a study abroad program at the University of Cambridge. Beyond her commitment to academic excellence, she has also served the student community in various leadership positions, currently serving as a student trustee, with voting rights, to the William Paterson University Board of Trustees. Prior to this position, she was twice elected to serve as executive treasurer of the Student Government Association. In May of 2007, she will be a first-generation college graduate and the recipient of several scholarships and honors for academic achievement and community involvement. Throughout her time at William Paterson, many people have shown a vested interest in her success. Scholarship in political science has become a way for her to profoundly impact the lives of many while holding onto the memories of how so many others have profoundly impacted her life.

Marcela García-Castañon is currently a senior majoring in political science and communication with a minor in Spanish at the University of Arizona. She is a Ronald E. McNair and Ralph Bunche Scholar, as well as a recipient of the Charles and Adela Brady Maldonado Scholarship, Worth & Dot Howard Foundation Scholarship, Hispanic Scholarship, and both the President's Award for Excellence and Provost Scholarship. She has been doing research for over three years in the areas of American politics and race and ethnic politics, specifically in the area of Latino political participation and group cohesion. She credits the strong and supportive mentorship of many of her professors and her summer research program staffs with her success.

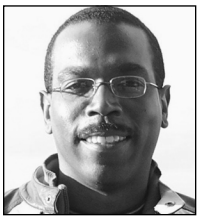




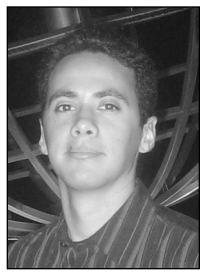
Tonya L. Isom graduated with honors from Southern University-Baton Rouge with a B.A. in political science. She is pursing a doctoral degree in the department of government at the University of Texas-Austin. Tonya is the recipient of several awards, including the Ronald E. McNair Fellowship and Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship (honorable mention). She is a member of Pi Sigma Alpha. Tonya's primary field is American politics with a subfield in methodology. She plans to study the intersection of American and African-American politics.

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Michael Jackson is a senior at California State University, East Bay majoring in political science with a minor in urban studies. He is a member of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, East Bay Young Democrats Club, the American Political Science Association, and editor of the campus political science journal *East Bay Politica.* As a recipient of the 2005 Malcolm J. Smith Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Michael's interests are examining how group consciousness and ideas of common fate within the African-American community can influence political ideology and efficacy with the goal of increasing African-American political participation. Michael looks forward to becoming a professor and, as a graduate student, will study critical race theory, social and political examinations of the culture of poverty and racism, and the importance of African-American political participation.



Gabriel Nuñez is finishing his bachelor's degree in psychology at California State University, Northridge. In 2005, he was awarded the National Institute of Mental Health's Career Opportunities for Research Fellowship and was also an invited presenter at the 20th Annual California State University Student Research Competition. Gabriel recently attended UCLA's Summer Program for Undergraduate Research where he developed an independent research project that examined the role that misperceptions played in garnering initial public support for the Iraq War. His other research interests include understanding how religious belief systems influence a person's attitudes toward public policies and exploring the potential geopolitical implications of future climate change.



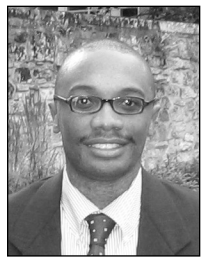
Abbylin Sellers graduated with honors from Westmont College, Santa Barbara with a B.A. in political science, and Regent University, Virginia with a M.A. in public policy, emphasis on family and social policy. Abbylin was the recipient of the Outstanding Research Award from the Robertson School of Government and a member of Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society. Her thesis focused on Title V of the 1996 Welfare Reform Act. Abbylin will be pursuing her Ph.D. in political science from Claremont Graduate University, and wishes to concentrate her research on the impact of welfare reform legislation on our society and culture. Abbylin looks forward to becoming a professor and helping students understand how legislation affects them and how critical it is to examine potential outcomes when drafting legislation.



John Thomas III is completing his master's degree in public affairs (development studies) from the Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University. He served as the 2006–2007 co-chair for the Woodrow Wilson Action Committee and is currently the treasurer of the Black Graduate Caucus. John received his B.A. in international studies and Spanish with minors in political science and economics from Morehouse College in 2004, graduating *summa cum laude.* He received a U.S. Student Fulbright Fellowship to Peru for 2004–2005 and participated on the three-time Morehouse College National Championship Honda Campus All-Star Challenge Team. John is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Pi Sigma Alpha, Sigma Delta Pi, Omicron Delta Kappa, Golden Key, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and Phi Beta Sigma. He looks forward to researching the political mobilization of African descendants in Spanish-speaking Latin America with the hopes of forging linkages within the African Diaspora throughout the Americas.



Betina Cutaia Wilkinson is a second year M.A. candidate at Louisiana State University, where her major field is American politics with a comparative politics minor. Betina was born in Argentina, moved to the U.S. as a child, and graduated with a B.A. in sociology and Spanish from Loyola University (New Orleans). Her research interests include Latino politics, public opinion, and anti-Americanism in the U.S. and Latin America. She has presented papers at the annual meetings of APSA (supported by an APSA Fund for Latino Scholarship grant), the Southern Political Science Association (supported by the Prestage-Cook Travel Award), and the Midwest Political Science Association. She is currently working on a major collaborative project on public opinion toward immigration among the major racial and ethnic groups in the United States. Betina plans to continue her doctoral studies at Louisiana State University.



Shaun Williams-Wyche recently graduated with a B.A. in political science and anthropology from Southern Methodist University. He wrote his political science honors thesis on the political contribution on first-generation Mexican and Indian immigrants in the Dallas-Ft. Worth metro area. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, and a graduate of the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute. Shaun presented his research from the Bunche Institute, "A New Bloc of Latino Voters? The Prospects for Latino Non-Partisanship," at the 2005 APSA Annual Meeting. Shaun plans to focus his Ph.D on issues of political behavior in minority communities.

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