It is a pleasure to update you on SPSSI’s activities over the past three months. In brief, SPSSI continues to thrive and is involved in a broad range of activities related to social issues. This newsletter column, midway through my presidential year, is a good opportunity to update you on what is happening.

On November 19th I represented SPSSI at Psychology Day at the United Nations. This one-day event, Psychology and Social Justice Related to the UN Global Agenda, featured three panels with short talks by psychologist researchers and practitioners. It was co-chaired by two SPSSI members, Florence Denmark, APA’s Main UN representative and Peter Walker, SPSSI’s UN representative. Two former SPSSI presidents were present – Morton Deutsch (1960-1961), who had presented the Psychology Day keynote in 2007, and Herb Kelman (1964-1965) who presented this year’s keynote address. Council Member Stacey Sinclair and I spoke in the panel, Psychological perspectives on the abuse of power.

SPSSI Council Update

SPSSI Council held its Midwinter meeting on January 31 and February 1 at John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York. Attendees included 12 elected members (4 are elected each year), non-voting members (newsletter editor, historian, early career scholars chair), several visiting members, and SPSSI’s Central Office staff.

At this meeting, Council discussed three important transitions. Council considered SPSSI’s upcoming contract for publication of our three journals, JSI, ASAP, and SIPR, currently being negotiated by Lou Penner. Second, Council appointed Kevin Lanning as incoming editor of Analysis of Social Issues and Public Policy (ASAP) to succeed Geoff Maruyama, whose term will conclude at the end of 2009. Third, Council appointed Margaret Bull Kovera to succeed Secretary/Treasurer Sally Shumaker, whose term will conclude on August 31st. I speak for myself and many others in thanking Sally Shumaker, Geoff Maruyama, and Lou Penner. All three are former presidents who have continued giving outstanding service to SPSSI. We welcome Kevin Lanning and Margaret Bull Kovera to these key SPSSI positions.

Council voted to approve SPSSI’s Strategic Plan, a project begun by the Audit and Finance Committee under Secretary/Treasurer Sally Shumaker in 2007 along with Dan Perlman, then president, to assure that SPSSI’s actions are consistent with our priorities. The plan was refined by Council in January 2008 and SPSSI members via emailed comments and a town meeting in June 2008 in Chicago. Council also approved Irene Frieze’s updates to SPSSI’s Administrative Handbook, a document describing the Society’s procedures that is exceedingly helpful to our many office holders and committee chairs. Thank you Sally Shumaker, Dan Perlman, and Irene Frieze for seeing these two, long-term projects through.

By Susan Opotow
SPSSI President

What’s Happening at SPSSI:
Projects, Transitions, and the Spirit of Participation
Council voted to approve the development of two policy-related initiatives. One, a workshop on the application of psychological research to public policy for early career scholars and advanced graduate students, will be held before SPSSI’s June 2010 conference in New Orleans. Second, SPSSI will soon be issuing a call for timely proposals with policy implications.

### Member Engagement

The spirit of participation is clearly robust for SPSSI. In November, SPSSI’s 2009 Program Chair, Michaela Hynie, requested reviewers for proposals for sessions at SPSSI’s program at the APA meeting in Toronto (August 6-9, 2009). Over 150 SPSSI members volunteered. This spirit of participation is also evident in the work of SPSSI’s many committees that are essential to the functioning of our Society. Thank you all for being so helpful and engaged.

In December, Policy Coordinator Chris Woodside in SPSSI’s Central Office initiated an RSS feed ([www.spssi.org/policynewsfeed](http://www.spssi.org/policynewsfeed)) to send out fast-breaking news of interest to members. One message, sent via the RSS feed and our listserv asked members concerned with the two-tiered academic labor system in higher education to respond. Two dozen SPSSI members – contingent and more securely employed – described their experience and interest in this social issue. We will be discussing how to proceed in a virtual meeting.

### August 2009: SPSSI in Toronto – Partnering on Social Issues for Social Change

In August 2009, SPSSI will have a three-pronged program at the APA convention beginning as a half-day pre-conference on Wednesday afternoon, August 5th, the day before the convention begins. The pre-conference, Psychology-Community Engagement, will start with a visit by 60 psychologists to a university-community engagement center situated in an economically-challenged neighborhood in North Toronto. The visit will include presentations by community members, agency representatives, psychologists, and other professionals highlighting successful partnerships in this community. We, along with other APA divisions co-sponsoring this initiative, will follow up our visit with symposia at the APA convention on partnering with communities. These sessions will address methods, challenges, and benefits of psychology-community partnerships.

SPSSI’s program theme, Partnering on Social Issues for Social Change, will include symposia, papers, and other sessions from August 6 to 9. SPSSI Day, on Thursday August 6th, will include Beatrice Wright’s Kurt Lewin Memorial Address, SPSSI’s business and award meeting (open to all), my presidential address, and a social hour.

During the APA meeting, SPSSI will have a hospitality suite at a hotel near the Toronto Convention Center. At the suite, members can meet, relax at the end of a long day over wine and cheese, and participate in innovative sessions on research and social issues.

Please plan to join SPSSI in Toronto! We will be staying in the Hyatt Regency Toronto (currently, Holiday Inn on King).
Looking ahead to 2010 and 2011

There are two exciting SPSSI meetings already in planning. SPSSI’s June 2010 biennial conference will be in New Orleans. President-Elect Gene Borgida describes a theme of Care-giving that will relate our meeting to ongoing post-Katrina recovery efforts.

In August 2011, SPSSI will celebrate its 75th Anniversary. SPSSI Historian Alexandra Rutherford began planning for this occasion several years ago with an interactive timeline, oral history interviews, and an upcoming anniversary issue of JSI. The 75th Anniversary Task Force, chaired by Council member Michelle Fine, is envisioning a scholarly and musical gala to celebrate SPSSI’s past and present.

SPSSI Newsletter: Forward

With this issue, Naomi Hall and Jon Iuzzini assume co-editorship of the Forward. I welcome them and their fresh ideas for facilitating the passion and commitment to SPSSI members about issues of concern to SPSSI. I thank Rich Wiener for his excellence as editor of the Forward since January 2006 and for making the editorial transition seamless. Beginning with the last issue (Fall 2008), SPSSI began publishing the Forward in PDF as well as html formats so that members can utilize the format that is most convenient. Members can also request a paper copy from the Central Office.

Be Involved

To conclude, SPSSI, a relatively small society, has a long history of involvement in social issues. As this update indicates, we remain energetic and effective. Please be in touch with me with any thoughts, questions, or ideas for your involvement with SPSSI. I’d love to hear from you.

(sopotow@jjay.cuny.edu)

As we cross the threshold into this new historical era in America, we have chosen “inclusiveness” and “hope” to be the themes of our first column.

We believe that one of SPSSI’s most significant qualities is that the organization and its members constantly strive to be inclusive in all that we do. As scholars, as teachers, and as citizens, our work to improve our communities is always informed by a hope that we can reach out to others and break exclusionary barriers. It is with this spirit that we have enthusiastically assumed co-editorship of the newsletter.

There is an African proverb (Kanuri) that says “hope is the pillar of the world.” What occurred recently during the United States Presidential primaries, and subsequent Presidential election was a beautiful fusion of advocacy and activism, and a symbol of inclusiveness and hope worldwide.

As we continue to provide information and comment on important social issues to our members, we want to introduce some new features to the newsletter. In this issue we introduce a new feature entitled Emerging Scholars. In each issue of the newsletter, this column will highlight the research, teaching, and/or editorial commentary of a junior scholar.

We thank William M. Davis, Jr. for contributing the first of these; his column is entitled Creative Maladjustment and the Psychology Of Change We Can Believe In. As we mentioned in the Fall 2008 newsletter, another new feature will shine a spotlight on research conducted by faculty from underrepresented groups, as well as faculty at minority-serving institutions. We plan to introduce this feature in the Summer 2009 issue.

One of the greatest achievements for a community, organization, and a nation is the ability to recognize and cultivate its people as valuable resources. Both of these new features will continue the trend to celebrate the diverse characteristics and interests of SPSSI members. We hope that you enjoy the newsletter. Please send us any comments or suggestions at spssinews@gmail.com.
Secretary-Treasurer’s Report:
Winter/Spring 2009

By Sally Shumaker
Secretary-Treasury

During these turbulent economic times here and internationally, I am pleased to be able to bring you positive news about SPSSI’s economic status. SPSSI continues to be a financially sound organization serving a broad range of activities that are central to our mission. This is particularly rewarding now as the work of SPSSI – always critical – is especially important during this period of stress and challenges, coupled with the opportunities afforded by a new administration that shares much of the vision that has been central to SPSSI since its birth – almost 75 years ago! Our ability to continue and grow our many initiatives is rewarding and depends on our maintaining a fiscally strong base. SPSSI is in the fortunate position of producing sufficient revenue to keep our diverse portfolio of programs thriving.

SPSSI’s fiscal year (FY) runs from January through December. Brief updates on our current and projected fiscal status, and recent initiatives related to our economic situation, are provided, below:

- SPSSI ended FY08 with a surplus of about $200,000, with revenue at $820,244 and expenses at $620,006. Our lower than anticipated expenses were in large part due to delays in fully staffing our Central Office. Our ongoing strength in revenue is in large part attributable to income from our journals, donations, and membership fees. (Please note that we are in the process of completing our 2008 books and that these figures are close estimates and not final.)

- At our June, 2008 meeting, Council approved in concept that in years in which we run a surplus, we will allocate about one-third of the surplus to special, one-time projects, and transfer the remaining money into our investment portfolio. (Our special projects might be viewed as SPSSI’s own “stimulus package” – though ours is fully funded and does not impose a deficit on the organization.) At our winter 2009 meeting, a proposal to use a portion of the FY08 surplus to fund a request for proposals (RFP) initiative was unanimously approved. This RFP will be sent to all of our members in the near future – so be on the lookout for it. We look forward to receiving innovative proposals that address the key issues and concerns of our organization.

- In order to continue to enhance our tracking and financial projections, we implemented a budget process in 2007 in which we review and approve our budgets the summer prior to the next FY. Thus, SPSSI Council approved the Fiscal Year 09 budget in June of 2008. Our projected income is $733,200 with projected expenses at $765,106. In the past two years SPSSI developed and approved a formal strategic plan (www.spssi.org/strategicplan). Hereafter our budgets will be guided more explicitly by this important document.

- SPSSI underwent its last full audit for FY 2005. Prior to this, SPSSI has periodically gone through detailed audits with no formal interim process in off-budget years. Beginning in FY 2006 we initiated a process by which we undergo a formal review by our auditors on an annual basis. Our reviews for 2006 and 2007 were completed with no concerns or issues. We have approved a full audit for FY 2008 in conjunction with the transition in the Secretary-Treasurer role (see next bullet). At this time, I would like to express my strong appreciation to our Central Office and in particular Dr. Susan Dudley, our Executive Director, for the superb job she has done in putting in place the rigorous system we now have that allows us to track our spending and revenue closely and accurately.

- I will end my tenure as Secretary-Treasurer on August 31, 2009, and SPSSI Council is fortunate to have identified and named our next new Secretary-Treasurer, Margaret Bull Kovera. Margaret is a Professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Forensic Psychology. Her research focuses on jury decision-making and eyewitness identification. In addition, Margaret is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and the American Psychology-Law Society. Margaret has been an active member of SPSSI since her graduate school days. She was SPSSI’s Court Watch Chair for 8 years, and currently she chairs the Fellows Committee. In addition, she served as both Treasurer and President of APA’s Division 41 (APLS – American Psychology-Law Society). Thus, she has proven experience in a division/society’s affairs, including personnel, budgetary oversight, and financial planning. The skills Margaret brings to SPSSI’s Secretary-Treasurer position align well with the role. Margaret will assume her new role in SPSSI on September 1, 2009. Between now and then, Susan Dudley and I will work closely with Margaret to facilitate a smooth transition into this critical SPSSI position. In addition, Margaret will serve as an ex officio member of the Audit and Finance Committee (chaired by the secretary-treasurer) to help her get into the rhythm of SPSSI’s financial issues.

- Not surprisingly given the current financial market, SPSSI’s investment portfolio has suffered some paper losses over the past year. Fortunately, however, we have been a relatively fiscally conservative organization, so our losses have been less than the general market. In addition, we maintain a large portion of our portfolio in bonds and the money market where small gains remain.

...continued on page 5
Key points:

- At the end of FY 2007 we had a total market value of $1,816,117. At the end of FY 2008, this had dropped to $1,517,373, a reduction in market value of $341,059. Currently, SPSSI’s portfolio is divided as follows: $191,763 in Money Market Accounts (12%), $610,063 in Equity (40.2%), and $715,546 in Fixed Income Accounts (47.2%). The Audit and Finance Committee recently reviewed this distribution and voted to make no changes at this time.

- SPSSI has an excellent investment team – the Roseneau/Paul Group at UBS Financial Services – who have worked with our organization for several years now. Under Pamela Roseneau’s leadership, the two have guided us through this rocky period and managed to keep our percent drop in market value for our equity portion of our portfolio less than the S&P.

- Finally, as part of our last full audit in 2005, we were encouraged to adopt a formal investment policy. The Audit and Finance Committee developed a policy that was reviewed and approved by SPSSI Council at its February, 2009 meeting. This policy can be viewed online at www.spssi.org/financialdocuments.

In addition to having primary responsibility for the oversight of our fiscal position, the Secretary-Treasurer also serves as the officer in charge of the Central Office. Staff report to the Executive Director, Susan Dudley, and Susan in turn reports to the Secretary-Treasurer. She and I “meet” via conference calls on a weekly basis and when possible I meet with her in person on my frequent visits to Washington, DC. And, we are in almost daily contact via email and calls. Susan has updated you via the Central Office column over the past couple of years and I will not repeat that information here. I just wanted to provide a couple of updates from my Secretary-Treasurer role:

- For the first time in many years, SPSSI’s CO is now fully staffed. Our longest term employee is Anila Balkissoon who has been with us now since 2006 and continues to be an outstanding staff member. In recent months we’ve added a full-time Policy Coordinator, Christopher Woodside – whom you’ve already heard from on multiple occasions. Having someone in Central Office with specific training and expertise in policy is a dream many of us have had for many years and we look forward to working with Chris in the months and years to come. Recently we hired Alexander Ingrams, our Administrative Assistant, who is already proving to fit in well with the multi-tasking and flexibility required of SPSSI staff.

- One of the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer is to conduct a formal, annual evaluation of the Executive Director. In the time I’ve served as SPSSI’s Secretary-Treasurer there have been major changes in the CO – starting first with our hiring Susan Dudley as Executive Director. She has done an outstanding job of putting systems into place with respect to our finances and the ongoing running of the many activities associated with SPSSI. I have conducted two formal annual reviews of Susan to date – which many of you contributed input on. I am pleased to inform you that in both of these reviews Susan received outstanding ratings in all categories.

- As Secretary-Treasurer I welcome your comments regarding the functioning of the Central Office. Please do not hesitate to contact me about how our organization is working to meet your needs as a member. I can be reached at: sshumake@wfubmc.edu

SPSSI Listserv

The SPSSI listserv is a great way to receive updates about conferences, calls for papers, and job opportunities. SPSSI members also use their listserv for lively discussions about controversial issues related to social science and public policy.

To Subscribe
Send an e-mail to listserv@lists.apa.org with the command subscribe SPSSI Firstname Lastname in the body of the message (leave the subject line blank). You should then receive a message confirming your subscription. When you subscribe, make sure you use the same e-mail account to send the message as the one where you wish to receive listserv messages.

To Unsubscribe
If you decide to leave the listserv at some point, then send an e-mail to listserv@lists.apa.org with the command sign off SPSSI in the body of the message (leave the subject line blank). Note that the listserv is open to everyone, whether they belong to SPSSI or not, and that its contents are moderated to ensure high quality and minimize problems.

To Post Messages
After you have subscribed, you can post messages for everyone to read on the listserv by sending them to SPSSI@lists.apa.org.

If you have any questions, please contact spssi@spssi.org.

Visit the SPSSI Web site at www.spssi.org
Hello! You are reading the first-ever Early Career Scholars Committee column in the *Forward*. The Early Career Scholars Committee (ECS) was developed to further the professional development and promote the needs of SPSSI members who are within seven years of having received their doctorate.

Since the 2008 biennial meeting, we have been working hard to develop several new initiatives and programs specifically for early career SPSSI members. We are particularly interested in promoting increased and more frequent dialogue among early career individuals within SPSSI. When in graduate school, it is easy to forge strong social networks and friendships with others in our same situation. However, oftentimes these social networks weaken once we disperse from our graduate institutions to start our careers. Although our social networks may weaken, our need for social support does not!

Because we believe in the importance of maintaining a solid support network during the early years of our careers, we have hopped on the proverbial bandwagon and started our own blog. Now, we know what you’re thinking: everyone has a blog these days, right? But, the SPSSI early career blog will be perhaps one of the most useful blogs you’ll ever read. So, bookmark the blog site right now: [http://earlycareer.blogspot.com/](http://earlycareer.blogspot.com/). And, thanks to Jeannetta Williams, we have our very first blog topic: “Advising the advisor: What am I doing, what should I be doing?” In the blog, Jeannetta discusses her (on-the-job) training as an advisor and her efforts to develop a statement of her “advising philosophy.” Interested in learning more about the process of developing an advising philosophy? Have advice for Jeannetta? Want to read others’ advice? Need an outlet to discuss your advising woes? If the answer to any of these questions is YES, then please visit the blog! Anyone can read and post comments. You can post comments with just your name, a google account, another open ID account, or anonymously. And, please keep a close eye out for our next blog topic: “Controlled Chaos: Collecting Materials for Administrative Reviews,” which will discuss annual reviews, third-year reviews, and preparing promotion and tenure packages.

We are happy to report that SPSSI Council is very supportive of our efforts to develop one of our largest initiatives to date: the Early Career Scholars Summer Workshop. This day-long workshop, to be held the day prior to the start of the 2010 biennial convention in New Orleans, will provide a select group of scholars with advanced training in applying one’s research to public policy. Thank you to Colleen Sinclair for all of her initial work on the workshop. Please look for further information on the workshop, including details on how to apply, in the *Forward* and on the SPSSI website later this year.

Do you have any feedback for us? Suggestions for future initiatives? Want to suggest a blog topic or write one yourself? If so, please do not hesitate to contact Kim Case (ECS Chair) at caseki@uhcl.edu or any member of the committee. We would love to hear from you!

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The Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture 2009 Diversity Challenge: Racial Identity and Cultural Factors in Treatment, Research and Policy

Each year the Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture addresses a racial or cultural issue that could benefit from a pragmatic, scholarly, or grassroots focus through its Diversity Challenge conference. The theme of the October, 2009 conference is the examination of racial identity and cultural factors in treatment, research, education and policy. The two-day conference held at Boston College includes panel discussion/symposia, workshops, structured discussions, a poster session, and individual presentations by invited experts and selected guests including educators, administrators, researchers, mental health professionals, and community organizations. Individuals interested in presenting should check the ISPRC website where the Call for Proposals is posted, [http://www.bc.edu/schools/isoe/isprc/dc.html](http://www.bc.edu/schools/isoe/isprc/dc.html). General information about the conference including pre-registration will also be available on the website. For all inquiries feel free to email isprc@bc.edu.
Each February I make it a point to reread Martin Luther King, Jr.’s landmark speech to the American Psychological Association wherein he called for psychologists to be creatively maladjusted to societal problems by addressing social justice issues in our research and practice. Upon reading his speech this year, I could not help but to notice striking similarities between the state of our society then and the state of our society now. As was true of the 1960s our nation is faced with tremendously high unemployment rates, our urban centers are plagued with violence, and our country is engaged in a war that is hotly debated. Like then, our nation seems to be in peril, with large groups of people being polarized on important issues.

Nonetheless, there is one notable exception between then and now. While the majority of the Civil Rights Movement was marked by executive ambiguity on social issues, we are now living in a “yes we can” moment. Utilizing his intellect and charisma, then – Senator Obama infused our nation with hope and, for the first time that many of us can remember, there is an unmistakable air of optimism and creative maladjustment that extends from the White House to everyday Americans – even those who had not previously participated in the political process. Like then, our nation seems to be in peril, with large groups of people being polarized on important issues.

As the presidential campaign progressed I had the fortune of watching the presidential debates and participating in political activities with a member of an opposing “camp.” While much of the United States recognized the need for change, our interactions with those from opposing camps were oftentimes frustrating and passions ran high. In the process of our political punditry and volunteer activities, our playful, yet ongoing debate turned from ideological sparring to a more meaningful processing of our experiences around race/racism, which also greatly influenced our predictions.

In retrospect, I now realize that while we had different experiences with race, we had more in common than what we had previously assumed. Among other things, we realized that we both had been impacted by our nation’s roots in racism, yet both desired to work for something different. It seems that the “work” we engaged in together greatly benefited our personal relationship. For me, it changed the way I thought about myself and my counterpart.

Similarly, it’s quite possible that the “work” of change to which Barack Obama enlisted the entire nation may have cemented his election as President of the United States and improved in-group/out-group relations in our country. This is terribly exciting for me as a junior psychologist who, like many others, holds a personal commitment to social justice issues. As researchers and health service providers, we may well be the first generation of psychologists who have the privilege of carrying out M.L. King’s mandate during a time when doing so is considered the norm.

Emerging Scholars Column

Creative Maladjustment and the Psychology of Change We Can Believe In

William M. Davis, Jr., M.A.
APA/SAMHSA Predoctoral Fellow
Doctoral Candidate, Psychology Department
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
“Why are you complaining about slavery? If it was so bad, then why did Africans kidnap and sell their own people into slavery?” As an undergraduate taking social psychology, I was shocked to hear this quote from one of my white classmates. His comments were a hostile response to an African American speaker who shared personal stories of racial segregation and growing up poor in East Tennessee in the 1940’s and 1950’s. I often reflect on this classroom experience now that I teach courses focusing on prejudice, discrimination, and group inequalities. Although I wish things were different some 15 years later, teaching about social issues inevitably leads to an array of student reactions that present pedagogical challenges while simultaneously presenting collective learning opportunities.

Anyone who has ever included sensitive topics as part of a course’s curriculum has faced some of the unique challenges associated with teaching and learning about social issues. The first time I included readings addressing white privilege on my syllabus, a student accused me of being “racist against white people” on my course evaluation sheet. Teaching my first class as the instructor of record in Cincinnati became complicated by the police shooting of yet another unarmed black youth. That quarter, Cincinnati faced racial unrest, also called “riots” by some, that yielded classroom comments such as “Black people are violent savages.” As inexperienced as I was, I attempted to move the class toward discussion of what institutional and social factors might lead to the looting and violence we were experiencing in the city. Although some of the students of color and white students in the classroom offered explanations of intergroup relations and oppression, I consider my facilitation of that emotionally charged discussion a complete failure.

Last year, my Psychology of Women class viewed a film called “The Way Home,” in which women from various racial and ethnic backgrounds discuss the impact of race and racism in their lives. During our discussion of the film, a student declared that “ninety percent of Iraqis are terrorists anyway.” Much to my delight, four hands immediately shot up around the room. As I called on each student to contribute their comments, I became more and more dismayed that not one of them addressed the terrorist comment. This experience taught me that my perceptions of what should happen colored my assumptions about student responses when I saw eager faces raise their hands. After taking time to reflect on this classroom event, I used WebCT to craft several questions for discussion that brought the Middle Eastern women’s voices from the film back to the center of our discussion. Moments like these remind us that we must find effective ways to balance the need to meet our students where they are and the task of deconstructing such stereotypical beliefs. How do we avoid shutting down the conversation while maintaining a safe environment for all in the classroom?

As SPSSI teachers, we face what I like to call “teaching-social-issues issues.” That is, there are distinct pedagogical “issues” that come along with teaching and learning about social issues. Whether facing student resistance to reading works by lesbian authors or the broader challenge of designing a course on social policy analysis, faculty may feel isolated if colleagues in their departments do not include these topics in their courses. They may feel further marginalized if their colleagues question the legitimacy of infusing social issues into the curriculum. In addition, concerns about administrative views of such teaching practices may present unique performance review obstacles for SPSSI teachers. Given the lengthy list of challenges, why do we choose to teach about social issues?

Benefits and Opportunities

For nearly 75 years, SPSSI members, passionate about social issues research, have introduced this passion to students through their teaching and mentoring efforts. We teach courses focused solely on social issues and incorporate social issues into traditional courses as a reflection of our values. Introducing students to new theories about intergroup relations and social systems, for example, facilitates student consumption of and thirst for multiple perspectives. Nothing brings a smile to my face quicker than when a student expresses a newly formed perspective on the world as a result of our time learning together. As SPSSI teachers, we are privileged to witness amazing growth among our students (e.g., a student begins questioning her hometown’s support of the KKK) while recruiting new social issues researchers. Although arguably the greatest teaching challenge, teaching social issues produces unimaginable teaching rewards.
SPSSI Awards for Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring

Call for Nominations for Awards for Year 2009

Deadline: March 31, 2009

The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) confers two annual awards for outstanding teaching/mentoring in areas related to the psychological study of social issues. These awards recognize teaching excellence in a variety of contexts. One award will be given to a teacher/mentor from a program or department that grants masters or doctoral degrees. The other award will be given to a teacher/mentor from a program or department that is undergraduate-only (e.g., community colleges or small liberal arts colleges).

Eligibility:
For both award categories, nominees should be persons who have made substantial contributions to students in the psychological study of social issues. To be eligible, an individual must have been teaching and/or mentoring students for at least 10 years. Nominees must be members of SPSSI.

Nominations/Applications:
To apply, send your nomination materials via email to the Chair of the appropriate committee listed below. The materials should consist of no more than 15 total pages including the following:

1). Nominee’s statement (1-2 pages) of teaching/mentoring philosophy, goals, and accomplishments, especially as related to the psychological study of social issues.
2). Abbreviated curriculum vitae (3 pages maximum).
3). Summarized student evaluation data.
4). At least one, but no more than three, supporting letters from colleagues or students.
5). Other relevant documentation. Examples include evidence of outstanding classroom teaching; teaching in the community (e.g., presentations or workshops that bring the psychological study of social issues to non academic audiences); descriptions of current and past student achievements; evidence of one-on-one teaching and mentoring (e.g., research supervision, advising, clinical supervision); teaching-related committee work or scholarship; or the development of new curricula, courses, course materials, or instructional methods.

Self nominations are encouraged.
The deadline for receipt of materials is March 31, 2009.

Recipients receive $400 and a plaque and will be invited to share their teaching/mentoring experiences at an upcoming SPSSI conference and in the newly created Teaching and Learning Newsletter Column.

Send nomination materials to the Chair of the appropriate committee:

For Nominees from Programs offering Graduate Degrees:
Professor Chris Crandall, University of Kansas
 crandall@ku.edu

For Nominees from Undergraduate-Only Programs:
Professor Ronald Cohen, Bennington College
 rlcohen@bennington.edu

For questions, please contact Amy Marcus-Newhall, Chair of the SPSSI Teaching and Learning Committee, at amarcusn@scrippscollege.edu.
Hello from SPSSI’s Central Office in Washington, DC. It has been an eventful initial stretch for me as Policy Coordinator, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to share that we, as an organization, are beginning to move in an exciting new direction with respect to bringing the important research of SPSSI members to key policymakers and advocacy groups.

While my initial Policy Coordinator’s Report focused strongly on the development of a new policy agenda for SPSSI, this time my goal is to describe how we have begun to implement many of those ideas in recent months. One of the most important early goals that we set out to achieve was to increase member communication and outreach efforts. An increase in communication between the Central Office staff and policy-minded members was critical to our success on the grassroots and national level advocacy front because the quick dissemination of information and quick response times can make all the difference in attempting to influence a time-sensitive policy issue.

I am proud to say that SPSSI has made great strides on this front with the advent of our Policy News Feed, an RSS-based communication tool capable of providing members with updates concerning issues of the day and news topics pertaining to the field of social justice (examples of updates have included event recaps, calls for experts, legislative updates, etc.). For more information about the RSS feed, visit the SPSSI website and click on the RSS link in the upper-right corner of the site. We have also regularly used blast e-mails to remind members of key events, happenings and dates of importance to our collective efforts.

As part of this ongoing process of ramping up our communication practices, we continue to work with the Policy Committee in efforts to brainstorm new methods of maintaining connectedness, including but not limited to such ideas as hosting advocacy resource workshops and developing advocacy “how-to” guides, initiating special interest policy list serves, and providing a host of other online resources.

An equally important order of priority in the implementation of our overall agenda has been SPSSI’s advocacy & coalition building work. One of the central planks of this initiative is the focus that we are placing on bringing the research conducted by SPSSI members to the attention of policymakers and other proponents of social justice causes so that they can use science to influence important legislation.

To that end, SPSSI has begun planning for the development of policy-friendly fact sheets built on JSI research that can be shared with congressional staffers and government relations experts in other organizations. In our first effort to do this, we worked with issue editor Kevin Lanning (JSI 2008, 64:3) to develop a fact sheet on voting rights/trends in the lead up to the November 2008 presidential election. The fact sheet was shared with many voter-advocacy organizations, including the League of Women Voters, NAACP, the Fortune Society, and others, and was used specifically in get-out-the-vote efforts by the ACLU and FairVote.

Other activities have included identifying a group of SPSSI members interested in offering expert testimony to Congress on the psychological toll of the current economic recession, and seeking congressional support through the office of Representative Chris Van Hollen (D-MD-08) for the inclusion of at least one such SPSSI member in a future Capitol Hill hearing on this topic. We have also begun to conduct “calls for experts” on a variety of other timely policy issues including environment and energy policy, and labor equity issues within academia. In time, we will use the research and expertise of members involved in work in these areas to educate policymakers in Washington, DC, and in other places where SPSSI’s expertise can have an impact.

Our initial forays into the realm of advocacy have been equally broad. We are working on developing effective ways to introduce SPSSI to Congressional staff, who play such a big role in keeping the Members of Congress informed about issues like the ones in which our members have so much expertise. We recently contacted members to encourage involvement in an advocacy push targeted towards maintaining science funding levels jeopardized in negotiations on the economic stimulus package. The member response to this call was excellent, and you’ll see other action alerts from us in the future.

Overall the enthusiasm level of SPSSI members has been very exciting. You have contacted the Central Office about developing new member surveys and projects that will help us identify those most interested in participating in grassroots level advocacy work and having their research applied to policy development. The future implications of such member-driven projects are truly wonderful.

Coalition building has also been an important element of establishing SPSSI’s foothold here in Washington, DC. As Policy Coordinator, I regularly hold meetings with key congressional policy advisors to increase awareness of our capabilities and propose future teamwork. I also regularly attend events relevant to SPSSI’s mission, increasing our organization’s overall profile on Capitol Hill, and formulating connections with potential future policy partners. In addition to reporting back to membership after these experiences, I also...
use such gatherings as opportunities to better connect with advocates in other organizations supportive of SPSSI’s goals, and to build a network of contacts for future projects.

The road to becoming a better-known policy quantity in Washington, DC, and around the world is a challenging one, and it will take a significant continued commitment of time and energy by everyone within the SPSSI community in order to accomplish our ultimate goals. With the help of SPSSI’s passionate leadership, committees, and membership, the future is very bright indeed for our organization’s mission of sharing social justice research with those most influential to the policymaking process.

Washington Update from page 10

The Publications Committee this year is co-chaired by Irene Frieze and Rodolfo Mendoza-Denton. Janet Swim, the former chair, has served in an advisory role. The publications committee oversees activity on the organization’s three journals (JSI, ASAP, SIPR) as well as the two book series (edited books and authored books). We are pleased that all our SPSSI publications are doing well.

SPSSI provides individual subscriptions to all the SPSSI journals as a benefit of being a SPSSI member. In addition, a large number of academic libraries subscribe to the SPSSI journals. About 66% of these subscriptions are for libraries in the United States. Outside the U.S., the highest number of subscriptions are in Canada, Europe and the United Kingdom, Japan, and Australia & New Zealand. Our journals continue to be popular. One way to track this is to look at online access of journal articles. In 2008, articles in Journal of Social Issues were accessed over 100,000 times. ASAP was accessed 25,000 times, and our new SIPR journal was accessed over 2,000 times.

Here is a listing of the 10 most accessed articles in each of the journals. Congratulations to these authors.

**Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy**
1. The Gay Marriage Debate
2. Psychologists and the Use of Torture in Interrogations
3. Public Perceptions About Sex Offenders and Community Protection Policies
4. Editor’s Forward to the Article “Psychologists and the Use of Torture in Interrogations” and Invited Comments about That Article
5. Zimbardo’s Apple
6. The Devil Made Them Do It?
7. The Definition of Terrorism
8. Immigrants in the Community: New Opportunities, New Struggles
9. Institutional Discrimination, Individual Racism, and Hurricane Katrina
10. Thoughts on Psychologists, Ethics, and the Use of Torture in Interrogations: Don’t Ignore Varying Roles and Complexities

**Journal of Social Issues**
1. Democracy, Voting, and Disenfranchisement in the United States: A Social Psychological Perspective
2. Why Do People Vote? A Psychological Analysis of the Causes of Voter Turnout
3. The Psychology of Prejudice: Ingroup Love and Outgroup Hate?
4. The Media’s Influence on Body Image Disturbance and Eating Disorders: We’ve Reviled Them, Now Can We Rehabilitate Them?
6. Political Participation and Cumulative Disadvantage: The Impact of Economic and Social Hardship on Young Citizens
7. Exceptions to High School Dropout Predictions in a Low-Income Sample: Do Adults Make a Difference?
8. Effects of the Home Learning Environment and Preschool Center Experience upon Literacy and Numeracy Development in Early Primary School
10. Social Policy, Feminism, and Research on Violence in Close Relationships

**Social Issues and Policy Review**
1. Public Policy and the Effects of Media Violence on Children
2. Psychological Research and Public Policy: Bridging the Gap
3. SIPR: Launching a Third SPSSI Journal
4. Ageism: A Review of Research and Policy Implications
5. Social Psychological Factors in Lifestyle Change and Their Relevance to Policy
6. Interpersonal Perspectives on Black–White Health Disparities: Social Policy Implications
7. The Beneficial Effects of Social Identity Protection on the Performance Motivation of Members of Devalued Groups
8. Infra-humanization: The Wall of Group Differences
9. Volunteerism: Social Issues Perspectives and Social Policy Implications

A question now being debated is whether our journals should continue to be sent in paper form. Many of our members opt for an online only subscriptions in order to save paper, or shelf space, or because they prefer reading online. Please let Central Office know if you would prefer online access only, or go to your member profile at www.spssi.org/membership and select the online-only subscriptions options.

Our new book series are also doing well. We published two edited SPSSI books in 2008.
ASAP Report

By Geoff Maruyama
ASAP Editor

ASAP has now published its print issue for 2008. That issue included nine original articles, two of which were submissions for the follow-up special issue on Hurricanes Katrina and Rita experiences and impacts, plus a number of book reviews (Note: A couple book reviews were misplaced in the production process, so those will appear in the 2009 issue rather than 2008). Thanks again this year to Peggy Stockdale, who has served as Book Review Editor for the final three years of my term as Editor, and to Janet Ruscher and Laurie O’Brien, who were guest Editors reviewing the Katrina papers.

Articles in the 2008 issue include: a paper by Bert Raven on bases of power, including questions and answers about how the French and Raven model developed, the number of bases, etc.; a paper featured in our press release on children’s perceptions about race, gender, and the presidency (Bigler); a paper examining bases of the gender gap in support for a female presidential candidate (Simon & Hoyt); a multi-national paper on economic and social factors tied to child malnutrition (Gabriele & Schettino); diversity, inequality, and social trust in Canada (Phan); conservative Christians and discrimination on college campuses (Hyers & Hyders); and relations of types of patriotism with critical thinking, respect for civil liberties, and national security (Williams, Foster, & Krohn). The Katrina articles were on implications of a sociological embeddedness perspective on disaster planning (Iverson & Armstrong) and on aggression in New Orleans immediately after Katrina (Kemmelmeyer, Broadus, & Padilla).

I believe that it was a very good year for ASAP, for the trend lines (submissions, acceptances) are both positive, and the overall quality of the submissions was up considerably, even if not reflected as strongly in the final number of articles accepted. Like most journals, however, ASAP always welcomes more strong submissions. In addition to the 2008 submissions summarized below, we currently have 24 new papers that are part of our 2009 submissions and that are being reviewed.

We received six articles for the Katrina II special issue, accepting 2, as well as 46 articles that went through the general review process, accepting seven for publication (a 15% acceptance rate). In addition to manuscripts reviewed, not included in the count are a number of other inquiries to the editor where the authors were advised that the article was not appropriate for ASAP. There are a number of strong papers in the pipeline for 2009, so I expect my final year as editor to yield the largest ASAP volume of my four years as editor.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Kevin Lanning as incoming Editor for ASAP, beginning in 2010. Kevin was Book Review Editor under Rhoda Unger’s editorial term, and has been an excellent and responsive reviewer, and part of my editorial board during my term. So I know that the journal will be in excellent hands when Kevin starts reviewing papers later this year.

Journal of Social Issues Report

By Sheri R. Levy
JSI Editor-Elect

Soon, the 18-month transition from Rick Hoyle’s editorship to mine will be complete. I want to thank Rick and his editorial board for a very smooth transition. I also want to thank Irene Frieze, Susan Opotow, and Dan Perlman for their very helpful advice during this transition.

The Journal of Social Issues has a long and venerable history of bringing attention to significant and timely social issues through the lens of cutting-edge scientific research. In this way, JSI is recognized widely for its significant advances in understanding and addressing social issues and in setting the agenda for the next wave of research on the topics of its focus. Rick and his board have continued this tradition, and I am deeply honored and excited to work toward continuing this tradition with you.

I hope you will contact me by email (Journal_of_Social_Issues@notes.cc.sunysb.edu) about your ideas for issues for JSI. Please check out the JSI website (http://www.spssi.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewpage&pageid=786) for recent updates. I want to thank Susan Dudley for her tremendous assistance.

Incoming Editorial Board

I am pleased to introduce the incoming editorial board of faculty members and graduate students who are already hard at work. I want to thank the SPSSI Graduate Student
Committee for soliciting applications for graduate student editors and nominating two excellent candidates.

Jennifer E. Graham  
The Pennsylvania State University, United States

Jacquelynne Eccles  
University of Michigan, United States

Nick Haslam  
University of Melbourne, Australia

Dawn Howerton  
Graduate Student, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, United States

Dina Karafantis  
New York Institute of Technology, United States

Melanie Killen  
University of Maryland, College Park, United States

Shana Levin  
Claremont McKenna College, United States

Rodolfo Mendoza-Denton  
University of California at Berkeley, United States

Allen M. Omoto  
Claremont Graduate University, United States

Jason Plaks  
University of Toronto, Canada

Jennifer Richeson  
Northwestern University, United States

Adam Rutland  
University of Kent at Canterbury, United Kingdom

Beth Shinn  
Vanderbilt University, United States

Colleen Varga  
Graduate Student, The George Washington University, United States

Maykel Verkuyten  
Utrecht University, The Netherlands

Issues in Development

The journal is an excellent shape thanks to Rick and his board. We have many high-quality, exciting issues in development that reflect the wide range of significant social issues of interest to JSI readers.

Latinos and Latino Immigrants in the U.S.
  – Carey S. Ryan & Juan F. Casas

The Changing Landscape of Intergroup Relations in South Africa
  – Gillian Finchilescu & Colin Tredoux

Immigrants and Hosts: Perceptions, Interactions, and Transformations
  – Kay Deaux, Victoria Esses, Richard Lalonde, & Rupert Brown

Social Stigma and Social Disadvantage
  – Manuela Barreto & Naomi Ellemers

The Reality of Contemporary Discrimination: The Consequences of Hidden Bias in Legal, Employment, and Health Care Contexts
  – Jason A. Nier & Samuel L. Gaertner

Scaling the Higher Education Pyramid: Research Addressing Academic and Career Success of Minorities and Women in Science and Engineering
  – Martin Chemers & Moin Syed

75 Years of Social Science for Social Action: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on SPSSI’s Legacy
  – Alexandra Rutherford, Frances Cherry, & Rhoda Unger

Social Issues and Policy Review

By Vicki Esses & Jack Dovidio  
SIPR Editors

Social Issues and Policy Review (SIPR), which publishes theoretical and empirical reviews of topics of relevance to social issues and public policy, is currently in its third year of operation. The journal is faring very well. The second annual volume appeared in December 2008, with articles on volunteering (Snyder & Omoto), the transition to parenthood (Simpson & Rholes), jury racial diversity (Sommers), the rights and responsibilities of gay and lesbian parents (Chamberlain, Miller, & Bornstein), promoting behavior that serves us all (Van Lange & Joireman), creating more effective multi-ethnic schools (Zirkel), and promoting reconciliation (Shnabel, Nadler, Canetti-Nisim, & Ullrich). We already have several exciting articles, such as one on psychological factors in terrorism and counterterrorism (Kruglanski & Fishman), slated to appear in the 2009 volume. All SPSSI members have online access to SIPR and can opt to receive a copy of SIPR annually as well.

We are receiving a breadth of articles for review, and the rate of submission is increasing. Nevertheless, we are always looking for new submissions. Our goal is to have each volume reflect the diversity of interests of the SPSSI membership and to identify emerging issues of both theoretical and practical interest. We thus want to maintain a steady stream of newsubmissions. Interested authors are encouraged to consult our model manuscript outline available at http://www.spssi.org under Publications, or to contact one of us directly: Vicki Esses (vesses@uwo.ca) or Jack Dovidio (john.dovidio@yale.edu).

Visit us at www.spssi.org
SPSSI’s Membership Database: A Great (but not perfect) Asset

Giant strides toward improving the scope and usability of the SPSSI membership database have been made over the years, so that today it is one of our most technologically sophisticated and useful tools.

When we initially converted to electronic storage of our membership records, we relied on a software system that was developed by a SPSSI staff member. Inevitably, it grew over the years to be too expensive and cumbersome for staff without specialized expertise to manage. That problem was corrected in 2007 when our data were transferred to a more functional system operated by an outside vendor. This increased our user options, but there were still some disadvantages in terms of data retrieval limitations and cost. So in 2008 we brought the database back in-house – but this time we’ve hosted it on a specialized commercial software platform that is fully documented and integrated with our website. It is user-friendly so that even non-technologically-oriented staff can use it to advantage. We have access to great tech support and a software vendor who is always working with his clients to improve the product.

The value of such a robust, centralized database is manifold. We now have the ability to document and access each member’s organizational history – whether they joined in 1959 or in 2009 – keeping detailed records on dues and donations, journal subscription preferences, service to SPSSI, research and policy interests, and affiliations with sister organizations. All this and more is accessible at the click of a mouse, allowing us to operate much more efficiently than in the past. In addition, our members can access much of the database (either through the membership directory on our website, or by working with our staff to run more complex queries), and this multiplies its value many times over.

Yet in spite of the enormous advantages that our current database confers, it is not perfect. For one thing, keeping a database of living, working, moving people up-to-date is a Sisyphean task. For another, each time data are migrated from one software platform to another (three times in the last three years), new errors can be introduced: data fields may be added or lost, incorrectly populated, or inadmissibly translated between systems. So, just as it is essential for a researcher to recognize and acknowledge the limitations of a given experimental design, it is also essential for users of the membership database to understand its limitations. For example:

**Missing data:** The SPSSI database includes scores of primary data fields for thousands of people. We rely on our members to provide the data to populate many of those fields. Sometimes they don’t give us complete information, and since the fields that one member omits don’t usually predict the fields that the next member will omit, the result can be an irregular patchwork of information.

**Duplicate data:** Neither software nor staff can reliably determine whether Mary Doe is the same person as Mary Jane Doe. Or that John Smith the graduate student and John Smith the Assistant Professor are one and the same SPSSI member. Or whether Bill Smith is really a lapsed member or is an obsolete duplicate of William Smith who faithfully pays his annual membership dues.

**Discrepant data:** Synchronizing data on those members who are affiliated with both SPSSI and APA is a special problem. In spite of concerted efforts to get APA and SPSSI Division 9 membership and Division 9 Fellows lists to match up, there are always discrepancies. For example, some people include an extra $2 to join Division 9 when they pay their APA dues, but never follow up with SPSSI at all. Conversely, some APA members join SPSSI, but never communicate that to APA. Or a member death might be reported to one organization but not the other. When information in the APA system is different from the information in the SPSSI system, it’s a coin toss to guess which one is correct.

In spite of such problems, the value of the database to SPSSI’s operations far outweighs the limitations. Because much of the data we’re trying to capture and preserve in the membership database are subject to regular change, a significant amount of staff time is spent on efforts to track down and correct errors – when emails bounce, or journals are undeliverable, or an APA membership report is at variance from ours.

And on those occasions when we know that our database is delivering something short of the accuracy we’d like, I take comfort in remembering a conversation I recently had with one of our vendors – a major high tech IT firm whose spam-protection service SPSSI subscribes to. Months after I had renewed our service online, I was still getting regular email reminders to renew. When their reminders escalated to phone calls warning me that our service had expired, I tried again – more than a little exasperated – to explain that we had, in fact, long-since renewed. Their response? “Oh, we’re so sorry for the mix-up! We just can’t seem to keep our database up to date!”

So SPSSI is not alone in the fight to make an inherently imperfect technology work better. But if every member who reads this column will take a few minutes to log on to www.spssi.org and update their member profile, we’ll be that much closer to our goal – at least until somebody moves!
New York SPSSI Activities Report

Fall 2008

By Harold Takooshian
SPSSI-New York Committee Chair

For fall 2008, the SPSSI New York group (SPSSI-NY) arranged 10 free gatherings, hosted by local schools – CUNY, Fordham, St. Francis – some in concert with other local activist groups.

September 8 120 participated in the Town Hall and book-signing by activist Somaly Mam of Cambodia, on “Speak truth to power: One woman’s fight against human trafficking,” hosted by Fordham Law School. Details: congress@fordham.edu

September 12 100 participated in the all-day conference with 20 presenters, “The interrogation and torture controversy: Crisis in psychology,” hosted by John Jay College. Details: torture@jjay.cuny.edu

September 18 130 visited the fifth annual mini-conference and reception on “International Psychology,” hosted by Fordham University, with 15 speakers in 3 workshops: (1) the United Nations, (2) publishing international work, (3) involving students in international activities. Details: takoosh@aol.com

September 25 40 joined the Human Factors Workshop with Ronald G. Shapiro of IBM, hosted by Fordham University. Details: rshapiro@us.ibm.com

September 27 Several SPSSI-NY historians documenting “the history of psychology and social issues in New York” addressed a conference marking the 75th anniversary of the Fordham psychology department. Historians: John D. Hogan, Florence L. Denmark, Mark E. Mattson, Wade E. Pickren, Robert W. Rieber, Steve Salbod, Harold Takooshian. Details: mattson@fordham.edu

October 6 50 participated in the 2008 World Habitat Day 2008 hosted by the United Nations and Fordham. Details: takoosh@aol.com

November 13 30 participated in the two workshops on Graduate Schools and Careers in Psychology, featuring 14 speakers, hosted by Fordham. Details: Bartel@fordham.edu

November 14 110 participated in the 20th Greater NY Conference on Behavioral Research, capped by a reception saluting 13 distinguished guests, hosted by Fordham. Details: gnyc@fordham.edu

November 19 150 participated in the 2nd annual Psychology Day at the United Nations, with 10 speakers, featuring keynote Herbert Kelman of Harvard. Details: fdenmark@pace.edu

December 5 70 joined the 8th pre-Holiday Healing Circle, featuring joyous interfaith activities just prior to the hectic holidays, hosted by Fordham. Details: kalayjian@aol.com

SPSSI-NY 2009 plans include a forum on:
- The Kitty Genovese Tragedy: 45 Years Later / March 12
- 37th Hunter Psychology Convention / April 4
- 12th Pace Psychology Conference / May 9
- 21st Greater New York Conference on Behavioral Research /Nov 6 at St. Francis College.

SPSSI-NY now has a web page at www.spssi.org/spssinychapter.

On November 14, some of the 110 participants at the 20th GNY Conference on Behavioral Research, hosted by the Fordham University Psychology Association.

The SPSSI-NY Planning Committee for Fall 2008: Christina Bartel/Fordham, Elaine Congress/Fordham, Joseph DeMeyer/SPSSI-UN, Florence Denmark/Pace, Julia Dobler/Fordham, Jason Greif/Fordham, Uwe Gielen/St. Francis, Ani Kalayjian/Fordham, Mark Mattson/Fordham, Susan Opotow/Fordham, John Jay, Ronald Shapiro/IBM, Jason Young/Hunter. Direct any questions or comments to SPSSI-NY Chairperson Harold Takooshian, takoosh@aol.com.
SPSSI UN Representative, the speakers policy debates. Chaired by Pete Walker, mental issue now in the foreground of UN Justice Issue,” focused on an environ-
mental health and psychological issues in the context of disasters, civil unrest, and complex emergencies. Recognizing that there will be millions of climate refugees by 2010, she described a number of recommendations regarding capacity building; research and evidence-based practices; communications; and protecting vulnerable groups by capitalizing on their resilience.

Mary O’Neill Berry, Ph.D., NGO Representative of the International Association of Applied Psychology, chaired the second panel session, “Poverty Reduction and Social Justice: The Role of Psychology.” Panelists included Anthony Lemieux, Ph.D., (Assistant Professor of Psychology, Purchase College, State University of New York), and Anthony Marsella, Ph.D. (Emeritus Professor of Psychology, University of Hawaii, Honolulu). Dr. Lemieux has studied applications of psychology across a wide range of topics, including terrorism, HIV prevention, and poverty. He described the problem of poverty, suggesting that it is not just an economic issue, but also an issue of prejudice and power. Dr. Marsella’s extensive work has focused on cultural and international psychology, psychopathology and peace. He offered a multi-dimensional picture of poverty, pointing to its complex context: geo-political and financial, socio-political, bio-psycho-social and moral.

“Psychological Perspectives on the Abuse of Power,” was the final panel of the day, chaired by Deanna Chitayat, Ph.D., NGO Representative, American Psychological Association. Panelists included Susan Opotow, Ph.D., 2008-09 President of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues; Stacey Sinclair, Ph.D., (Associate Professor of Psychology and African American Studies, Princeton University); and Rita Chi-Ying Chung, Ph.D., (Professor, Graduate School of Education and the Department of Psychology, George Mason University). Susan Opotow is a social and organizational psychologist. Her work examines the intersection of conflict, justice and identity as they give rise to moral exclusion. She spoke on the scope of justice and the effects of moral exclusion – seeing others as eligible targets of discrimination, exploitation, hate, or violence. As an example, she used the period following the Civil War in the United States as a prime instance of a time in which it was necessary to establish a culture of human rights. Dr. Sinclair’s research examines how participating in different interpersonal interactions shapes our self understanding and evaluations of others. She described her research on reducing implicit prejudice. Her findings include the conclusion that although people cannot consciously control their level of implicit prejudice, this form of prejudice can shift as a function of even fleeting interpersonal interactions. Rita Chi-Ying Chung’s research focuses on social justice and multiculturalism in the areas of psychosocial adjustment of refugees and immigrants, interethnic group relations and racial stereotypes, and trafficking of Asian girls. She spoke on the abuse of power involved in trafficking in Asia, and described how many children become trafficked out of economic necessity, to make a financial contribution to the family.

The reception following this event was clearly a time to network and reflect on the challenging topics presented. It was also a chance for a group photo of SPSSI members attending the event. 😊
Hello! It is my privilege to serve as the SPSSI James Marshall Public Policy Fellow at the APA Government Relations Office, and at SPSSI’s headquarters in Washington, DC. I am glad to introduce myself to you, and to inform you of my activities in this position to date. This is an extremely exciting opportunity for me at this time of transition in the U.S., where we find ourselves with a new Congress, a new President, and new opportunities for legislative advocacy.

My Background and Prior Research
Before starting my assignment as SPSSI Scholar in September 2008, I attended Washington State University where I completed my Ph.D. in social psychology in August 2008. Prior to starting my postgraduate work in the U.S., I had worked as an international business consultant for about eight years, based out of London. My dissertation is based on a field study on intergroup work contact and reconciliation between Hutu and Tutsi farmers in Rwanda, funded through a research fellowship from George Mason University. The opportunity to serve as SPSSI Fellow, however, was not the first occasion that brought me to Washington, DC. I was fortunate to work with APA Government Relations Office staff members from September 2007 to May 2008 as a graduate student intern, and hence already knew many of APA’s staff in Government Relations when I joined the team again this past fall in my new role as SPSSI Fellow.

My Public Policy Advocacy Activities at APA
At APA, where I work three days per week, I have spent my first quarter as SPSSI Fellow transitioning into my new role there. In this capacity, I have engaged in a variety of advocacy activities, including:

Hate Crimes Legislation - As part of APA’s ongoing effort in support of enhanced hate crimes legislation, I drafted a factsheet on The Hate Crimes Against the Homeless Statistics Act of 2007 (H.R. 2216). Hate crimes are violent acts that are rooted at least partially in negative bias towards members of particular groups, e.g. due to their race or religion. Although there is currently comparatively little statistical information in the public domain on hate crimes against the homeless, persons who are homeless may be an additional group at risk of being targets of hate crimes, according to emerging evidence. The Hate Crimes Against the Homeless Statistics Act of 2007 would require the Department of Justice to collect statistical evidence on hate crimes against the homeless, and in this way amend the Hate Crime Statistics Act. The transition to the 111th Congress marks an opportunity for further legislative advocacy efforts by supporting the re-introduction of this bill.

Legislation Pertaining to Immigration - Another public policy advocacy activity I engaged in at APA was to draft a factsheet on the Secure and Safe Detention and Asylum Act (S. 3114). Since 2005, several congressionally mandated initiatives sought to study, and subsequently improve, the due process protections for asylum seekers and detained immigrants, with little success, which lead to the drafting of the Secure and Safe Detention and Asylum Act. This legislative bill would provide safeguards against faulty asylum procedures, as well as ameliorate the detention conditions for asylum seekers and immigrants, including expanded access to physical and mental health care.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns - As 2008 drew to a close, I was assigned to handle the Government Relations portfolio pertaining to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender concerns at APA. In this role, I have been engaged in planning out congressional activities and collaborations with interested coalitions in Washington, DC, and beyond, for the upcoming Congress. As part of this effort, I attended the annual conference on LGBT Health issues in Washington DC in November, 2008, organized by the National Coalition for LGBT Health, which provided fertile groundwork for my current efforts on drafting science-based briefing sheets to support legislative initiatives in the 111th Congress to eliminate health disparities for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons.

My Public Policy Activities at SPSSI
For two days each week, I work at SPSSI, and have enjoyed collaborating with SPSSI’s newly recruited Policy Coordinator Chris Woodside to further expand SPSSI’s public policy initiatives under the guidance of SPSSI’s Executive Director, Susan Dudley. As part of this effort, I have created informational materials on SPSSI’s public policy activities, and have engaged in several activities designed to elicit further SPSSI members’ involvement in public policy advocacy, such as several calls for experts on research on the social cost of the current economic recession, on education equity, and on energy and conservation. Thank you to all SPSSI members who have come forward in response to these requests, and it is our hope that we can continue to press forward with congressional activities in this domain in the upcoming Congress. In addition, I also worked on the SPSSI membership survey, conducted between June 2006 and January 2007, re-formatted these data where necessary, and made the survey available to interested SPSSI members. It will be my pleasure to continue collaborating with interested parties at SPSSI who would like to use these data in furthering our understanding of SPSSI’s membership.

. . . continued on page 18
The main decision-making and policy-setting body of the American Psychological Association is its Council of Representatives (COR). This body is made up of representatives from the different divisions of APA and also from state/provincial/territorial psychological associations (SPTAs) as well as members of the APA Board of Directors. It is a body of over 165 individuals and we currently serve as SPSSI/Division 9’s two members of COR. There is a complicated process for obtaining seats on COR. Each fall, members of APA are sent apportionment ballots on which they can assign a total of 10 votes to divisions and associations. Seats on COR for divisions and SPTAs are allocated based on the total number of apportionment votes received.

This past year, we strongly encouraged APA members to allocate their apportionment votes to SPSSI/Division 9, especially because our apportionment total had been declining. In short, we were getting close to losing our second COR seat. We are happy to report success – SPSSI/Division 9 had a big jump up in apportionment votes received this year! In 2007, a total of 1309 votes were cast for SPSSI/Division 9 whereas the 2008 total (which determines COR seats for 2010) was 1576. In addition, in 2007, 40 people allocated all 10 of their apportionment votes to SPSSI/Division 9; in 2008, that number went up 50% to 60 people. This is clearly good news for SPSSI and we think it reflects member recognition not only of the importance of dual interests in science and social policy, but of SPSSI’s role as the “conscience of APA.” That is, SPSSI has played an active role, sometimes adversarial sometimes cooperative, in pushing the APA to adopt policies in line with the science and social commitment of SPSSI members. The recent debates over psychologist involvement in torture and interrogation are a case in point (see related article, page 19).

So, the news is good and SPSSI/Division 9’s second COR seat is safe through 2010. Although we have a long way to go before our third COR seat is in reach, we will continue to push for more apportionment votes in the fall. In addition, the system currently used for translating apportionment votes into COR seats is under review and may be changed. We do not yet know what these changes will be and what they might mean for SPSSI/Division 9. In the meantime, though, we are proud to represent SPSSI/Division 9 and we thank you for your support, commitment, and confidence.

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**SPSSI’s Lewin Award**

The Lewin Committee, consisting of Faye Crosby (chair), Stephen Wright, and Karen Wyche, is currently making a determination about who will be the awardee for 2010. The decision will be announced in 2009 at the APA convention. Although the Lewin Memorial Award recipient has not been and is not currently selected through a nomination process, Central Office is always eager to learn your thoughts about whom you might like to see, in 2010 or some later year, as the awardee.
There has been a great deal of professional and public debate over the role of psychologists in interrogations conducted at U.S. detention centers for foreign detainees (e.g., the United States Naval Base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba). Last fall, using a rarely used provision in the American Psychological Association bylaws, members of APA successfully petitioned to have a resolution on this topic placed directly before members for vote. Normally, resolutions and APA policy statements are vetted through a series of governance committees and boards in an attempt to insure that all stakeholders have input in the process; in this case, the resolution went directly to the full membership for vote.

In September 2008, this resolution was approved by a vote of 8,792 to 6,157. SPSSI was a consistent and vocal supporter of the resolution, including being one of only two APA divisions to publicly state its support and encourage its members to vote for it. The resolution states that “psychologists may not work in settings where persons are held outside of, or in isolation of, either international law (e.g., the UN Convention Against Torture and the Geneva Conventions) or the US Constitution (where appropriate), unless they are working directly for the persons being detained or for an independent third party working to protect human rights.”

While the statement itself is strong, the implementation of the petition resolution was potentially confusing and thorny, especially because questions continued to be asked about different parts of the resolution and also because it had not traveled the usual APA governance path. Thus, then-APA President Alan E. Kazdin announced the formation of an Advisory Group to work on the implementation of the resolution. I was one of the people appointed to this Advisory Group, I think largely because of SPSSI’s advocacy and influence on this issue (see http://www.spssi.org/Interrogation_Resolution).

The work of the Advisory Group was intense and compressed. The group included the drafters of the petition resolution, two members of the APA Board of Directors, and several members of the APA Council of Representatives (COR); our charge was to clarify the adopted policy statement and to suggest possible implementation activities, all by the end of 2008. We had a face-to-face meeting in November at which we hashed out what we thought needed to be clarified, discussed a wide range of ideas for possible implementation of the resolution, identified documents and source material that could be utilized for interpreting and implementing the resolution, and developed a plan of action for completing our report. It was challenging to balance the concerns of a diverse set of constituencies in this work. Moreover, members of the Advisory Group came to our task with different goals and priorities and with a range of APA governance experience. In the end, we developed what we thought was a solid report that both clarified the intent and scope of the resolution and also offered several recommendations for its implementation. What was particularly impressive was that we were able to submit this report as a consensus document; all members of the Advisory Group endorsed its contents.

At its recent (February, 2009) meeting in Washington, DC, the APA’s main decision-making body, COR, voted to receive this report by an overwhelming margin. Some of the most important elements of this vote (which actually included several motions) included stipulating that the petition resolution is now “complete” making it current APA policy, and naming the policy, “Psychologists and Unlawful Detention Settings with a Focus on National Security.” In addition, COR forwarded our report to APA Central Office and relevant boards and committees for their review and appropriate action, and directed APA Central Office to include in its regular reports description of the steps taken to implement the policy. This outcome was close to as much as the Advisory Group had realistically hoped for.

The process has been slow, involved work within and outside the APA, and also required vigilance by SPSSI and other organizations. And, of course, there is more to accomplish. However, and for now, this policy in combination with previously approved APA resolutions against torture provide psychologists and especially the APA with a set of interlocking resolutions and policy statements that speak to the protection of human rights in unlawful detention settings. Furthermore, there is guidance for when and how psychologists should conduct themselves in these settings. SPSSI has played a crucial role in helping develop these policies and will continue to monitor and be involved in their implementation and in this set of issues.
SPSSI is an international organization. Our members come from all over the world and speak a common language, science. SPSSI members are joined by a desire to develop social scientific findings that can be used to improve our world. While specific regions of the world face different challenges, the underlying dynamics that perpetuate inequality, conflict and other social pathologies have similar roots and the research SPSSI members conduct examine underlying causes and applied solutions that are broadly relevant everywhere in the world. The goal of the Internationalization Committee is to further broaden SPSSI’s international visibility, participation, and membership.

Despite SPSSI’s international flavor, SPSSI is sometimes seen as a US centric organization. Yes, the SPSSI office is in Washington, DC and the office was moved there with an explicit goal of influencing US policy. Influencing US policy, however, is just one of SPSSI’s goals. SPSSI also has a long standing and active UN program. SPSSI also does a great deal more than attempt to influence policy. Pick up any JSI and you will see a broad array of published articles from scholars from all over the world. Many issues deal with topics specifically outside the US [e.g., Ethnic prejudice and discrimination in Europe, Volume 64(2), 2008], including issues more pertinent to third world countries [e.g. International perspectives on homelessness in developed nations, Volume 63(3), 2007], and most issues include contributions from authors from around the world. It is difficult to identify an issue without a strong world view. ASAP and SIPR are similarly diverse in views and contributions. A review of our grants and awards programs further reflects SPSSI’s international flavor. Good science knows no boundaries, and we believe that in fact the international contributions help SPSSI identify what is important and where we should be headed as an organization.

What is SPSSI doing to change perceptions that it is US centric? We are working now to highlight the fact that all our activities include international scholars and are often led by our international members. We are working with the web development team to change SPSSI’s web pages to further highlight our international contributions. We believe strongly that SPSSI should be a professional organization for scholars from around the world and encourage our international members to nominate their colleagues for SPSSI’s awards. This will help to highlight SPSSI as a home for scholars from across the globe, united by a common concern to promote social equality and justice.

New Administrative Assistant Joins SPSSI Staff

We are happy to introduce our newest Central Office staff member, Alex Ingrams, who started work as SPSSI Administrative Assistant in February. Alex graduated from the University of Cambridge with a BA in Anthropology and Middle Eastern Studies. He was previously a researcher in a public affairs agency in London, working for mental health charities, government agencies and membership organizations. In September 2008 he moved to Washington, DC to work as an organizer for Barack Obama’s presidential campaign.

Alex was born in Oxford, raised in Southampton, and, as he says, “destined to cross the pond to work for the scientific community in the USA.” When you call the SPSSI office, Alex is likely to be your first point of contact. Please join us in welcoming him!
By Richard Moreland

Robert B. Zajonc, an eminent social psychologist whose work influenced many SPSSI members, died recently of pancreatic cancer at his home near Stanford University. Bob was 85. He is survived by his wife, Hazel Markus, and their daughter, Krysia. Bob also had three sons (Peter, Michael, Joseph) from an earlier marriage to Donna Benson, and through those three children, several grandchildren.

Bob spent most of his academic career at the University of Michigan, where he first earned a doctoral degree in Psychology and then joined that department’s faculty. Bob’s time at Michigan was spent mostly at the University’s Institute for Social Research, where he worked in the Research Center for Group Dynamics (RCGD). Bob served as the director of RCGD from 1983 to 1988.

I first met Bob in the summer of 1973, when I began my own graduate training. Bob was my graduate advisor at Michigan from start to finish. Although my impact on Bob was small, his impact on me was large. In fact, it was almost impossible for anyone to spend time with Bob without experiencing significant changes as a result. I was thus happy for this chance to say a few words about Bob, from a SPSSI perspective.

Although Bob belonged to SPSSI, he was not an especially active member. Much of Bob’s research was basic, rather than applied, and he had little patience for the kinds of administrative activities that active membership in a large organization like SPSSI often entails. And yet I think Bob had an impact on SPSSI, not least because of his research. After all, SPSSI is a scientific organization, as well as a humanitarian one – we want to help solve the world’s social problems, but good science is needed to accomplish that goal. It would be difficult to think of any psychologist who has produced more and better science than did Bob Zajonc. Bob is associated with the identification and clarification of several important social phenomena, including social facilitation/inhibition, the effects of stimulus exposure on attitude formation and change, the many ways in which a family’s structure can influence its children’s intellectual development, and the interplay between cognition and affect. Many of us would be proud to have accomplished as much as Bob did in just one of these research areas; to accomplish this repeatedly, in distinct areas of research, is difficult to imagine. And though Bob’s research seldom focused on social issues, it is not difficult to see linkages between his research and efforts by others to help solve such issues. Consider, for example, the key role that exposure effects play in the contact hypothesis, which underlies many attempts to improve intergroup relations.

I also believe that Bob lived a very SPSSI kind of life. That is, he embodied many of the attitudes and behaviors that our organization endorses. Bob was a true “citizen of the world.” He was always knowledgeable about, and cared deeply about, what was going on in other countries, and he always did whatever he could, whenever he could, to improve things in that regard. I suspect that this had something to do with Bob’s early life – he was born in Poland, but was forced to leave there with his parents in 1939, in response to the Nazi invasion. Bob’s parents were both killed during that trip and Bob himself was seriously injured. During the next few years, Bob was in and out of prison camps in Germany and France, until he finally escaped to England, where he worked as a translator for American forces during the European campaign. When the war ended, Bob worked for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in Paris and, then moved to the United States.

During that remarkable journey, from Poland to the United States, Bob received considerable help from others, and he paid those favors “forward” many times over as years went by, helping other people from several parts of the world come to the United States and adjust to life here. In fact, during my time at Michigan, I frequently saw Bob welcome such persons into his home (often for long periods), loan them money, assist them in applying for fellowships and scholarships, introduce them to influential people, and so on. Analogous efforts occurred at a more formal level. For example, Bob worked in various ways to bring social psychology to academic institutions in Eastern Europe. In the early 1970s, he helped to organize a special conference in Hungary at which social psychologists from both sides of the Iron Curtain met to discuss issues of mutual interest and plan possible research collaborations. And in the 1980s, Bob was instrumental in helping the Institute for Social Research in Ann Arbor to set up a sister institution (the Center for Social Research) at the University of Warsaw.

Finally, as I mentioned earlier, no one who met Bob was left unchanged, and in that way, SPSSI may also have been affected. Bob was a colleague, during his early years at Michigan, of many people who were very active in SPSSI, and I believe that some of their work for the organization was shaped by Bob, at least indirectly. Bob also trained many graduate students over the years, some of whom went on to play leadership roles in SPSSI (e.g., Beth Shinn),

In Memoriam  Bob Zajonc

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and Bob probably affected their work for the organization as well, perhaps in subtle ways.

Well, I could go on, but it’s time to finish this and move forward, as best I can. I miss Bob already, a problem that I’m sure will only get worse as years go by. I wish more of you had been blessed with the opportunity to meet Bob and maybe even work with him. Bob was one of a kind – there are few other people out there like him and certainly no one who can replace him. Bob’s death is a terrible loss to social psychology and to SPSSI.

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This question reflected his criticism of the Israeli occupation but also his curiosity to hear “my story,” to know my motivations, ways of thinking and feelings. This was Dan, always reflecting, asking for a story and himself contributing something he just had seen or thought or came to learn from others, invigorating his interlocutor’s awareness of a person of unusual powers and contradictions, demanding but warm, desiring to express himself but also to listen to the other, his blue eyes penetrating as he watched you speak, noticing your reactions and always opening a space for a personal story that led to a philosophical or psychological or ethical conclusion. I miss him. He was my friend in the Department of Behavioral Sciences. I could approach him with a question and leave him with the feeling that I had come to understand the issue more clearly and in a broader, existential and relational context.

His greatest concern was for individuals, groups and nations who went through trauma. Suffering from the traumas of war himself he dedicated his adult life as a scholar and activist to the study of conflict and peace. First as a therapist in Kibbutz Revivim (where he lived for 25 years) and later as a scholar based at Ben Gurion University, he studied the emotional and experiential narratives of second and third generation of Holocaust survivors to understand how trauma is passed and circulates among the children of trauma survivors, how psychological “walls” (defenses) are created by trauma and continue to affect our social and national reality. When no one in Israel (or Europe or America) could imagine the possibility of working with Nazi perpetrators, Dan brought together in 1988 (until 1992) children of German Nazi perpetrators to reflect on their personal and collective histories as victims and victimizers. His innovative method of storytelling freed them to share their fears, anger, shame, memories and silences. This courageous, controversial and pioneering work led to another revolutionary workshop that brought together in 1992 children of Holocaust survivors and Nazi perpetrators to work together. Through the method “To Reflect and Trust” (TRT) they shared their hostilities in order to develop inco- ceivable but necessary trust relations.

When Dan showed in our department the BBC documentary of this workshop (filmed on Time Watch, October 1993), everyone remained silent and astounded. He was very disappointed by our reaction, our difficulty to overcome barriers and prejudices toward “the other.” Only years later I realized the depth of his understanding and his theoretical and political message: that reconciliation must start from the very place which we find the hardest to forgive. A turning point for him came in 1998 when the group, in his words, “was willing to bring in practitioners from current conflicts, so Palestinians and Israelis and people from Northern Ireland and from South Africa, could see if what we did is relevant for them.” Sensitive as he was, he came to understand “how much of the problems that I see in daily life in Israel are actually related to unresolved issues from the Holocaust.” And activist as he was, this insight led to the fruitful collaboration with Dr. Sami Adwan of Bethlehem University. Together they co-founded and co-directed PRIME (Peace Research Institute in the Middle East) at Talitha Kumi (near Beit Jala) an organization devoted to grassroots Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation and peacebuilding. This collaboration also led to the Israeli-Palestinian Shared History Project – the teaching of Middle East (two version) history (Palestinian and Jewish) in Israeli and Palestinian classrooms – which was based on dual narratives created by teachers brought together from both sides. This model which has been translated into a number of languages and used in countries in Europe is still ongoing. Once again like many of his subversive and visionary works, the project was conceived much before Israelis and Palestinians could digest it and see its impact and necessity.

Dan Bar-On was a realist intellectual and activist; he continuously reexamined his work, and time and again asked himself if dialogue groups can force psychological and social change, or are they only fulfilling his own self needs? But he was also a humanist and a dreamer, and he never ceased hoping that our better understanding of our defenses and psychological limitations will create a better world for generations to come. His legacy must be preserved in our memory.
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We welcome submissions of announcements, articles, and letters that are relevant to members of the Society as space permits. Announcements of new books by SPSSI members are limited to 50 words; announcements of conferences, awards, meetings, etc. are limited to 100 words. For more information, or to submit copy, contact the co-editors.

Advertising rates in FORWARD are $50 for quarter page, $100 for half page, and $200 for full page, if space available. Electronic files should be sent to the editor.

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