Winners of the 2021 Dr. Michael Sullivan Diversity Scholarship are...
Rafaella Jakubovic, Lian Liu and Shola Shodiya-Zeumault

The Michael Sullivan Diversity Scholarship Fund committee has selected three winners for 2021. They are Rafaella Jakubovic of Temple University, Lian Liu of Lehigh University and Shola Shodiya-Zeumault of Georgia State University.

RAFAELLA (“RAFI”) JAKUBOVIC’S research focuses on elucidating predictors of risk and resilience among children, adolescents, and families exposed to trauma and chronic stress. The Families Coping with COVID-19 study is an online study that seeks to investigate the psychosocial impact of the COVID-19 crisis among ethnically diverse caregivers of school-aged children residing in low-income, underserved communities. The study will test whether the COVID-19 impact (e.g., infection, isolation, loss of employment, essential worker status); child psychosocial functioning; and caregiver and family psychosocial functioning at baseline predict child and caregiver internalizing and externalizing symptoms. It also will investigate the moderating role of contextual factors (e.g., multiple levels of support for the family, neighborhood cohesion or conflict) on the relations between COVID-19 impact and child and caregiver psychosocial functioning.

Rafaella is a third-year student in the clinical psychology doctoral program at Temple University.

LIAN LIU’S research focuses on interventions for promoting mental wellness and academic persistence of children, particularly those from underserved backgrounds and who have experienced trauma. During the COVID-19 pandemic, school staff, teachers, and administration have been a system of support and first responders for school-aged children. The negative effects of COVID-19 and other adverse childhood experiences may be exacerbated for children from diverse backgrounds. The strain on teachers can lead to increased stress, burnout, and ultimately turnover. Given the vital role they play in reducing the negative impact of trauma on children, it is important to understand the factors that contribute to teacher stress and burnout to best ameliorate their effects. The study examines how administrative support and dimensions of teacher self-efficacy related to teaching during the pandemic contribute to teachers’ stress, and how stress is related to teacher wellness outcomes, such as poorer mental health and burnout.

Lian is a fourth year doctoral candidate in the Counseling Psychology program at Lehigh University.

SHOLA SHODIYA-ZEUMAULT’S research explores the role of resistance and collective action in mental health and wellbeing in communities affected by environmental racism. Environmental racism or disparities in exposure to environmental degradation, and the exclusion of racially marginalized communities from environmental leadership is one form of structural oppression with significant mental health consequences. Black women may be the most vulnerable to the mental health consequences of environmental injustice in the United States. This project examines the perspectives of Black women engaged in grassroots environmental activism on the ways in which their resistance to environmental injustice in their communities impacts their mental health and wellbeing, and that of their families and communities. This project may create opportunities for psychologists and community activists to co-create action-based therapeutic interventions that can reduce psychological distress related to environmental injustice.

shola is a fourth year doctoral candidate in Counseling Psychology at Georgia State University.

About the Dr. Michael Sullivan Diversity Scholarship Fund
This scholarship supports research/training and community projects in the area of diversity/multiculturalism. Awards up to $500 per recipient are granted once a year, and the winner(s) are announced in the spring. Grants support or assist applicants in covering expenses related to their projects or research. The deadline for submission is the second Friday in January. The award application must be submitted electronically to the chair of the review committee by 4:30 p.m. on the day of the deadline.

The Dr. Michael Sullivan Diversity Scholarship Fund is supported by generous gifts, grants and contributions from individuals and organizations who seek to honor Dr. Sullivan and advance diversity initiatives or research in states, provinces and territories.
This is the fourteenth year for the Michael Sullivan Diversity Scholarship. Past winners are:

2020  Diane Keister, Idaho State Univ. | Erica Peppers, Univ. of Tennessee | Alec Smidt, Yale Univ. of Medicine & Univ. of Oregon
2019  Alena Borgatti, Univ. of Alabama | Kyle Simon, Univ. of Kentucky | C. Nicole White, Univ. of South Carolina
2018  Anna Abate, Sam Houston State University | Kathleen Collins, University of Massachusetts
2017  Liz Weber Ollen, Clark University | Madison Silverstein of Auburn University
2016  Stacy Ko, Iowa State University | Chassitty Whitman, City University of New York
2015  Caitlin Cavanagh, The University of California, Irvine | Barbara Wood Roberts, Idaho State University
2014  Calia A. Torres, University of Alabama | Jeremy J. Eggleston, Fordham University
2013  Jin Kim, University of California-Davis | David Lick, University of California-Los Angeles
2012  Marisa Franco, University of Maryland | Anahi Collado-Rodriguez, University of Maryland
2011  Ana Fernandez, Long Island University/Brooklyn Campus
2010  Ariz Rojas, University of South Florida
2009  Sangetta Parikhshak, University of Kansas
2008  Janelle Hines of University of Cincinnati

Your Donation Supports the Michael Sullivan Diversity Scholarship

The Michael Sullivan Diversity Scholarship Fund was created to provide financial assistance to support graduate student research projects in honor of Dr. Sullivan’s work with the American Psychological Association, state, provincial and territorial psychological associations and his commitment to diversity and inclusion. It has been funded by gifts, grants, contributions and bequests made in honor of Dr. Sullivan over the years since he retired from the American Psychological Association.

Dr. Michael Sullivan served as the Assistant Executive Director for State Advocacy at the American Psychological Association. In this position, he managed the Practice Directorate’s program of making resources available to 60 affiliated psychological associations in every state and several Canadian provinces and U.S. territories. A fellow of APA, Dr. Sullivan has been a strong supporter of state psychological association involvement as a means of promoting diverse and multicultural leadership in psychology and positively impacting communities.

Additional information about the scholarship is available at ohpsych.org/MichaelSullivanDiversityScholarship.

Call for applications for the 2022 Scholarships begin in the fall of 2021.

Donation Form: Support the Michael Sullivan Diversity Scholarship Today!

Online donations can be made at ohpsych.org/MichaelSullivanDiversityScholarship, or complete and return this form to:
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