SPSSI at 72: Vibrant, Timely, and Effective

It is a pleasure to write you as SPSSI’s 2008-2009 President. I took office at a time when SPSSI is in excellent shape. We are approaching our 75th anniversary as a vital organization that keeps the hopes of its founders alive by addressing a broad range of contemporary social issues with rigor and passion.

Recent Events

During the summer I had the pleasure of meeting new members and seeing colleagues and friends at two SPSSI convention programs. The first, in June, was SPSSI’s 7th Biennial Convention on “Disparities Across the Globe” at beautiful Roosevelt University in Chicago. Ram Mahalingam and Kim Case, convention program Co-chairs, and Pam Reid and Megan Kozak, local convention Co-chairs, did an outstanding job. The second, in August, was SPSSI’s excellent program at the APA convention in Boston, chaired by Ray Paloutzian. Talking with members throughout both meetings, I was impressed by the depth of their connections to SPSSI expressed in their concerns, hopes, and creative ideas. At a recent meeting of SPSSI’s United Nations Committee in New York, a SPSSI-UN representative said, “I am always thinking about SPSSI.” This striking expression of engagement resonated with me and seems true for many members because SPSSI is an important part of their professional identity.

Through our conferences and publications – three journals and two book series – SPSSI enlivens the field by generating theory and empirical findings with policy relevance to a broad array of social issues. Our membership is international and includes senior scholars who have influenced our thinking, mid-career scholars, early career scholars, and students who bring fresh ideas and approaches to social issues. This broad range of members bodes well for SPSSI’s continuing influence in psychology and ability to bring the practicality of theory and research to bear on social issues that are local, national, and global.

Upcoming Events

Looking ahead to the coming year, SPSSI Council will hold its Midwinter Meeting at John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York at the end of January. Council will meet next in early August in Toronto just before the APA meeting (August 6-9, 2009). In alternate years, SPSSI has a stand-alone conference and a program at APA meetings. In 2009, SPSSI’s business and awards meeting, presidential address, and Kurt Lewin address will occur in Toronto. At APA meetings, SPSSI traditionally co-sponsors sessions with kindred divisions, and our theme, “Partnering on Social Issues for Social Change,” celebrates members’ collaborative work. Our call invites symposia, posters, workshops, and discussion sessions on partnering, broadly defined, as well as on SPSSI’s traditional themes to showcase the range of social issues and methodological approaches of SPSSI members’ work and its applicability locally, nationally, and... continued on page 2

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international. SPSSI’s 2009 Program Chair, York University Psychology Professor Michaela Hynie, and I encourage you to submit proposals for SPSSI’s program (http://www.apa.org/convention09/).

Because the 2009 APA meeting convenes in a multi-ethnic city that addresses contemporary social issues in distinctive and interesting ways, Michaela Hynie and I are spearheading a pre-conference visit on August 5 to an economically challenged Toronto community. This half-day visit, co-sponsored with 10 other APA divisions, will include presentations by community groups and psychologists on their collaborative work in this community. At the APA convention, several co-sponsored sessions will follow up on the community visit. More details will follow as our plans take shape. Please plan to join us in Toronto! It would be great to see you.

Looking further ahead, SPSSI will celebrate its 75th Anniversary in 2011. SPSSI History Task Force Chair Alexandra Rutherford is planning exciting initiatives on SPSSI’s webpage, in publications, and at our 2011 annual meeting to celebrate this milestone.

Member Engagement
To conclude my first newsletter column as SPSSI’s President, it is an honor to be at the helm of an organization that remains concerned with social justice and is a vital, creative force in psychology today. I am grateful to the many members whose dedication to SPSSI has resulted in an organization that is structurally and fiscally sound and intellectually lively. These members include recent SPSSI Presidents Beth Shinn, Irene Frieze, and Dan Perlman, current Secretary-Treasurer Sally Shumaker, the current Council, and the many committee members and chairs who serve SPSSI so ably. Member engagement is essential to SPSSI’s vitality, and there are many ways to be involved. The Editors of SPSSI’s publications – the Journal of Social Issues, ASAP, and our authored and edited book series – urge you to contact them with your ideas for issues, books, and chapters (see http://www.spssi.org for contact information). With this issue, SPSSI returns to its familiar PDF format, Richard Wiener ends an excellent three-year run as Editor, and incoming newsletter Co-editors Naomi Hall and Jonathan Iuzzini are ready to step into this important role.

Contact Us
Our Central Office, led by Executive Director Susan Dudley, is now fully staffed. Administrative Coordinator Anila Balkissoon and Administrative Assistant Garrett Ducker can answer your membership, committee, and other questions. Policy Coordinator Christopher Woodside recently joined our staff to foster SPSSI’s involvement in policy and advocacy work. I encourage you to be in touch with me to discuss your ideas for SPSSI and to become involved (sopotow@jjay.cuny.edu).
I have served happily as the editor of the Forward for the last three years, focusing my efforts on gathering policy-related articles and articles on SPSSI activities outside of North America. Erin Richter, my graduate assistant, and I have enjoyed editing the newsletter and in that way assisting our organization in meeting its goals and objectives. My term as Editor is now over, and SPSSI President Susan Opotow has appointed Naomi Hall and Jon Iuzzini as the new Editors. In fact, Naomi and Jon have assisted in putting together this, our final edition of the Forward. Erin and I plan to work closely with the new editors on the Winter 2009 newsletter.

During my term, we published a number of articles emphasizing SPSSI’s policy role in North America and other areas of SPSSI activity around the globe. We also made great strides in making the Forward an electronic newsletter. I am sure that Naomi and Jon will continue in the long tradition of our organization’s newsletter and publish an interesting set of editions. I look forward to seeing how the newsletter develops and watching the direction that it takes under the new editors. I wish them success at as their terms begin.

I want to thank the executive committees that have contributed to the newsletters that I have edited, and I especially wish to thank Erin Richter for all her work on the Forward.

Message from the Incoming Co-Editors

We are both very excited at this opportunity to serve as co-editors of the Forward. Over the next three years we hope to continue the tradition of highlighting activities and providing information of interest to SPSSI members nationally and internationally. In keeping with the commitment to social justice and inclusiveness that SPSSI is known for, we plan to introduce some new features. One of these features will shine a spotlight on research conducted by faculty from underrepresented groups, as well as faculty at Minority-Serving Institutions. This new feature will continue the trend to celebrate the diverse characteristics and interests of SPSSI members that Rich Weiner spoke of in the Winter 2008 issue. We thank Rich for his work over the past three years as the Editor of the Forward, and we are excited to continue and build on the great strides the newsletter has made under his guidance.

Please do not hesitate to contact either of us with ideas for new features in the newsletter. We hope that you enjoy reading the Forward and that the information we provide helps you to maximize your membership in this great organization. We look forward to working with you!

Naomi Hall and Jonathan Iuzzini
Co-Editors, 2008-2011

2009 APA Conference

Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Program at the 2009 American Psychological Association Convention
Toronto, August 6-9, 2009

Theme:
“Partnering on Social Issues for Social Change”

SPSSI welcomes submissions for symposia, posters, workshops, and discussion sessions on this year’s convention theme, as well as on the broad concerns of the division. Submissions will be anonymously reviewed.

This year’s theme focuses on partnering on research for social change. You are invited to define partnering in diverse ways between researchers and communities, across (sub)disciplines, across cultures, and with activists, and practitioners. We therefore encourage panels comprising a range of partners, such as academics from other disciplines (e.g., geography, architecture), community members, activists, and policy makers.

Deadline:
December 1, 2008 directly to the APA website

Please note that, according to APA guidelines, only APA members may be chairpersons of sessions.

For submission information, see http://www.apa.org/convention09/
Public Policy Report

It is my sincere pleasure to introduce myself to you as the new Policy Coordinator for the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues.

I greet you with warmest regards in this, my first Policy Coordinator’s Report. It is with deep pride and great excitement that I have begun the task of working with the Policy Committee and SPSSI leadership to develop a comprehensive, long-term policy agenda for the organization designed to facilitate our goals, and I look forward to remaining in close contact with you through Forward and other communications as projects take shape.

For a brief overview of my previous professional experience in the field, I have a background in non-profit policy work, government relations, and grassroots advocacy, as well as several years of Capitol Hill experience as a congressional aide. Most important, I share SPSSI members’ strong personal passion for social justice and equality, and have a deep desire to see those principles upheld throughout the world. My full biography can be found in the staff section of SPSSI’s website.

When I joined the organization roughly three months ago, Congress was out of session and a brand new SPSSI policy agenda needed to be formulated. During my first few weeks on the job, significant time and energy were devoted to developing a recommended plan of action that would enable SPSSI to pursue our most central policy and advocacy objectives – now and in the wake of the November elections.

Moving forward, as we develop and begin to implement our strategies, I continue to place a high premium on communication. To most effectively execute our policy agenda, I will strategize closely with SPSSI Executive Director Susan Dudley, the Policy and UN Committees, and our new James Marshall Fellow, Jutta Tobias. I also strongly encourage you, SPSSI’s members, to contact me concerning matters of issue expertise, to express interest in becoming more involved with policy and advocacy work, and to contribute to other social justice objectives. Regular interaction of this nature will help ensure that SPSSI’s policy goals remain consistent with members’ expectations.

In our policy and advocacy recommendations for SPSSI thus far, we have developed proposals and strategies focused on the organization’s primary goal of using sound science to develop sound policy, while working to expand SPSSI’s profile in Washington, DC, and to create worthwhile advocacy opportunities for members. Among our first objectives will be the identification of several key congressional issue areas in which SPSSI has the potential to contribute most effectively. Once consensus has been reached on these specific policy priorities, we will conduct new policy and advocacy activities aimed at furthering SPSSI’s role in the community as the definitive organizational resource for scientific data to either buttress or oppose social justice-related legislation.

To briefly cite a few examples of how these new strategies will work: We’ve recently introduced a new policy-based information communication tool available through the SPSSI website. Members will begin receiving advocacy action alerts with options to participate in various grassroots issue campaigns; and they will learn more about the coalition work that SPSSI plans to undertake with our friends and partners in other psychological and cause-oriented non-profit associations throughout the field.

Other policy and advocacy efforts that we hope to conduct include work with authors and editors of SPSSI journals and other scientific works aimed at transforming our academically oriented publications into shorter, more user-friendly pieces for distribution on Capitol Hill and throughout the policy advocacy community. We will also promote these scientific findings in meetings with Members of Congress and other interested parties and through public speaking opportunities for SPSSI contributors. We will work to refine SPSSI’s database of issue specialists to provide the organization with as up-to-date a resource as possible of members who may be called upon for specific expertise.

Other policy agenda goals include expanding content on the SPSSI website to include new fact sheets and policy statements, a celebration of the organization’s policy-related historical achievements, promotion the members’ work, and timely press statements. Many of these strategies represent new approaches to SPSSI’s involvement in policy and advocacy work. Some tactics may yield immediate results, while others may take significantly longer to fully shape and refine. Overall, however, it is the goal of all of those involved in implementing this initiative to institute a well-rounded, respected policy program of which SPSSI and its members can be very proud. I am honored to have a role in the process, and I greatly look forward to addressing you again in the near future regarding progress toward our goal.
Perhaps you have heard by now that the next Editor of JSI has been chosen. Sheri Levy’s four-year term begins in 2010. On June 1, 2008, Sheri formally assumed the position of Editor-elect, meaning that she has taken over managing editorship of all issues in progress that will not appear in print during my term as Editor and that she is receiving all new proposals. The time required to develop an issue of JSI – from preliminary proposal, to formal proposal, to draft manuscripts, to final product – varies greatly but is rarely less than 18 months. The 18-month overlap in editors’ terms ensures that issues of the journal will be ready for publication by the time Sheri and her editorial board assume responsibility for the contents.

The final five issues that will appear in print during my term are coming together nicely. Three are officially in press, which means you can contact the issue editors now for preprints of articles. Here are the titles and editors of those issues:

2008, No. 4: Young People’s Perspectives on the Rights of the Child: Implications for Theory, Research, and Practice
   Martin D. Ruck & Stacey S. Horn

2009, No. 1: The Landscape of Multiracial Experiences
   Diana T. Sanchez & Margaret J. Shih

2009, No. 2: Intragroup Conflict and Cooperation
   Alexander W. Chizhik, Robert K. Shelly, & Lisa Troyer

Although not yet in press, the final two issues of 2009 have been approved and are in the final stages of editing. Iyer and van Zomeren are putting the final touches on their edited collection, “The Social and Psychological Dynamics of Collective Action: From Theory and Research to Policy and Practice.” Knight and Herzog are completing work on their issue, “New Perspectives on Human-Animal Interactions: Theory, Policy, and Research.”

The current issue of JSI, “Democracy and Disenfranchisement,” is timely and illustrates well the value and relevance of SPSSI’s publications. We are indebted to the issue editor, Kevin Lanning, and his contributors for keeping development of the issue on a schedule that ensured its publication just prior to the presidential election.
New York SPSSI Activities Report
Fall 2008

By Harold Takooshian
SPSSI-New York Committee Chair

In fall 2008, the SPSSI New York group slated another active season of nine activities for members and their guests, following on the heels of seven past SPSSI-NY activities in spring 2008.

September 8 120 people at a town hall and book-signing by activist Somaly Mam of Cambodia heard “Speak truth to power: One woman’s fight against human trafficking,” at Fordham Law School.

September 12 A conference on “The interrogation and torture controversy: Crisis in psychology” was held at John Jay College.


September 27 Several historians in the SPSSI-NY effort to document “the history of psychology and social issues in New York” spoke at a conference marking the 75th anniversary of the Fordham University Psychology Department. They included John D. Hogan, Florence L. Denmark, Mark E. Mattson, Wade E. Pickren, Robert W. Rieber, Steve Salbod, and Harold Takooshian.

October 6 World Habitat Day 2008 featured two forums and a luncheon at the United Nations and Fordham University.

November 14 The 20th Greater NY Conference on Behavioral Research offers a full day of activities for student and faculty researchers at Fordham University, capped by a reception featuring many SPSSI leaders and others.

November 20 The 2nd annual Psychology Day at the United Nations offers a full day of free activities for students and professionals featuring Herbert Kelman of Harvard.

December 5 The 8th pre-Holiday Healing Circle at Fordham features joyous interfaith activities just prior to the hectic holidays. For students, a fall symposium on “Careers in Applied Psychology.”

The SPSSI website now includes a page on the history and activities of SPSSI-NY, at http://www.spssi.org/spssinychapter.

For spring 2009 in New York City, plans are currently being finalized for six diverse activities, including presentations at the 37th Hunter Psychology Convention in April and the 12th Pace Psychology Conference in May. Direct any questions or comments to SPSSI-NY Chairperson Harold Takooshian, takoosh@aol.com.

THE INTERROGATION AND TORTURE CONTROVERSY: CRISIS IN PSYCHOLOGY

The Center on Terrorism at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York, co-sponsored – along with SPSSI, five NY State Psychological Association divisions, NY and NJ Chapters of the Association of Black Psychologists, the Psychology Department of John Jay College, and York College – a day-long conference in New York City on September 12 that focused on the participation of psychologists in detainee interrogations. A distinguished group of scholars and informed observers – including SPSSI members Susan Opotow, Bernice Lott, and Mark Costanzo(pictured) – discussed such important issues as: What should happen when practice standards of civilian professions conflict with priorities of the military? and What constitutes ethical research and consultation on topics related to national security?
UN and International Issues Committee:

Participation of American Psychologists In The 2009 Durban Review Conference

Corann Okorodudu, Professor of Psychology and Neil Altman, Psychologist in Independent Practice, NY
SPSSI UN/NGO Representatives

In December 2006, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to convene a conference in 2009 to review progress on the Declaration and Programme of Action resulting from the 2001 UN World Conference Against Racism (WCAR), held in Durban, South Africa. The Durban Review Conference will be held in Geneva from April 20 to 24, 2009, with the following theme: UNITED AGAINST RACISM–DIGNITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.

Input to the Durban Review is being facilitated by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which sent questionnaires to Member States, intergovernmental bodies and UN agencies, and civil society and nongovernmental organizations. The success of the conference in calling for enhanced government commitment to combating and eliminating racism will depend on the level of participation of all sectors of the international community. The mobilization of civil society and nongovernmental organizations, like SPSSI and APA, is especially important.

APA’s Representation at the 2001 UN World Conference Against Racism (WCAR)
The American Psychological Association, having just gained status as an UN-accredited nongovernmental organization, sent a delegation to the UN World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, in August 2001. The APA Board of Directors approved a Resolution on Racism and Racial Discrimination: A Policy Statement in Support of the Goals of the 2001 World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance, which was supported by SPSSI and other APA divisions and groups of psychologists. The APA delegation’s interventions at the conference were guided by this resolution. Through their educational and advocacy activities, the delegation, in collaboration with a Health Caucus, succeeded in getting governments to include specific references to “mental health,” “mental health care,” “health,” and “health care” in several paragraphs of the WCAR Outcome Document. The United States and Israel walked out of that conference, alleging an anti-Semitic bias to the proceedings, although some claimed that the United States actually did not want to confront the issue of reparations for the transatlantic slave trade.

When the APA delegation sought to present its final report on the conference to the APA Council of Representatives in 2004, there were objections from some members of council, based on their contention that the APA should have walked out along with the US delegation. A heated controversy threatened to erupt as other council members felt that the Delegation was representing APA, a civil society organization, and that APA’s interest in bringing psychological knowledge about racism to the conference superseded the U.S. government’s reasons for walking out.

APA President Diane Halpern referred the matter to a task force, which in the end presented a report with recommendations that satisfied all parties and was accepted by the Council of Representatives in 2005. The task force deliberations led to a report that built on the WCAR as follows: (1) After careful examination, the task force concluded that neither the Delegation’s Report nor the WCAR Outcome Document contained specific anti-Semitic or anti-Jewish content; (2) the Council received the Report of the APA Delegation and the WCAR Outcome Document, annotated to reflect contributions of the Delegation and to respond to concerns raised about two areas of the WCAR text; (3) the Council approved the recommendation to develop resolutions against anti-Semitism, religious discrimination, and all other forms of discrimination; and (4) the Council called upon all APA governance groups to take into consideration the Task Force Report and the APA Delegation’s Report in developing and implementing actions relevant to their work to eliminate racism and other forms of intolerance. These documents are posted on the APA website (www.apa.org).

SPSSI’s and APA’s Participation in the Durban Review Conference

Although the APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology has recommended to the board of directors that APA be represented at the 2009 Durban Review Conference, the decision for APA to send a delegation has not yet been made. However, both SPSSI and APA have prepared reports of their activities since 2001 toward implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The SPSSI report identifies the following areas of its support for the WCAR goals: (1) Its leadership of activities of the NGO Sub-Committee for the Elimination of Racism, the NGO Committee on Mental Health Working Group on Refugees, and the NGO Campus Peace Projects; (2) its core functions consisting of publications and conferences; and (3) its Person-to-Person Delegation to South Africa in 2004. SPSSI’s report to the Durban Review Conference can be found on the SPSSI website: www.spssi.org.

Both the SPSSI Report, which has already been submitted to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the APA Report to the Durban Review Conference (to be submitted shortly) end with some lessons learned from psychological research about racism, racial discrimination, and xenophobia and related intolerance, offered to be integrated into the Durban Review Conference Document. However, these lessons will have very limited influence on the Durban Review Conference proceedings or the Outcome Document of the conference without the physical presence of psychologists at the pre-conference and conference proceedings. As is the case with all UN conferences, having an impact requires on-site collaboration with other NGOs in advocacy with governments to include psychological and mental health perspectives, which are urgently needed within the global UN framework of planning to address racism and related issues.
There was never any doubt that the Dalmas A. Taylor Memorial Fellowship Program was exactly the opportunity I’d been searching for over the past four years – at least in my mind. But SPSSI certainly may have had cause to question my interest in the program! Why was a student in clinical neuropsychology applying for this fellowship, and how did she learn about SPSSI?

On the surface, the link between neuropsychology, social issues, and public policy might seem tenuous. I struggled myself initially to bridge the connections, and then to create opportunities throughout my graduate training that would allow me to blend all three components into my work. The reality is that I will likely have to continue to create these opportunities throughout my career, but not because the distinctions among neuropsychology, social issues, and public policy are so far removed from each other. No, it seems that the greater challenge is common to many subfields in psychological science – how can we encourage our disciplines to truly value scientist advocacy and activism? Indeed, clinical neuropsychologists may be particularly well-suited to help create empirically supported public policies that consider the biopsychosocial contributions to important social issues and critical societal problems.

As this year’s Dalmas A. Taylor Fellow, I had the privilege of experiencing first-hand how exactly a clinical neuropsychologist might carve a career within the realm of science-policy. To be sure, there was no shortage of work to be done! One of my first tasks was to create an “Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia” fact sheet to help educate Members of Congress and their staffs about the importance of developing resources for individuals and families who have been affected by these devastating neurodegenerative disorders. I also developed fact sheets on “Traumatic Brain Injuries,” which have been called the “signature wounds” of the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition, I attended a number of congressional hearings on important scientific and social issues, including the potential suicide-inducing effects of a smoking cessation drug and the problem of sexual assault in the military.

During my time on Capitol Hill, I also worked on a number of issues that stretched even my own conception of exactly how much a neuropsychologist might contribute. For example, I had the opportunity to meet leaders from the Coalition for the Homeless, a grassroots organization dedicated to advocacy for homeless men, women, and children. The meeting focused on the large and growing number of hate crimes committed against the homeless. But throughout the meeting I could not help but think about how so many homeless individuals suffer from chronic alcohol and substance use problems – problems associated with long-term cognitive deficits, including dementia. Clearly, one of the best ways to eliminate hate crimes against the homeless is to solve the homelessness crisis itself. But it seems so clear to me that any policies and programs designed to tackle homelessness must also consider strategies for working with individuals with brain-damage. This, of course, is a clinical neuropsychologist’s forte!

Throughout the summer, I also tackled issues for which my clinical training was complemented by scientific strengths. For example, I created fact sheets on “Limited English Proficiency and Mental Health Services” to advocate for increased funding for linguistically and culturally competent mental health services. I also drafted a letter to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to articulate APA’s concern regarding the practice of shackling pregnant women in ICE detention centers during labor and delivery. A second letter to ICE encouraged them to consider the unique mental health needs of women detainees, who frequently suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, have a history of trauma, and are at increased risk for additional abuse while in detention.

The summer has now ended, but my time in Washington, DC is far from over. I guess one could say I’ve caught “Potomac fever,” and I’m hoping to spread it like wildfire to colleagues in clinical neuropsychology and all subfields of psychology. I’ve found a home in SPSSI, and a family of scientists who share my determination to use research to inform and implement policy and improve society. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime as the Dalmas A. Taylor Fellow this summer. I’ll meet you back on the Hill!
Routine is elusive at SPSSI’s Central Office. Because the SPSSI calendar is dominated by our biennial convention in even-numbered years, the tasks that kept us busy in our work on behalf of the SPSSI membership this spring and summer have been quite different from those we were concentrating on at the same time last year. With the many programmatic and administrative tasks and activities that require attention every week, month, or year, even a two-year calendar involves some degree of repetition over time. Nevertheless, variety seems always to trump routine around here, and that’s almost always a good thing.

For example, even with our small permanent administrative staff – consisting until very recently of just Anila Balkissoon (who most of our members know as SPSSI’s Administrative Coordinator) and me – we are fortunate to have many opportunities to host and work with new people, and this keeps the office an exciting place to be. The changing cast of interesting SPSSI folks includes fellows, interns, and scholars who cycle into and out of our office “community.” Most recently, these have included Carrie Langner, the 2007-2008 James Marshall Fellow, who has now moved on to a faculty position at UC Santa Cruz, and Rachel Casas, the 2008 Dalmas Taylor Intern, who is starting a new phase of her research in Puerto Rico. Most recently, we’ve welcomed the 2008-2009 Marshall Fellow, Jutta Tobias, who was in Rwanda this summer collecting data for her just-finished dissertation.

We’ve also been able to expand our full-time SPSSI staff in 2008 in order to meet SPSSI’s administrative and programmatic goals more efficiently. Our two new staff members are:

Garrett Ducker, a graduate of the University of Maryland (where his major was social psychology!) and a Washington area native, joined the staff in April as our full-time Administrative Assistant. Garrett came to SPSSI from the American College of Cardiologists, a very large professional association that is functionally similar to SPSSI in many ways. The experience he gained in his three years there has already proven beneficial to SPSSI, and he adds new capacity to the services we can provide to SPSSI’s members and leaders. For those of you who didn’t get a chance to meet Garrett at the SPSSI Convention in Chicago this summer, his is probably the voice you’ll hear first when you call the Central Office.

Christopher Woodside, another DC area native, received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Miami University. He worked for a couple of years for Congressman Chris Van Hollen of Maryland’s 8th District initially on the congressman’s election campaign, and then as an aide. Christopher’s experience also includes public relations work and, most recently, a position as Director of Government Relations & Outreach at MENC, the National Association for Music Education. At MENC, Christopher was responsible for the development and implementation of a comprehensive advocacy and public policy agenda designed to promote the cause of music education in America’s schools. With his strong passion for social justice, he joins the SPSSI staff in the newly created Policy Coordinator position, and looks forward to applying his “insider’s” knowledge of policy processes to helping SPSSI’s members bring good science into public policy.

There is no question that with these new staff members on board to support SPSSI’s work and help keep our programs strong and growing, we’ll be seeing a lot of creative activity in the Central Office – keeping that tension between routine and variety always exciting!
Call for 2009 Fellow Nominations

Margaret Bull Kovera
Fellows Committee Chairperson

The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues invites nominations of Division 9 members for potential Fellow status in the American Psychological Association or in SPSSI independent of APA. Nominations may be made by any current SPSSI member or Fellow. Self-nominations are welcome.

The SPSSI Fellows Committee consists of Margaret Bull Kovera (Chair), Susan Sorenson, and Daryl Wout.

Deadlines

The deadline for receipt of nominations is December 1, 2008. Please e-mail all nominations to Margaret Bull Kovera (mko-vera@jjay.cuny.edu). Include the nominee’s name, professional affiliation, and contact information (including e-mail address), and a brief statement concerning the nominee’s eligibility, based on the requirements listed below. In addition, please indicate the nominee’s current APA membership status (i.e., member, Fellow, or nonmember).

The deadline for receipt of all application materials (nominee’s materials and endorser letters) is January 2, 2009.

Please send all supporting materials both electronically (via e-mail to mko-vera@jjay.cuny.edu) and in paper form (via post/express delivery). Three hard copies of the application materials should be sent to:

Prof. Margaret Bull Kovera
Department of Psychology
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
City University of New York
445 W. 59th St.
New York, NY 10019 USA
[Telephone: 212-484-1112]

Eligibility

APA requires potential Fellows to meet all of the following requirements:

- Member of APA for at least one year.
- Five or more years of acceptable post-doctoral experience.
- Currently engaged in advancement of psychology.
- Evidence of unusual and outstanding contributions or performance in the field of Psychology. (The APA Fellows Committee has usually interpreted “unusual and outstanding contributions” to mean those that have had demonstrable national impact.)

SPSSI requires potential Fellows to meet the following requirements:

- Member of SPSSI/Division 9 for at least 5 years.
- Evidence of outstanding contributions or performance in at least one of the following areas:
  - Application of the methods of psychology and social sciences to research on socially relevant issues.
  - Dissemination (including teaching) of relevant research information bearing on social issues.
  - Application of research results to the resolution of social issues.
  - Outstanding contribution to the resolution of social issues at the action level.
  - Major contributions to SPSSI as an organization.

Based on these requirements, there are three different ways to become a Fellow of SPSSI:

1. SPSSI members who belong to APA but are not currently APA Fellows can be considered for Fellow status if they meet both the APA and SPSSI requirements listed above.
2. SPSSI members who are already APA Fellows through another division can be considered for SPSSI Fellow status if they meet the SPSSI requirements listed above.
3. SPSSI members who do not belong to APA can be considered for SPSSI Fellow status if they meet the SPSSI requirements listed above.

For More Information

Detailed information about the nomination and application procedures is available at:

www.spssi.org/fellows
The Society for General Psychology – Division 1 of APA

Call for Nominations for Awards for Year 2009

Deadline: February 15, 2009

The Society for General Psychology, Division One of the American Psychological Association is conducting its Year 2009 awards competition, including: the William James Book Award for a recent book that serves to integrate material across psychological subfields or to provide coherence to the diverse subject matter of psychology; the Ernest R. Hilgard Award for a Career Contribution to General Psychology; the George A. Miller Award for an Outstanding Recent Article on General Psychology; the Student Poster Award; and the Arthur W. Staats Lecture for Unifying Psychology, which is an American Psychological Foundation award managed by the Society for General Psychology.

All nominations and supporting materials for each award must be received on or before February 15, 2009.

There are no restrictions on nominees for these awards, and self-nominations as well as nominations by others are encouraged.

The Society for General Psychology encourages the integration of knowledge across the subfields of psychology and the incorporation of contributions from other disciplines. The Society is looking for creative synthesis, the building of novel conceptual approaches, and a reach for new, integrated wholes. A match between the goals of the Society and the nominated work or person will be an important evaluation criterion. Consequently, for all of these awards, the focus is on the quality of the contribution and the linkages made between diverse fields of psychological theory and research.

Winners of the William James Book Award, the Ernest R. Hilgard Award, and the George A. Miller Award will be announced at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association the year of submission. They will be expected to give an invited presentation at the subsequent APA convention and to provide a copy of the award presentation for inclusion in the newsletter of the Society (The General Psychologist). They will receive a certificate and a cash prize of $1,000 to help defray travel expenses for that convention.

For the William James Book Award, nominations materials should include: a) three copies of the book (dated post-2004 and available in print; b) the vita of the author(s); and c) a one-page statement that explains the strengths of the submission as an integrative work and how it meets criteria established by the Society. Specific criteria can be found on the Society’s website (www.apa.org/divisions/div1/awards.html). Textbooks, analytic reviews, biographies, and examples of applications are generally discouraged. Nomination letters and supporting materials should be sent to John D. Hogan, PhD, Psychology Department, St. John’s University, Jamaica, NY 11439.

For the Ernest R. Hilgard Award, nominations packets should include the candidate’s vita along with a detailed statement indicating why the nominee is a worthy candidate for the award and supporting letters from others who endorse the nomination. Nomination letters and supporting materials should be sent to Thomas Bouchard, PhD., Psychology, N249 Elliott Hall, University of Minnesota, 75 E. River Road, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

For the George A. Miller Award, nominations packets should include four copies of: a) the article being considered (which can be of any length but must be in print and have a post-2004 publication date); b) the curriculum vitae of the author(s); and c) a statement detailing the strength of the candidate’s article as an outstanding contribution to general psychology. Nomination letters and supporting materials should be sent to Donald Dewsbury, WJBA Award chair, Department of Psychology, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-2250.

The 2010 Arthur W. Staats Lecture for Unifying Psychology is to be announced in 2009 and given at APA’s 2010 Annual convention. Nominations materials should include the nominee’s curriculum vitae along with a detailed statement indicating why the nominee is a worthy candidate for the award, including evidence that the nominee would give a good lecture. These materials should be sent to Harold Takooshian, PhD, Psychology-916, Fordham University, New York NY 10023.

Candidates for the Student Poster Award should submit their poster abstract to the Division One Posters upon call for APA Convention Programs.

General comments should be addressed to Dr. MaryLou Cheal, Awards Coordinator, 127 E. Loma Vista Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282.
The Mershon Center for International Security Studies at The Ohio State University is seeking applicants for one of several possible positions open in the area of peace studies:

1. **Endowed Chair in Peace Studies.** The Mershon Center is seeking applications for its Endowed Chair in Peace Studies. This is a senior tenured position as a full professor. The purpose of the chair is to promote research and education on the foundations of peace and strategies for conflict resolution. The chair will be expected to design a broad program in peace studies that complements other activities at the Mershon Center. We are open as to the background and discipline of the candidate. Scholars at the Mershon Center come from a variety of departments, including political science, history, sociology, psychology, law, and philosophy. A distinguished record of publication and teaching is expected. We are also interested in candidates who have experience dealing with violent conflict and its aftermath in either a governmental or nongovernmental context. The chair will be expected to carry a half-time teaching load, devoting the other half of his or her time to activities at the Mershon Center, which will include both research and practical pursuits related to peace studies.

2. **Visiting Instructors in Peace and Conflict Resolution.** The Mershon Center also welcomes applications for visiting instructors in peace and conflict resolution. A PhD is required by August 2009, and preference will be given to those with a PhD and teaching experience. Visiting instructors will teach one course each quarter, or three courses a year. One course may be taught twice. We are open as to the discipline of the candidates, but they must demonstrate the ability to teach courses in peace and conflict resolution in a recognized discipline or in Ohio State’s interdisciplinary International Studies Program. Visiting instructors will be expected to participate in the activities of the Mershon Center.

3. **Visiting Scholar in Peace Studies.** The Mershon Center also welcomes applications for visiting scholars to do research in peace studies and participate in the activities of the Mershon Center. They may be in residence at the center for anywhere from one to nine months. Visiting scholars may be senior practitioners with experience negotiating for a government agency or nongovernmental organization, or they may be established academics with a solid record of research.

The Mershon Center is not likely to fill all three positions in peace studies; the exact positions we decide to fill are contingent on funding and on the applications we receive. The search will remain open until the Endowed Chair in Peace Studies is filled.

The Mershon Center for International Security Studies advances the understanding of national security in a global context by fostering interdisciplinary faculty and student research in three areas of focus: the use of force and diplomacy; the ideas, identities, and decisional processes that affect security; and the institutions that manage violent conflict. For more information, please see the center’s website at [http://mershoncenter.osu.edu](http://mershoncenter.osu.edu).

Applicants for any of the three positions should submit a letter of interest, current curriculum vitae or resume, and the names of three references to:

**Peace Studies Search**  
Mershon Center for International Security Studies  
1501 Neil Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43201-2602  
Attn: Melanie Mann

The Ohio State University is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action employer. Women, minorities, veterans, and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply.
Joint Committee Named To Revise Standards For Educational and Psychological Testing

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WASHINGTON – A committee of researchers and experts in educational and psychological testing has been appointed to revise the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing (the Standards) – long considered to be the definitive source for information concerning sound test development and use.

Designed to establish criteria for appropriate development, use, and interpretation of tests, the Standards have been widely cited by states, federal agencies, private organizations, legislative bodies, and even the U.S. Supreme Court. They are based on the premise that effective testing and assessment requires test developers and users to be knowledgeable about validity, reliability, and other measurement issues.

Co-chairs of the Joint Committee for the Revision of the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing (Joint Committee) are Barbara Plake, PhD, distinguished professor emerita at the University of Nebraska, and Lauress Wise, PhD, principal scientist at the Human Resources Research Organization, Monterey, CA. They, along with 13 additional members, are charged with revising and updating the Standards to reflect current research and best practices.

“The Standards are more important than ever given the current demand for educational accountability, the increase of testing in the workplace, and the popularity of computer-based testing,” according to Dr. Wise. “We believe that we have assembled the right committee to achieve the goal of bringing the Standards up to date,” said Dr. Plake.

Revision of the standards will continue a long collaboration among the American Educational Research Association, the American Psychological Association, and the National Council on Measurement in Education. The three associations have been responsible for developing, publishing, selling, and revising the standards since 1966, when the first edition was published. The Standards were revised in 1974, 1985, and 1999. The popularity of the Standards remains strong to this day, with nearly one million copies sold since 1985.

The Joint Committee plans to hold its initial meeting in early 2009. Staff support for the committee will be provided by the American Psychological Association; questions about the committee and its work should be addressed to Marianne Ernesto at mernesto@apa.org.

Members of the Joint Committee for the Revision of the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing are:

Barbara Plake, PhD, Co-Chair
Distinguished Professor Emeritus
University of Nebraska

Lauress (Laurie) Wise, PhD, Co-Chair
Human Resources Research Organization

Fritz Drasgow, PhD
Educational Testing Service

Antonio Puente, PhD
RAND Corp.

Laura Hamilton, PhD
University of North Carolina-Wilmington

Jo Ida Hansen, PhD
University of Minnesota

Paul Sackett, PhD
University of Minnesota

Joan Herman, EdD
University of California-Los Angeles

Nancy Tippins, PhD
Valtera Corp.

Michael Kane, PhD
National Conference of Bar Examiners

Walter (Denny) Way, PhD
Pearson

Michael Kolen, PhD
University of Iowa

Frank C. Worrell, PhD
University of California-Berkeley

The American Psychological Association (APA), in Washington, DC, is the largest scientific and professional organization representing psychology in the United States and is the world’s largest association of psychologists. APA’s membership includes more than 148,000 researchers, educators, clinicians, consultants, and students. Through its divisions in 54 subfields of psychology and affiliations with 60 state, territorial, and Canadian provincial associations, APA works to advance psychology as a science, as a profession, and as a means of promoting health, education, and human welfare.

The American Educational Research Association (AERA) is the national interdisciplinary research association for approximately 26,000 scholars who undertake research in education. Founded in 1916, AERA aims to advance knowledge about education, to encourage scholarly inquiry related to education, and to promote the use of research to improve education and serve the public good.

The National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME) is a professional organization for individuals involved in assessment, evaluation, testing, and other aspects of educational measurement. Members are involved in the construction and use of standardized tests; new forms of assessment, including performance-based assessment; program design; and program evaluation.

NCME members include university faculty; test developers; state and federal testing and research directors; professional evaluators; testing specialists in business, industry, education, community programs, and other professions; licensure, certification, and credentialing professionals; graduate students from educational, psychological, and other measurement programs; and others involved in testing issues and practices.
SPSSI Membership Application

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APA Member:  □ Yes  □ No
APS Member:  □ Yes  □ No

Membership Categories
Affiliate Member: This status is available to those who do not hold a postgraduate degree related to the interests of the Society or are not enrolled in such a degree program. Affiliate members do not have voting rights in the Society’s elections.
Undergraduate Student Member: This status is available to those who are enrolled in an undergraduate degree program in a field related to the interests of the Society. Undergraduate student members have voting rights.
Graduate Student Member: This status is available to those who are enrolled in a postgraduate degree program in a field related to the interests of the Society. Graduate student members have voting rights.
Full Member: This status is available to those who hold a postgraduate degree or have attained competence in a field related to the central interests of the Society. Full members have voting rights.
Sustaining Member: This status is available to those who hold a postgraduate degree or have attained competence in a field related to the central interests of the Society. A one-time fee of $1,500 provides exemption from member dues for the duration of membership. Lifetime members have voting rights.

Membership Benefits
Members of SPSSI receive a subscription to the Journal of Social Issues, SPSSI’s electronic journal Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy (ASAP), Forward, and other mailings.

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Gift memberships are a great way to bring in new members. If you know people who would be interested in SPSSI, give them gift memberships. Once they are introduced to SPSSI, they may continue and become active members. This is a great investment in SPSSI’s future.

Students and qualified, interested people in other countries (particularly developing countries, and countries where the exchange rate makes subscriptions prohibitive) especially appreciate gift memberships. Each gift membership is $10. Five memberships given at one time is $40.
Applications are also available on the Web: www.spssi.org

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