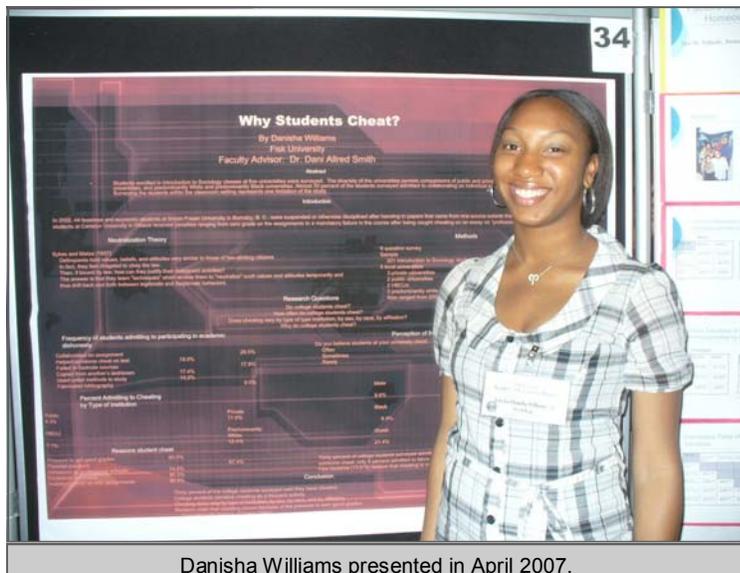


Firsts Reached By Sociology Student Researchers

In February 2008, six senior sociology majors traveled to Atlanta to present their senior research projects at the 26th Southeastern Undergraduate Sociology Symposium (SEUSS). The SEUSS is an undergraduate paper competition.



Danisha Williams presented in April 2007.

All of the Fisk sociology students' papers were accepted for presentation at the conference. This was the first time Fisk students had participated at SEUSS. Presenters were Brandon Johnson, Candace Jordan, Brandon J. Hairston, Stephanie Lewis, Erica N. Richmond,

and Melissa Sadler. Ten sociology seniors participated in the 2007 conference of the Southern Sociological Society in Atlanta. The participants were Crystal Lee, Duretta Johnson, Elissa Johnson, Samantha Keeling, Narja McElroy, Laminta Poe, Tiki Ross, Je'Nea Thomas, Teri Tolliver, and Danisha Williams.

Fisk Hosts 2008 Inter-University Undergraduate Research Symposium

The 5th annual Inter-University Undergraduate Research Symposium will be held at Fisk University on March 14, 2008. Students at Fisk, Belmont, Tennessee State, and Vanderbilt Universities will present their research in concurrent sessions from 1-4 p.m. in the Appleton Room of Jubilee Hall and in two Park-Johnson Hall classrooms. Students and faculty from all four universities have been invited to attend the presentations.

The first symposium was held in 2004. The initial idea for the symposium began with a suggestion by members of the Fisk chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta and the University's Sociology Club to host an event that would bring sociology majors together from Fisk, Vanderbilt, Belmont and Tennessee State Universities. The goals of the symposium are to

bring greater visibility to the sociology major, to increase the involvement of undergraduate sociology majors in the research enterprise and to become acquainted with sociology events and projects on all local campuses.

The 2008 symposium keynote address will be given by distinguished scholar and professor Dr. Charles U. Smith. The title of Smith's address is "Facts, Foibles, and Foolishness and the Future of Race Relations in the United States." Smith is a Fisk alumnus and received his master's degree from the Department of Sociology in 1946.

Smith is a past president of the Southern Sociological Society (SSS) and recipient of the Charles S. Johnson Award from the SSS (1997) and the DuBois-

Johnson-Frazier Award from the American Sociological Association (2000). Smith is Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Graduate Dean at Florida A & M University and a member of Alpha Kappa Delta.

Fisk 2008 AKD inductees

Alpha Kappa Delta is an international sociology honor society. Fisk University holds the distinction of establishing the initial chapter (Alpha Chapter) in the state of Tennessee.

- Tamela Ne'one Hopson
- Brandon Michael Johnson
- Carolyn Bethany Jones
- Candaice Francesca Jordan
- Stephanie Ann Lewis
- Erica Nicole Richmond
- Alyssa Lauren Williams

2007-2008 Sociology Community Initiative

Sociology Club Raises Funds for Domestic Violence Shelter

The Sociology Club raised over \$150 in November to contribute to the rebuilding of the Morning Star Sanctuary, a comprehensive program for people affected by domestic violence.

The Morning Star Sanctuary is led by directors and legal advocates Susan Canon and Gena Hull, who recognized the need for the program because of the adverse effect that domestic violence had on their own lives. Created in 2002, the program has helped over 1,000 women and children through their shelter and two transitional housing facilities. Thousands more have been helped through the Morning Star crisis hotline. Canon and Hull plan to continue their mission of breaking the cycle of violence.



Director Susan Canon and students Tonja Khabir, Sharelle Armstrong, and Stephanie Lewis.

Seniors Investigate Domestic Violence

The stories and experiences of victims of domestic violence as told by peers and college classmates struck a cord that propelled senior sociology major Stephanie Lewis to learn more about the issues surrounding violent relationships. Serving victims of such tumultuous situations initiated a personal investigation into the social systems set up to aid these victims.

Lewis explored the often secretive and obscure domestic violence/battered women's shelter. Shelter directors from two major cities in two southern states were interviewed about shelter facilities, requirements for entering, rules, and the services offered, as well as their ideologies, financial status, and employee characteristics. Other organizational information was collected from case workers, crisis line operators, and shelter websites.

Eight shelters were represented in this qualitative study. Research revealed selectivity in shelter admission for male children over a certain age, an array of services offered to residents (one-on-one case worker, support groups, counseling services, children's services, financial assistance, medical care, transportation, legal services, transitional housing, and batterer's intervention programs), empowerment and non-violent centered ideologies, sincere and motivated employees, and confidentiality of shelter location.

Not all shelters offered all of the services mentioned, but most attempted to provide assistance via various other community groups. Some of these non-profit organizations were funded by the government, while others were not. Most also strive to keep their doors open to female and male, heterosexual and

homosexual victims.

Candaice Jordan chose to examine differences in cultural perceptions of domestic violence for her research project. Jordan compared the perceptions of African American college students to those of Caribbean students and used as her survey population, 33 African American students and 33 Caribbean students. Students were given 13 scenarios and asked to record their level of agreement with the statement, "*Hitting one's spouse is justified*" after each scenario.

The study found no significant difference between African American and Caribbean students' perceptions of domestic violence. However, the analyses showed that African American students justified more domestic violence behaviors than the Caribbean students.

Academic Opportunities in D.C and Abroad

U.S. Department of Energy Selects Sociology Intern

Carolyn Jones is a junior sociology major at Fisk with an interest in diversity. Over the summer of 2007, she worked as an intern for the U.S. Department of Energy with the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity in Washington, D.C.

Under the director of educational programs, Jones' task was to review and edit 1,000-page documents on the effect of the Department of Energy on the Energy Act of 2005. She had the opportunity to present these findings in front of the U.S. Congress and Senate.

Jones also helped to write grant approvals that formed partnerships between the Department and several Minority Serving Institutions (MSI's) and attended a conference for MSI's, where she worked with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Tribal Wind, and the current U.S.

Secretary of Energy, Samuel Bodman.

The most unique aspect of the experience that she enjoyed was the connection that the Department of Energy had with Fisk University.

"The Department has fond memories of Mrs. O'Leary, who has been our president at Fisk University since 2004," Jones said. "There was a picture of the Jubilee Singers outside my office, and I figured it was placed there to welcome me, but it turns out that the picture was placed there by President O'Leary while she served as United States Secretary of Energy during the Clinton Administration. The fact that the picture remained shows the impact that she had on the department, and that Fisk had on her."

President O'Leary introduced the in-



Carolyn Jones

ternship to Jones, and now she encourages other Fiskites to apply for internships with the Department of Energy as well.

"It was a great learning experience," Jones said.

Junior Spends One Year on Exchange

Junior Laurent Ewing has taken advantage of several exchange opportunities since arriving at Fisk as a freshman. In the fall, he chose to study at Howard University.

"Seeing the diversity of the African Diaspora in the District of Columbia was a unique experience," Ewing said.

Ewing enrolled in classes such as Caribbean Literature, Comparative Slavery, Black Music and Cultural Resistance. He even found time for the Jazz Vocal Ensemble and a painting course. "The classes at Howard afforded me the opportunity to cultivate not only the inner

academician but humane corners of my being as well," Ewing said.

During the summer of 2007, he studied in Brazil. This spring semester Ewing is traveling to Accra, the capital city of Ghana.

He also encourages his classmates to study abroad. "I employ all persons to truly seek out and step out, by not allowing geography of the land and mind to retard their human experience," Ewing said.



Laurent Ewing at Howard University

FISK UNIVERSITY

Where in the World is the Class of 2007?

Congratulations to the following Fiskites who earned their sociology degrees in 2007 and have begun graduate and professional studies.

Tamela Hopson	Auburn University (community planning)
Duretta Johnson	Southern Illinois University (sociology)
Elissa Johnson	Loyola University (law and social work)
Crystal Lee	Southern Illinois University (sociology) Lee joined the FBI in February. She will continue her graduate studies in Washington, D.C., next fall.
Samantha Keeling	Trevecca Nazarene University (marriage and family counseling)
Narja McElroy	University of Chicago (social work)
Laminta Poe	Tennessee State University (criminal justice) Laminta Poe is employed full-time with the Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole.
Brian Rice	Chicago School of Professional Psychology (industrial psychology)
Je'Nea Thomas	Louisville Presbyterian Seminary (marriage and family therapy)
(In photo)	



"I feel so prepared for this MSW program. A lot of material we covered in the sociology classes at Fisk is reappearing here in some of my classes at the University of Chicago. Pass this word to the sociology students in class asking, "So why are we learning this?"
-Narja McElroy

What's New?



Sociology majors serve as ambassadors on and off the campus.

Carolyn Jones, '09 is a *Kentucky Derby Princess*. **Miss Senior Kalyn Baskerville '08** is president of the Fisk Sociology Club. **Jonique Kevilynn Green, '09** is *Miss Blue and White* for Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. **Katara Grissom, '10** is *Miss Black & Gold* for the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.



Dr. Shirley A. Rainey is the newest addition to Fisk's department of sociology. Rainey has already been instrumental in establishing Fisk's first on-line course by teaching the Demography course through the Blackboard computer system. This innovative teacher and scholar recently engaged in collaborative research on Hurricane Katrina and environmental justice which has been published in the *Race, Class and Gender Journal*.

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