The
Blalock Fellowship
Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences
University of Washington
Congratulations on receiving the Blalock Fellowship from the Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences. Created in 1999 through the University of Washington’s Initiatives Fund, the Center is the first in the United States committed to collaborative education and research that merges the professional expertise and interests of statisticians and academicians in a range of social science disciplines. As part of the Center’s comprehensive agenda, it sponsors the Blalock Fellowships for beginning graduate students desiring preparation in both statistics and a social science.

The Blalock Fellowship is a significant award given in memory of a sociologist whose background and contributions to the social sciences combined an interest in quantitative methods and substantive social science issues. You may want to know more about him.

Who Is Being Remembered

Hubert M. Blalock, Jr., known by family, friends and colleagues as "Tad," was a Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Washington. He had served also on the faculties of the University of Michigan, Yale University and the University of North Carolina. He died in 1991.

A University of Washington endowment was created in his memory, from contributions from family, friends, and people who had worked with him professionally over the years. The interest from this endowment provides an award each biennium for an academically outstanding American minority graduate student entering the University's sociology PhD program. The awardee is selected by a special awards committee of the Department of Sociology.

The purpose of this brochure is to provide Blalock Minority Student Awardees with information about Tad's background and professional career, so that the honor they have received has greater meaning. Its goal is also to inform the University community about this award.

Tad's Sociological Interests

Having majored in math and physics in college, Tad entered sociology equipped with more mathematical training than most sociologists of his day. His first book, Social Statistics, drew on this early background and melded it with applications in major substantive areas within sociology. The book became the premier textbook for graduate training in social statistics during his lifetime. And it established his reputation as one of a small number of highly trained quantitative methodologists in the field.

However, his interests went well beyond quantitative methods. He was equally interested in measurement, rigorous theory building, and in substantive areas of the discipline — in
particular, race and ethnic relations, social stratification and inequality, and power and conflict.

Although Tad's methodological contributions to sociology often have been viewed as his most important legacy, his last two books expressed his effort to shape that legacy in the direction of constructing sociological theory through formal models based on valid empirical research. His overarching concern was with the integration of theory and research, moving toward the development of useful middle-level and more general sociological theories. In many ways, these books returned full circle to his earlier training, to the basic approaches in modern physics.

These final contributions returned also to his continuing interest in the study of social inequality, prejudice and discrimination, and the allocation of power and prestige in society.

Tad was involved as well in improving the teaching of sociology, co-authoring a book about teaching and stressing the importance of teaching (as well as research and writing) within the priorities of the American Sociological Association. He himself became a teacher admired by his students. The citation for his Lazarsfeld Award read "He exemplified superbly the informed, conscientious, patient and inspiring teacher we all aspire to be."

While Tad was a strong supporter of high scientific standards, he was interested also in administrative reform and democratization within academia, particularly in his capacity as President of the American Sociological Association, as a member of professional councils, as the Chair of the University of Washington Faculty Senate and Human Relations Council. He believed in the sharing of professional expertise and information, giving hours of unpaid consultation to faculty in social science departments in the U.S. and abroad who requested his advice and counsel. In 1984, for example, he taught statistics and gave lectures in China under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Tad had a lifelong interest in improving sociology as a scientific discipline, as is revealed in these excerpts from his autobiographical chapter in Matilda White Riley's Sociological Lives:

"My greatest concern about sociology involves what I perceive to be an increased fractionating of the discipline that has resulted from a tendency to deal with far more social phenomena than we are capable of studying with the intensity and depth required to understand them...Second, I do not see anywhere near as many careful conceptualization efforts as I believe are necessary, given the current
confusion and proliferation of sociological concepts...Third, as I have become increasingly aware of simultaneous methodological complications that arise from the complexities of the real world with which we are dealing, from imperfections in measurements, and from the tricky kinds of causal relationships that seem to exist among the variables we wish to study, I have become convinced that our research efforts need to be far more ambitious and carefully coordinated...Re-
lated to all of the above is my final concern. Because most of us entered sociol-
ogy with the hope that we could, at some point, contribute something of value to a policy area in which we were interested, it is indeed frustrating to have to say that 'almost nothing works' or that we are not yet ready to make policy-relevant suggestions. There is then the temptation to make too much of weak relationships and to make a series of highly oversimplified policy recommendations that later may backfire on us...We are also faced with the problem of remaining intellec-
tually honest about our meager findings and imperfect research, while still having an impact on policy issues that are in immediate need of answers."

The Personality

Tad’s social activism was an important part of his life. He worked in several American Friends Service Committee summer workcamps during college, which gave him new insights about societal inequities. He played an active part in the Civil Rights movement in the South while teaching at the University of North Carolina, participating in protest marches and recommending a plan for improving the University’s recruitment and support of more African American students. He volunteered his services as a skilled witness for southern courts, providing evidence that the racial composition of jury panels in a number of southern counties was leading to biased decisions, which led to fundamental changes in the method for jury selection. He took part in protests against the exploitation of cheap southern labor. In general, he was a consummate advocate for social justice.

On a more personal level, he had a passion for Dixieland jazz, was an avid collector of historical record albums, and was able to whistle each instrument’s own unique journey through this innovative music. He loved camping and hiking -- in the mountains, in woods, in rain forests, near oceans. He and his family traveled extensively in Europe and Asia in the summers, exploring scenic and historical places, with hiking in the Swiss Alps the favorite pastime. Although he died young by current standards, age sixty-four, he had a very full, rich and productive life.

His family hopes you will have a better feeling for the meaning of the award you have received, given this information about his life. And again, congratulations!
Education and Training
High School: Loomis School
World War II: Navy Radar Program
Undergraduate Education: AB in math and physics, Dartmouth College
Summa Cum Laude; Highest Distinction in Mathematics; Thayer Mathematics Prize
Graduate Education: MA in sociology, Brown; PhD in sociology, University of North Carolina; minor in mathematical statistics

University Positions Held
Assistant and Associate Professor, University of Michigan
Associate Professor, Yale University
Full Professor, University of North Carolina (and Adjunct Professor in Statistics)
Full Professor, University of Washington (and Adjunct Professor in Political Science)

Books Authored
Social Statistics
Causal Inferences in Nonexperimental Research
Toward a Theory of Minority Group Relations
Theory Construction: From Verbal to Mathematical Formulations
An Introduction to Social Research
Applied Multivariate Analysis and Experimental Designs (with Namboodiri and Carter)
Intergroup Processes: A Micro-Macro Perspective (with Wilken)
Black-White Relations in the 1980s: Toward a Long-Term Policy
Race and Ethnic Relations
Conceptualization and Measurement in the Social Sciences
Basic Dilemmas in the Social Sciences
Power and Conflict: Toward a General Theory
Understanding Social Inequality

Books Edited
Methodology in Social Research (With A.B. Blalock)
Causal Models in the Social Sciences
Social Science Measurement: Theories and Strategies
Quantitative Sociology: International Perspectives on Mathematical and Statistical Modelling
(with Aganbegian, Borodkin, and Boudon)
Teaching Sociology (with Campbell and McGee)
Sociological Theory and Research: A Critical Appraisal
Causal Models in Panel and Experimental Designs

A number of Tad's books have been published in other languages, particularly his statistics text -- in Italian, Spanish, Polish, Indian, Chinese and Russian. In addition to his authored and edited books, he wrote over 75 articles in major sociological journals, and a number of chapters in books edited by colleagues.
Elective Offices Held
Chair, Methodology Section, American Sociological Association
Member of the Council of the American Statistical Association
President, American Sociological Association
Chair, Human Rights Commission, University of Washington
Chair, Faculty Senate, University of Washington

Journal Boards Served On
American Journal of Sociology
American Sociological Review
Journal of the American Statistical Association
Social Science Research
Sociological Methodology
Sociological Methods and Research
Revue Internationale de Sociologie
Arnold Rose Monograph Series
Political Methodology
Social Forces and Social Problems

Boards and Councils Served On
National Academy of Sciences' Committee on the Status of Black Americans
Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research
Public Policy Research on Contemporary Hispanic Issues
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
Mathematics in the Social Sciences Board, Center for
Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
National Research Council/Social Science Research Council
Behavioral and Social Sciences Survey Committee
Pacific Sociological Association

Honors and Awards
Member, National Academy of Sciences
Fellow, American Statistical Association
Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences
University of Washington Distinguished Teaching Award
Samuel Stouffer Award, American Sociological Association
Lazarsfeld Award, American Sociological Association
Distinguished Teaching Award, University of Washington
International Directory of Distinguished Leadership
Who's Who in America; International Who's Who
National Register of Prominent Americans
International Leaders in Achievement
"Two nationally recognized University of Washington professors are among the new members elected to the National Academy of Sciences for their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research -- top quantitative sociologist Dr. Hubert M. Blalock, Jr., professor of sociology, and noted medical geneticist Dr. Anro G. Motulsky, professor of medicine and genetics. Election to the National Academy is considered to be one of the highest honors that can be accorded an American scientist." Announcement of the 1976 National Academy of Sciences Election.

"Tad was much more than a methodologist. He was also a theorist with important contributions in the fields of race relations and stratification...He was also an extraordinarily warm, engaging and complex human being whose achievements extended far beyond the books he wrote and the students he taught." From the obituary in the newsletter of the American Sociological Association.

Tad was persistent in his attempts to improve the discipline...He urged the Association to improve the training of sociologists, upgrade the quality of undergraduate teaching, and enhance the standing of sociological research as a basis for public policy and social action. He was a superb exemplar of a committed teacher...For Tad, general theory, sound empirical research, and policy relevance constituted an integrated whole toward which the discipline should always strive. His last two books...embody his persistent conviction that sociology must develop systematic general theoretical formulations with clear links to the empirical world." In the National Academy of Sciences' Biographical Memoirs.

"Building on work by other researchers in biology and economics, Tad published work that laid the foundation for social science studies that cannot depend entirely on the use of an experimental design. His work on modeling causal relationships influenced the way problems are formulated, the way social measurement is conceived, and the way social data are analyzed." In Pathbreakers: A Century of Excellence in Science and Technology.

"In Causal Inferences in Nonexperimental Research, and in numerous subsequent works, Hubert M. Blalock, Jr. has contributed to the improvement of designs and procedures for making causal inferences. Through these works -- which have been carried on in close connection with strong substantive interests -- he has stimulated his fellow sociologists to take a more searching look at regression analysis and path analysis, and at analytic designs in other fields of nonexperimental research." Presentation of the American Sociology Association's Samuel Stouffer Award.

"Long ago, Tad incorporated community responsibility into each pulse of his everyday life. More than anyone, Tad mobilized efforts to foster achievement by minorities. When other senior figures faltered, Tad gave unstinting effort, and thus legitimacy, to endeavors that would enrich undergraduate education. When others bickered, Tad committed his book royalties to founding a program on the Problems of the Discipline, a mission that still energizes fundamental exploration in sociology." In Voicing Social Concern by Otto Larsen.
CSSS awards Hubert M. Blalock Fellowships every year to new graduate students entering one of the departments with CSSS-related Ph.D. fields, minors or tracks (Political Science, Sociology, Anthropology, and Statistics). Candidates are nominated by their department's graduate advisor, and awards are decided by the CSSS Graduate Committee. The Fellowship is named for Hubert M. Blalock, a former leading sociological methodologist who was Professor of Sociology and Statistics at the University of Washington and a former President of the American Sociological Association.