

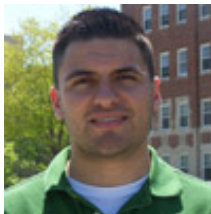


Class of 2008 Updates



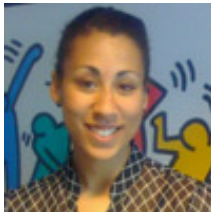
Lavada Berger – Harvard University

- In September 2009 will work at the **Monitor Group** management consulting firm.
- Senior thesis: "Holding Their Tongues: Are Low-Income and Minority Students Silent in Harvard Classrooms." Presented thesis research at the Eastern Sociological Society's Annual Meeting.
- **UI Summer Academy research paper:** *Mixed Academic Progress: An Analysis of Pennsylvania's Takeover School Districts*
<http://www.urban.org/uisa/upload/UISA-Brief-4.pdf>.



Keegan Bordeaux - University of Nebraska

- Currently applying for various summer internships and fellowships and plans to apply for law school in the fall
- Working as a runner for the law firm Cline, Williams, Wright, Johnson, and Oldfather
- Working at the University of Nebraska's admissions department



Jessica Compton – University of New Hampshire

- Currently a research assistant in the **Urban Institute's Labor, Human Services and Population Center** in February 2009
- Was a research assistant for the New Hampshire Child Support Assessment of 2008 during her fall semester
- Currently completing her UI Summer Academy research paper on Financial Literacy and Retirement Decision Making.



Vanessa Cruz – DePaul University

- Will attend the **University of Michigan for her PhD in Political Science**
- Won an **American Political Science Association Minority Doctoral Fellowship**, which will fund the first 2 years of her doctoral studies
- Won Best Student Paper at the MALAS conference (February 2009)
- **UI Summer Academy research paper:** *Educational Attainment of First and Second Generation Immigrant Youth*
<http://www.urban.org/uisa/upload/UISA-Brief-5.pdf>.



Jonay Foster – John Hopkins University

- Selected as a **Families USA Wellstone Fellow for Social Justice**, where she will work on minority health disparities and health care reform.
 - Interned in Representative Danny K. Davis' office in the US House of Representatives.
 - **UI Summer Academy research paper:** *An Exploration of Medicaid/SCHIP Expansion Implementation and Child Mortality: A Case Study of Four States* <http://www.urban.org/uisa/upload/UISA-Brief-3-3.pdf>.
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Dontá Harris - University of Virginia.

- Exploring job options at urban planning consulting firms and research institutions
 - Currently completing his UI Summer Academy research paper on the relationship between HOPE VI redevelopment in DC and crime and house prices in surrounding neighborhoods. <http://www.urban.org/uisa/researchbriefs.cfm>.
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Phuong Huynh - University of California - San Diego.

- Exploring job options in the field of city and urban planning.
 - In the process of completing her UI Summer Academy research paper entitled *City Heights: The Gentrification and Displacement of Vulnerable Populations*, which focuses on gentrification and the displacement of vulnerable populations in her hometown of City Heights, San Diego..
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Parfait Gasana – University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

- Expanded his summer project into a full-length senior honors thesis for which he received highest honors
- Presented his research at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA as well as at a Transportation conference in Portland, OR.
- Awarded the Howard W. Odum Undergraduate Achievement Award by UNC's Department of Sociology.
- **UI Summer Academy research paper:** *How Demographic and Urban Area Characteristics Influence Mass Transit Ridership* is available for download at: <http://www.urban.org/uisa/upload/UISA-Brief-2-3.pdf>.



Thomas Gonzalez - University of Chicago.

- Will be starting as a Research Assistant at the **Urban Institute's Education Policy Center** in July 2009.
 - **UI Summer Academy research paper:** *Real and Illusory Gains in Proficiency under No Child Left Behind*
<http://www.urban.org/uisa/upload/UISA-Brief-1.pdf>
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Blanche Roblero - Hunter College

- Will attend **New York University's Masters Program in the Sociology of Education** with a concentration in education policy.
 - Presented her Summer Academy research on the education of limited English proficient students at several student conferences.
 - Interned at the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) analyzing youth issues and researching policy issues.
 - Currently completing her UI Summer Academy research paper on educational outcomes for newly-arrived limited English proficient high school immigrant students.
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