

The RBSI Program: Over 30 Years of Excellence

The RBSI program was created in 1986 through a partnership between APSA, the Committee on the Status of Blacks in the Profession, and faculty members Jewel L. Prestage of Southern University and Peter Zwick of Louisiana State University. The original program—a summer program for African American students—aimed to increase diversity within the



Ralph J. Bunche, PhD

discipline by introducing students to the graduate experience and to senior scholars in the discipline. In the following years, RBSI expanded to include students from underrepresented backgrounds, and students interested in broadening participation in political science and pursuing scholarship on issues affecting under-represented groups. To date there are over 500 RBSI Alumni, holding nearly 70 PhDs and numerous MAs in political science. RBSI Alumni also hold PhDs and MAs in related fields and professional degrees.

Program Details

- Five-week summer program at Duke University
- Up to 20 students enrolled each year
- Designed for college/university juniors
- Questions? Email diversityprograms@apsanet.org

The RBSI program is jointly sponsored by Duke University, APSA, and a 2016-2019 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant.

RBSI Director

- **Dr. Paula D. McClain**, Professor of Political Science and Public Policy, Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Education, Duke University



2018 RBSI Staff at Duke University

- **Jesse Lopez**, Teaching Assistant
- **Nura Sediqe**, Teaching Assistant I. Augustus Durham,
- **Katie Webster**, Teaching Assistant
- **Gabriel Madson**, Teaching Assistant
- **Jasmine Smith**, Assistant Program Coordinator
- **Priscilla Torres**, Assistant Program Coordinator
- **Katelyn Mehling**, Assistant Program Coordinator
- **Doris C. Cross**, Assistant to the Director
- **Israel Durham**, Writing Instructor
- **Dr. David Siegel**, Professor
- **Dr. Paula D. McClain**, Director

APSA Staff

- **Dr. Kimberly Mealy**, Senior Dir., Diversity & Inclusion
- **Ms. Annalisa Dias-Mandoly**, APSA Program Coordinator, Diversity & Inclusion

Visit RBSI Online

- Visit apsanet.org/rbsi for more information.
- YouTube playlist: <http://bit.ly/2bDUyCx>



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APSA Ralph Bunche Summer Institute

Celebrating over 30 Years of Excellence!



About the RBSI Program

Named in honor of the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize winner, former APSA President, and the first African American to receive a PhD in political science, Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, the RBSI encourages students to pursue academic careers in political science by enhancing writing, research, and analytical skills developing statistical skills for data analysis used in political science; exposing participants to the significant questions in the discipline and profession of political science; introducing participants to leading political scientists; and educating participants about political science career opportunities and encouraging their application to doctoral programs in political science.

2018 RBSI Scholars

Front Page Photo Credit: Shaun King
Back Row, left to right

Deja Bryant, Howard University; Vanessa Navarro Rodriguez, Cornell University; Leann McLaren, University of Connecticut; Zoe Walker, University of Notre Dame; Crystal Robertson, University of Michigan; Michael Herndon, University of Nebraska at Omaha; Analisa Quintero, Northern Arizona University; Alfredo Hernandez, Loyola Marymount University.

Front Row, left to right

Geidy Mendez, Rutgers University; Michael Strawbridge, Beloit College; Aayana Ingram, Alabama A & M University; Catalina Udani, University of Central Florida; Michelle Henderson, New York University; Flavio Jimenez, San Francisco State University.

Alumni Reflections Sherri L. Wallace, PhD

Professor, University of Louisville
RBSI Class of 1988



“Participating in the RBSI Program in 1988 changed my direction in life. I was able to become a teacher/scholar on race and politics and significantly impact the discipline on how we teach race and politics in American Politics via scholarship, teaching and service in the profession. It is a joy to be able to do what I do.”

Andra Gillespie, PhD

Associate Professor, Emory University
RBSI Class of 1988



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Tehama Lopez Bunyasi, PhD

Assistant Professor, George Mason University
RBSI Class of 2000



“RBSI opened up a world of possibilities that I did not know was in reach. By participating in the Bunche program, I not only learned that I had “the chops” for completing a doctoral program, but I also learned that my modest financial background need not impede going to graduate school right after college.”

Nadia Brown, PhD

Associate Professor, Purdue University
RBSI Class of 2003



“Participating in the RBSI Program is the reason why I am a political scientist. This was my first exposure to the professoriate. Without this program, it is doubtful that I would have entered a graduate program in political science. I am thankful for APSA’s dedication to cultivating a pipeline for minority scholars.”

Nyron N. Crawford, PhD

Assistant Professor, Temple University
RBSI Class of 2007



“Like most political science majors, I had high dreams of law school, and a plan of study to get me there. That all changed the summer I attended the RBSI Program at Duke; that experience is responsible for setting me on a professional-academic course that has been so rich in opportunity, friendship, and adventure.”

Dirk Horn, Graduate Student

University of California, Irvine
RBSI Class of 2011



“Participation in the RBSI program affirmed that I wanted to go to grad school and work in the academy. One memory that stands out is Dr. McClain and all the graduate assistants (now professors) who really put time and effort into helping all the RBSI students in any way they could.”

Ralph Bunche Endowment Fund

The Ralph Bunche Endowment Fund helps APSA ensure the continuity of the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute. Contributions support programming that introduces students from under-represented racial and ethnic groups to careers and graduate study in political science, including the professoriate.

Learn more at ralphbuncheendowmentfund.com.

