As is the case with many psychology organizations, SPSSI membership is aging. The leadership of SPSSI is concerned about this. We now have a Student Committee and a Young Scholars Committee to make sure these voices are heard at Council and to help us recruit new members. But this is something we all need to work on. I want to encourage everyone to help us think about how to bring more students and early professionals into SPSSI. Many of us joined because a senior faculty member encouraged us to do so. We need to actively continue this tradition!

The best way to bring new people into SPSSI is to give a gift membership. The cost of a one-year SPSSI gift membership is just $10 (or $40 for five purchased at the same time). To enter your gift subscriptions online today, go to SPSSI’s website at http://www.spssi.org. Click on the Membership tab and then the link to Gift Memberships. If you have any questions or difficulties with this site, call the SPSSI Central Office, 202-675-6956, or e-mail spssi@spssi.org.

Why should SPSSI be of interest to our younger colleagues? First, we are doing very interesting things. We encourage study of social issues through a number of awards and grant programs. Many of these are targeted to students and junior scholars, including our Applied Social Issues Internships, which provide short-term funding for students or beginning post-docs who work in a policy-related organization. In a similar vein, our Grants-in-Aid program provides funds to students to do social issues research projects. The Claro Mayo Grants support masters and pre-dissertation social issues research. In addition to these research programs, we give awards for accomplishments to students and professionals early in their careers. Such awards give national recognition to scholars interested in applied social issues. They include the Michele Alexander Early Career Award for Scholarship and Service, the Louise Kidder Early Career Award for Social Science Research, and our Social Issues Dissertation Award.

Our flagship journal, the Journal of Social Issues, has been publishing continuously since 1945. JSI is well regarded, and is one of the most widely cited journals on social issues. Our Impact Factor varies, but in recent years has been as high as many of the major journals in social psychology. In addition, we have been publishing the Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy (ASAP) for six years. This year, we will begin publishing a new review journal called Social Issues and Policy Review. Two new book series are planned. We also publish this very interesting newsletter.

Every other year, SPSSI sponsors a research conference. Our 2006 conference in Long Beach, California attracted many students who presented their own research and interacted with more established professionals. There was special programming at the conference for students and beginning professionals. Our 2008 conference will be in Chicago, and will offer an equally exciting program. In addition to our own biannual conference, SPSSI sponsors programming each year at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association.

...continued on page 2
Consider a Gift Membership . . .

from front page

SPSSI also offers special funding to help students attend these meetings.

As an organization, SPSSI is actively working to make a difference in the larger world as well as in psychology. We do this through our United Nations Committee. (SPSSI has official NGO status at the United Nations and is often asked to comment on various UN initiatives.) Two of our paid positions train early professionals in policy work. SPSSI’s Marshall Scholar is a Ph.D.-level scholar who is hired to work full time for one to two years on applying social science research to policy. In addition, the Dalmas Taylor Minority Summer Fellowship provides the opportunity for a graduate student to work on policy issues in Washington, DC for one summer.

Furthermore, membership dues are on a sliding scale. For students, the cost is only $25 per year. With membership, students and other members receive all publications. Being a member grants eligibility to apply for SPSSI travel assistance to conferences, for our various grant programs, and for SPSSI awards. It also includes access to our special student newsletter called the Rookie. Students and early professionals can network with others through the SPSSI committees that organize these groups.

I would appreciate hearing from you about these ideas and other ways we can attract our younger colleagues. Contact me at frieze@pitt.edu.

This edition of Forward includes a full description of the SPSSI program at APA in San Francisco in August, as well as a detailed overview of that program by Rhoda Unger, the SPSSI program chair for the conference. SPSSI is supporting a special program at the APA meeting, a mini-convention on ethical and professional dilemmas associated with psychologists’ involvement in interrogations in foreign detention camps for “enemy combatants.” The newsletter includes some detailed discussion of the issue of psychologists assisting with interrogations of individuals detained at U.S. centers overseas (“Update on Interrogations and the American Psychological Association” by Neil Altman). Along these lines, there is a summary of a SPSSI-sponsored moratorium submitted to APA Council regarding psychologists’ roles in these interrogation processes. This newsletter includes the introduction of Carrie Langer as the James Marshall Scholar and a report describing her activities in behalf of SPSSI so far.

The Forward contains the regular features (SPSSI officer columns, the Rookie, and society announcements), as well as a report on United Nations actions commemorating the 200th anniversary of the end of the international slave trade. I hope that you enjoy the newsletter and take notice of the calls for papers and participation for upcoming conferences. Please send any comments or suggestions to either Rich Wiener (rwiener2@unl.edu) or my graduate assistant for the newsletter, Erin Richter (erichte1@bigred.unl.edu).
am now into my ninth month as your new Secretary/Treasurer and trying hard to follow in the footsteps of Dan Perlman – a challenging task! Fortunately for me, Dan is still available to guide me. In the first few months of my tenure as Secretary/Treasurer, we made several changes within the Central Office that were discussed in earlier newsletters. Briefly, during my tenure, a great deal of time was spent in getting our Central Office cleaned up and organized, updating various files and CO systems, changing and updating our membership process, initiating an audit during major staffing changes, and updating our computers.

We are fortunate that in the fall we were able to recruit an outstanding Administrative Director, Susan Dudley, and that Anila Balkissoon – who joined us in January, 2006 – was able to help maintain the operations of the CO during staffing transitions and remains with SPSSI in a critical role. With respect to the audit, we are close to final “sign-off,” and although we’ve had to address some systems and tracking-related concerns, I can report that SPSSI continues to be a financially sound organization serving a broad range of activities that are central to our mission. In my next column, I will provide more details on our finances, as the audit will be finalized by then and we will have more data on the current year’s budget and projections for the year to come.

Given our recent reorganization and systems updates, SPSSI’s Finance and Executive Committees decided it was time to initiate a strategic planning process. We’ve now been in Washington, DC for five years and can begin to assess the degree to which this move has met expectations in terms of our policy outreach. In addition, we purchased property in DC – where our Central Office is housed – and we can now begin to reflect on the merits of this purchase from an investment perspective. As a first step in this review, members of the Finance and Executive Committees have agreed to attend an intensive one-and-a-half day working meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina this June. Our goals are to review detailed financial reports - past, present, and anticipated future – and past SPSSI Council minutes and membership surveys to determine what elements exist of our previous strategic plans. We’ll summarize these for Council and our members in order to move forward on strategic planning and begin to match our plans with our finances.

The anticipated outcome from this meeting will be a detailed and informative report to be distributed to the full Council prior to their August meeting so that we can maximize the value of that time. Our broader goal is to create an evolving document that will go to the full membership for consideration and response, with town meetings at the SPSSI 2008 Conference where we will continue conversations on the state of SPSSI and the ways in which we want to continue to be a strong organization, impacting the science and policies related to issues central to our mission. Our hope is that a vibrant strategic plan will result from this process and that it will be kept alive by frequent evaluations, reconsiderations, and “tweaking” to make certain our actions as a governing body remain consistent with the priorities of our membership and our mission. Look to future columns for updates on the process and opportunities to provide input.

Report from the Central Office:

**Standing Out from the Crowd**

Susan Dudley, Ph.D

SPSSI Administrative Director

I recently ran across a report on the United States nonprofit sector published by the National Council of Nonprofit Associations. I learned from this report, which is based on data from 2003 (the most recent available), that SPSSI is one of nearly 1.4 million organizations in the United States that have been granted 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit tax status by the IRS. This designation means, among other things, that an organization is exempt from paying federal income tax, can accept tax-deductible contributions from individuals and businesses, and must operate “exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, or educational purposes” and in service to the common good.

I was curious to discover more about where SPSSI fits into this surprisingly large group of organizations known collectively as the nonprofit sector.

The diversity of organizational missions among nonprofits is vast, but many are foundations and religious congregations. Taking those out of the mix still leaves us in the company of 837,027 nonprofits with a wide array of other purposes. Of those, about two-thirds are small in size and many, like SPSSI, are volunteer-led. The smallest of these – those with yearly gross receipts under $25,000 – are not required to file an annual IRS Form 990 income statement. That still leaves 288,150 nonprofits that, like SPSSI, exceeded that income threshold in 2003. This group, known as “reporters” because they do file annual 990s, collectively claimed total assets of $1.76 trillion and total expenditures of $945 billion!

Digging a little deeper into the report, I confirmed that SPSSI occupies a space closer to the edges than to the center of the distribution of reporting nonprofits in many characteristics. For example, the majority are providers of direct human services like health and mental...
Update on the Journal of Social Issues
By Rick H. Hoyle

The 2007 volume of JSI is coming together nicely. The first issue, edited by Charles Vlek and Linda Steg, is now in print. The second issue, edited by Joseph de Rivera and Darío Paez, is nearing completion. Look for this issue around the third week of May. Final edits are in progress for the much anticipated issue on homelessness, edited by Paul Toro. Expect this issue, the third of 2007, around the third week of August. In addition to the information provided below about the status of JSI issues, you can find information about issues at earlier stages of development, as well as contact information for issue editors, at http://www.spssi.org/jsi_newiss.html.

Status of JSI Issues
In Press Issues Scheduled for Publication in 2007
No. 2: Emotional Climates, Human Security, and Cultures of Peace
  Joseph de Rivera & Darío Paez
No. 3: International Perspectives on Homelessness in Developed Nations, Paul A. Toro

Issues in Development
• Intergenerational Relations: Theory, Research, and Policy
  Toni C. Antonucci, James S. Jackson & Simon Biggs
• Intragroup Conflict and Cooperation
  Alexander W. Chizhik, Robert K. Shelly, & Lisa Troyer
• New Perspectives on Human-Animal Interactions: Theory, Policy, and Research
  Sarah Knight & Harold A. Herzog
• International Perspectives on Political Socialization and Gender
  Hans Peter Kuhn, Angela Ittel, Connie Flanagan, & Lonnie Sherrod
• Unexpected Pathways through Education
  Stephen C. Peck, Leon Feinstein, & Jacquelynne S. Eccles
• Young People’s Perspectives on the Rights of the Child: Implications for Theory, Research, and Practice
  Martin D. Ruck & Stacey S. Horn
• The Landscape of Multiracial Experiences
  Diana T. Sanchez & Margaret J. Shih
• Ethnic Prejudice and Discrimination in Europe
  Andreas Zick, Thomas F. Pettigrew, & Ulrich Wagner

Consider editing or co-editing an issue of JSI yourself. Detailed information about proposing an issue can be found at http://www.spssi.org/jsi_guide.html. Please contact me (rhoyle@duke.edu) with your ideas for issues of JSI that you or someone else might edit.

Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy
By Geoffrey Maruyama
ASAP Editor

The last few months have been busy ones for Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy. Already this year, ASAP has received 20 unsolicited papers plus a number of papers for a point-counterpoint on psychologists’ involvement in interrogations. Two papers (one by Oskamp, the other by Levenson, Brannon, Fortney, & Baker) are available in volume 7, along with a number of point-counterpoint papers. The debate on interrogation involvement dominates volume 7 so far. The primary paper, by Costanzo, Gerrity, & Lykes, is a modification of the position paper that those authors developed for SPSSI and that SPSSI Council endorsed. Rounding out this edition are six other papers, plus an editor’s foreword to the point-counterpoint. The other papers are a combination of rejoinders, endorsements, and extensions of the original papers. Together they represent a wide range of perspectives about the presence and roles of psychologists in interrogations. Some are nuanced but generally agree with Costanzo, et al. Others disagree, and still others endorse and extend the original papers. Four of the six papers are currently available at the ASAP site, and the rest should be available soon. The articles are currently ordered according to the finish dates. Once they all are available, I would encourage readers to start with Costanzo, et al., then look at our editor’s foreword (Maruyama & Peterson), and finally sample the various other papers (Behnke & Koocher; Hubbard; Lott; Olson & Soldz; Suedfeld; Zimbardo). I hope that the papers help stimulate discussion of this complex issue.

Peggy Stockdale, the ASAP Book Review Editor, has a large number of books out for review, so by the end of the year we should have a number of reviews as part of volume 7.

Finally, turnaround of papers has, in general, been adequate but in a few instances has been much slower than it should be because I have had some reviewers who apparently do not read their email. For example, just this week, six months after sending out a review request and after three follow ups, I got back a one-sentence reply: “I’m sorry, but I do not remember agreeing to do this review.” So, in that case, the review probably will take eight months, far slower than I would like. ASAP is always looking for more good reviewers and self-nominations will be taken. Just send them to me at geoff@umn.edu.
The APA Council of Representatives (COR) met in Washington, DC in February 2007. The following are highlights from the meeting that will be of interest to SPSSI members.

Reports Presented to Council:

- **Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Report** – This report identifies under-utilization and under-representation statistics for women and minorities of color at the APA Central Office. At the end of 2006, the APA workforce was 66.61 percent female and 44.41 percent minorities of color. The latter figure represents a 2 percent increase over 2005, and there is no current evidence of under-utilization or representation.

- **Remarks by President Sharon Brehm** – President Brehm introduced her initiatives: (a) integrative health care for an aging population; (b) math and science education; and (c) the relationship between IRBs and psychological science. She also outlined what she regards as pressing challenges facing APA: (a) increasing membership; (b) improving APA’s website; (c) maintaining publication outlets; and (d) securing prescription privileges for psychologists in all 50 states.

- **Briefing by CEO Norman Anderson** – CEO Anderson focused on two issues: (a) a process for developing a five-year strategic plan that will be presented to COR in August 2007 for a vote; and (b) the results of a pilot survey on diversity. Over 66 percent of responders agreed that APA does an excellent job of welcoming members from diverse backgrounds, although early career psychologists were more apt to disagree.

- **An Ethics Committee Report** – Olivia Moorehead-Slaughter presented this report and mentioned the work currently in progress for a mini-convention on psychologists’ involvement in interrogations at foreign detainee centers. This event will be held at the 2007 APA convention. She also mentioned that progress continues on an ethics casebook that is a follow-up to the PENS report, and that APA is supporting a new congressional bill on “Restoring the Constitution.”

- **The APA’s General Counsel Report** – This written report describes the association’s recent amicus curiae briefs.

The following written reports were approved:

- Military Deployment Services for Youth, Family Members and Service Members;
- Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Girls and Women; Revised Record Keeping Guidelines for Health Care Service Providers; and
- The Sexualization of Girls.

Policy Items Approved by Council:

- Council added to APA Rules a statement that the CEO is responsible for ongoing strategic planning, including annual reporting to COR and the board of directors.

- Division 10 (Society for the Psychological Study of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts) was authorized to publish a divisional journal, *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts*.

- Following the recommendation of the Council on Accreditation and approval by the vast majority of Canadian universities, the memorandum of understanding between APA and CPA will allow for the discontinuation of concurrent accreditation for Ph.D. programs. Thus, APA will stop accrediting in Canada.

- Council approved a resolution rejecting intelligent design as a scientific theory and reaffirming APA’s support for evolutionary theory.

- Council approved changing the name of the Committee on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns to the Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns.

- Responding to actions by some state legislatures that negatively impact same-sex couples, Council reaffirmed APA’s opposition to discrimination against lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals.

APA Finances:

- Compensation for the CEO and a new executive leave program were discussed in executive session.

- The 2007 final budget was approved; it projects a 2006 surplus of $312,800 and a 2007 surplus of $23,000.

- APA’s total current worth is approximately $200 million and includes long-term investments, real estate, and revenues, primarily from dues, fees, and publications. Salaries and benefits account for 46 percent of annual expenses.

Breakout Groups: COR members chose one of 10 groups for discussion of substantive issues. Allen Omoto was the moderator and reporter for the group on social justice. Bernice Lott participated in the session on diversity in science and practice of psychology.
I am excited to begin serving as the SPSSI James Marshall Public Policy Scholar. This fellowship provides me with a unique opportunity to combine my research background with my interests in public policy. I am happy to have this forum in the SPSSI newsletter to introduce myself to fellow SPSSI members and share some of my initial policy activities.

I received my Ph.D. in social and personality psychology from the University of California, Berkeley and my postdoctoral training in health psychology at the University of California, San Francisco. My research focuses on social status, collective identity, and emotion. In particular, I examine the social and emotional processes through which social power and social status impact health and well-being.

In my first few weeks as the SPSSI James Marshall Scholar, I have had the opportunity to attend several congressional hearings and coalition meetings and to review legislation relevant to two major policy areas: socioeconomic status and hate crimes. The following is a sampling of some of my activities so far.

**Socioeconomic Status**
It is an opportune time for me to begin the James Marshall fellowship, as it coincides with the establishment of the Socioeconomic Status (SES) Committee at APA, the formation of which was spearheaded by several SPSSI members. My initial efforts in covering this policy area have focused on federal programs that assist families living in poverty and those who are uninsured.

I have attended congressional hearings on programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). As this Congress develops its legislative and budgetary priorities, I will continue to monitor legislative and regulatory proposals that assist those with low income, education, and occupational status. In this area, I will be working with the Coalition on Human Needs, a collective of national organizations promoting public policies that address the needs of low-income and other vulnerable people. I have recently attended several coalition meetings regarding funding for programs targeting low-income families, and look forward to working with them on issues of common interest.

Along other lines, there has been a great deal of activity on the issue of health care coverage for the uninsured. I attended a hearing of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce regarding the state of health care in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. I am also reviewing the United States National Health Insurance Act (H.R. 676), which would provide all individuals residing in the United States and U.S. territories with medically necessary care, including primary care and prevention, prescription drugs, emergency care, and mental health services.

**Hate Crimes**
Soon after I arrived in Washington, both the House of Representatives and the Senate reintroduced important hate crime legislation, which SPSSI has long supported. The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007 (H.R. 1592) would take several important steps toward improving our nation’s response to hate crime. Specifically, the legislation would expand current law to recognize crimes motivated by actual or perceived religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. Furthermore, it would enable the federal government to address those cases that other jurisdictions are either unable or unwilling to investigate and prosecute. Finally, it would expand the scope of data collection and reporting guidelines regarding hate crime.

I also have been representing SPSSI’s interests as a member of the National Hate Crime Coalition, an alliance of civil rights organizations working together to combat bias-motivated crime and to encourage passage of this important legislation. I have also been working alongside APA colleagues to draft related policy materials, including a fact sheet, press release, and letters of support for congressional sponsors of the bill. These documents highlight the research and clinical efforts of psychologists focused on both the targets and perpetrators of prejudice, discrimination, and bias-motivated crime. In the coming weeks, I will be visiting congressional offices to encourage support for this vital measure.

As the James Marshall Public Policy Scholar, I look forward to representing SPSSI’s interests and keeping you updated on my public policy work here in Washington. I welcome your feedback and ideas at clangner@apa.org or 202-675-6956.
Divisions for Social Justice: Active and Growing in Number and Influence

By Allen M. Omoto
SPSSI/Division 9 Representative to DSJ and APA Council of Representative

The Divisions for Social Justice (DSJ) is a consortium of 11 APA divisions (9, 17, 27, 35, 39, 43, 44, 45, 48, 51, and 56) committed to work related to social justice. Recently, two additional divisions applied to join DSJ. These divisions have been asked to provide evidence of past social justice work and to agree to work collaboratively with DSJ. They will also be expected to donate an hour of their APA convention programming time on a rotating basis for joint programming at the annual convention, and to designate an official representative to the DSJ group. It is heartening to see divisions expressing interest in working on social justice issues, and it also speaks to the increasing influence of DSJ within APA.

DSJ continues to work on issues related to psychologist involvement in detention centers for foreign detainees (e.g., Guantanamo) and on prodding the APA to fully consider and adopt ethical standards that define and protect the basic human rights of all individuals. (For general and related information on these issues, see the following websites: www.apa.org/ethics or www.psych-act.org.) Two initiatives are particularly noteworthy.

First, the APA, its Ethics Office, and several DSJ divisions are sponsoring a teach-in at the upcoming APA convention in San Francisco on psychologist involvement in interrogations at foreign detention centers. This teach-in will include several symposia and a town hall session, activities intended to inform attendees about ethical issues, foster dialogue, and solicit feedback. In recognition of the importance of this issue, SPSSI donated two hours of its convention time to the teach-in. Several DSJ members served on the teach-in planning committee, and SPSSI was officially represented by Bernice Lott (SPSSI/Division 9 representative to APA COR) and Rhoda Unger (SPSSI/Division 9 APA Convention Program Chair). If you are going to the APA convention, be sure to attend one or more teach-in sessions! (See the Conference Information section of this newsletter.)

Second, the DSJ and many of their representatives are “taking the next step” following passage of the “Resolution Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, and Degrading Treatment or Punishment” by APA COR in August 2006. Specifically, DSJ is supporting a new resolution, currently working its way through the APA governance system, calling for a moratorium on all psychologist involvement in interrogations at U.S. detention centers for foreign detainees. Both Bernice Lott and Allen Omoto, SPSSI/Division 9’s representatives on APA COR, are co-sponsors, and SPSSI has offered its official endorsement. Specifically, the SPSSI Executive Committee approved the following statement of support:

The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI; APA Division 9) has a long-standing interest in psychological aspects of important social issues, and seeks to bring theory and practice into focus on human problems, including problems that have no national boundaries. Thus, conditions and interrogation practices at U.S. detention centers, and specifically allegations of torture, cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment of detainees, are of considerable concern to the Society and its members (see SPSSI’s policy statement on this topic at http://www.spssi.org/SPSSI_Statement_on_torture.pdf).

At this point, the Society strongly urges support for the resolution introduced by Neil Altman, Ph.D., that calls for a moratorium on all psychologist involvement, either direct or indirect, in any interrogations at U.S. detention centers for foreign detainees. The rationale for this resolution is based on the lack of a clear legal framework governing interrogations of foreign “enemy combatants” being held offshore and derives from discrepancies between U.S. law and international law as set forth in the Geneva Conventions and other documents when applied to these detainees. Until these discrepancies are resolved, psychologists may find themselves in an untenable situation legally, ethically, and psychologically if or when they are asked to participate in interrogations of foreign detainees.

Please join SPSSI/Division 9 in supporting the moratorium resolution and in committing to future constructive and collaborative work addressing this important issue.

DSJ also attempts to keep social justice concerns salient within APA in other ways. The APA governance system is made up of APA COR and a number of boards, committees, and task forces. DSJ coordinates nominations for these bodies, taken every year, usually by having multiple divisions nominate the same person for a specified position. I coordinated SPSSI’s nominations this year. Our goals are to place individuals who share SPSSI and DSJ concerns and sensibilities throughout APA governance. If you are interested in an APA governance position, please send me your name and contact information for next year’s nominations at allen.omoto@cgu.edu.

Finally, at the February 2007 meeting of APA COR, I facilitated a breakout session on Social Justice. In my group’s report to Council, I discussed the ways in which social justice concerns cut across each of the APA directorates and constituencies (i.e., science, practice, education, and public interest). My group also called on APA to explicitly address social justice issues in its proposed strategic planning and to use social justice as an integrating theme for APAs future endeavors. Although the fate of these suggestions is unclear, this report was a valuable opportunity to highlight social justice work and concerns for all of Council.
The SPSSI-New York regional group, formed in 1984, offered a variety of activities in spring 2007 for its 400 local members, their students, and guests.

• On March 20, 30 students attended a symposium on careers in applied psychology, featuring seven speakers discussing entry into high-employment specialties within psychology: Diana Balsamo, Mitchell Rabinowitz, Jeffrey Goldberg, Florence Denmark, Rivka B. Meir, John Hollwitz, and Harold Takooshian.

• SPSSI-NY helped publicize four local student research conferences held on March 31 at SUNY New Paltz (www.newpaltz.edu/midhudsonpsyconf), on April 22 at Molloy College (ccamenzuli@molloy.edu), on April 28 at Hunter College (www.hunterpsych.com/), and on May 12 at Pace University.

• On April 26, Paul Nelson of the Education Directorate of the American Psychological Association lectured on the topic “If we had to reinvent psychology, where would we begin?” SPSSI-NY especially thanks Judith Kubran of CUNY Graduate Center, who has become a one-person institution in New York City for widely circulating timely news of local events and opportunities to the social science community.
There will be some exciting events at the APA convention in San Francisco this year. Most of them are listed in the two-page insert in this newsletter. However, our program is a little more complex than usual because of a mini-convention on ethical and professional dilemmas associated with psychologists' involvement in interrogations in foreign detention camps for "enemy combatants." The mini-convention comprises eight symposia, which will look at a variety of relevant issues, and a town hall meeting to discuss where we should go from here. The APA Ethics Office and the Divisions for Social Justice organized the mini-convention with the active participation of several SPSSI members. As SPSSI is the lowest-numbered division in this group, APA has listed most of the sessions as part of our program.

Please let your friends and colleagues know about the mini-convention and, in particular, the town hall meeting that will take place on Sunday, August 19 from 5:00-6:50 pm in Plaza Room A at the Hilton Hotel.

In addition to the sessions listed in our program, I want to call your attention to other events. These include symposia shared with other divisions, such as: "The foundation and impact of the Association of Black Psychologists" (shared with Division 26); "Sexual assault prevention and resistance education: Bringing together approaches at varying levels of intervention" (shared with Division 35); and "The sexualization of girls: Report of the APA Task Force (also shared with Division 35). Social hours are also important places to discuss ideas and meet new and old friends. In addition to the "official" SPSSI social hour, scheduled for 5 pm on Saturday at the Golden Gate Room A of the Marriott following our business meeting, we are also sharing a social hour with Division 8 at which four former SPSSI presidents (Faye Crosby, Jack Dovidio, Geoff Maruyama, and Tom Pettigrew) will discuss "Research, policy, and the real world." This social hour, which follows our invitational symposia, will take place on Friday, August 17 from 4:5:50 pm, at the Marriott Hotel, Yerba Buena Salons 1 & 2.

SPSSI is also co-sponsoring several symposia initiated by APA's president, Sharon Brehm: "A Challenge for Psychology in our Time: Understanding the Causes of Terrorism," chaired by Jeff Greenberg and Sheldon Solomon, and "Sexual Orientation and Military Service: Current Evidence and APA Policy," chaired by Albert Lott. And, although we are not a co-sponsor, many of you will be interested in a third presidential symposium titled "Launching Diversity Science," co-chaired by Mahzarin Banaji, Anthony Greenwald, and Claude Steele.

There are exciting invited addresses as well. Some, like Kay Deaux's Kurt Lewin Address and Irene Frieze's presidential address, are listed in our program. Former SPSSI President Marilyn Brewer, a recipient of a 2007 Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award from APA, will speak on “The Importance of Being 'We': Social Identity and Intergroup Relations.” Her address is scheduled for Saturday, August 18, from 1:00-1:50 pm in Room 2004 of the Moscone Center. This is a lot of programming to remember, and you may want to save this column in addition to the program in the newsletter.

I want to thank the many SPSSI members who took time out of their busy schedules to review submissions: Heather Bullock, Adam Carle, Frances Cherry, Elizabeth Cole, Lisa Cosgrove, Lauren Duncan, Michelle Fine, Constance Flanagan, Art Kendall, Geoff Maruyama, Keith O’Brien, Kathryn Quina, Aurora Sherman, Aaronette White, and Alyssa Zucker. I would especially like to acknowledge Markus Kemmelmeier for information about the workings of the last APA program committee and for a series of timely and helpful reviews of this year’s program.
### Friday, August 17

**8:00 AM - 9:50 AM**
Discussion: Ethics and Interrogations - *Confronting the Challenge: What Are Psychologists Doing in U.S. Military Detention Centers?*
- **Location:** Moscone Center, Room 3016
- **Chair:** Steven Sellman, PhD

**10:00 AM - 10:50 AM**
Roundtable Discussion: Making Our Research Matter - *Dissemination Beyond Academic Journals*
- **Participant/1st Authors:** Marybeth Shinn, PhD and Heather E. Bullock, PhD
- **Location:** Moscone Center, Room 3009
- **Cochairs:** Michelle R. Kaufman, MA and Jenny Escobar, BS

**10:00 AM - 11:50 AM**
Discussion: Ethics and Interrogations - *Confronting the Challenge: What Does the Research on Interrogations Tell Us?*
- **Location:** Moscone Center, Room 3016
- **Chair:** Bradley D. Olson, PhD

**11:00 AM - 11:50 AM**
Symposium: Democracy and Disenfranchisement in America - *A Social Psychological Perspective*
- **Participant/1st Authors:** Kevin Lanning, PhD, Joshua Harder, BA, Paul Gronke, PhD
- **Discussant:** Jack Glaser, PhD
- **Location:** Moscone Center, Room 3008
- **Chair:** Kevin Lanning, PhD

**12:00 PM - 1:50 PM**
Symposium: Measuring the Real Cost of Multicultural Incompetence
- **Participant/1st Authors:** Joseph E. Trimble, PhD, Herbert Z. Wong, PhD, MS and Eduardo S. Rodela, PhD, MS
- **Discussant:** Stanley Sue, PhD
- **Location:** Moscone Center, Room 3000
- **Chair:** Paul B. Pedersen, PhD, MS

**2:00 PM - 3:50 PM**
- **Location:** Moscone Center, Room 3014
- **Chair:** Bernice Lott, PhD

### Saturday, August 18

**8:00 AM - 9:50 AM**
Symposium: Tales From the Trenches - *Lessons in Giving Social Psychology Away*
- **Participant/1st Authors:** Shawn M. Burn, PhD, Alison M. Konrad, PhD, Patricia L. Winter, PhD and William D. Crano, PhD
- **Discussant:** Thomas F. Pettigrew, PhD
- **Location:** Moscone Center, Room 276
- **Cochairs:** Shawn M. Burn, PhD and Patricia L. Winter, PhD

**2:00 PM - 2:50 PM**
**KURT LEWIN ADDRESS**
- **Participant/1st Author:** Kay Deaux, PhD
  - “To be American: Quesadillas, Kung Pao, and Ketchup”
- **Location:** Moscone Center, Room 2001
- **Chair:** Brenda Major, PhD

**2:00 PM - 3:50 PM**
Discussion: Ethics and Interrogations - *Confronting the Challenge: How Do Human Rights and Laws Apply to Detention Centers?*
- **Location:** Moscone Center, Room 3014
- **Chair:** Neil E. Altman, PhD

**3:00 PM - 3:50 PM**
**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**
- **Participant/1st Author:** Irene H. Frieze, PhD
  - “Social Policy, Feminisms, and Research on Violence in Relationships”
- **Location:** San Francisco Marriott Hotel, Golden Gate Salon A1
- **Chair:** Marybeth Shinn, PhD

**4:00 PM - 4:50 PM**
**BUSINESS MEETING**
- **Location:** San Francisco Marriott Hotel, Golden Gate Salon A1
- **Chair:** Irene H. Frieze, PhD

**5:00 PM - 5:50 PM**
Social Hour
- **Location:** San Francisco Marriott Hotel, Golden Gate Salon A1
Sunday, August 19

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM
Poster Session: Social Issues and Public Policy
Location: Moscone Center, Halls ABC
Participant/1st Authors:
- Allison C. Aosved, PhD
- Hazel R. Atuel, MA
- Sandina Begic, BS, BA
- Hale C. Bolak-Boratav, PhD
- Paula M. Brochu, BA
- Shawn M. Burn, PhD
- Kristine M. Chapleau, MS
- Kimberley A. Cox, PhD
- Karen R. Davis, MA
- Patton O. Garriott, MS
- James E. Gruber, PhD
- Rebecca L. Heverly, BS
- Lisa Tsoi Hoshmand, PhD
- Melinda S. Jackson, PhD
- Ellyn Kaschak, PhD
- Yvonne Lai, MA
- Laura J. Landry, BA
- Jocelyn P. Mackey, PhD
- Sara L. McCleland, MA
- Jeffery S. Mio, PhD
- Demietrice Moore, MS
- Enrique W. Neblett, PhD
- Howard C. Stevenson, PhD

11:00 AM - 11:50 AM
Roundtable Discussion: Cross-Cultural Collaboration – How Do We Create Dialogue Across Borders?
Participant/1st Authors:
- Jeffrey D. Fisher, PhD and Janice Adelman, BA
Location: Moscone Center, Room 276
Cochairs: Michelle R. Kaufman, MA and Rodolfo Mendoza-Denton, PhD

12:00 PM - 1:50 PM
Discussion: Ethics and Interrogations – Confronting the Challenge: What Are the Impacts of Ethnicity, Language, and Identity on Interrogations?
Location: Moscone Center, Room 3009
Chair: Rhoda Unger, PhD

Monday, August 20

10:00 AM - 11:50 AM
Symposium: Psychologists Look at Conflict Resolution - Israel and Palestine
Participant/1st Authors:
- Charney Bromberg, BA, Michael Lerner, PhD, Sarah Burdige, PhD, and Donna Nassor, JD
Discussants: Marc Pilisuk, PhD, Stanley Krippner, PhD, and Bernice Lott, PhD
Location: Moscone Center, Room 200
Chair: Ethel Tobach, PhD

12:00 PM - 1:50 PM
Discussion: Ethics and Interrogations – Confronting the Challenge: What Ethical Dilemmas Do Psychologists Working in Detention Centers Face?
Location: Moscone Center, Room 3009
Chair: Scott Allen, PhD

12:00 PM - 1:50 PM
Discussion: Ethics and Interrogations – Confronting the Challenge: What Challenges and Complexities Do Providing Treatment to Detainees Entail?
Location: Moscone Center, Room 3009
Chair: Ibrahim A. Kira, PhD
Update on Interrogations and the American Psychological Association

By Neil Altman, Ph.D.
SPSSI UN/NGO Representative

In 2002 and 2003, as the United States responded to the September 11th attacks by invading Afghanistan and Iraq, media reports began appearing linking psychologists to abusive interrogation techniques in detention centers abroad. In particular, The New Yorker published a piece by Jane Mayer (July 11 and 18, 2005) alleging that psychologists from the Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape (SERE) program, set up to train members of the U.S. armed forces in how to resist torture if captured, were training U.S. interrogators in abusive techniques. These psychologists and other mental health professionals, organized in Behavioral Science Consultation Teams (BSCTs), were reported to be operating at Guantanamo Bay, among other places. The alleged link between psychologists and abusive interrogation techniques prompted Ron Levant, then President of the American Psychological Association, to set up a Presidential Task Force on Psychological Ethics and National Security (PENS). This task force of 11 members, 6 of whom had worked in one way or another in national security settings, issued its report in June 2005. (The interested reader can find that report at www.apa.org/releases/PENSTaskForceReport final.pdf.)

The PENS task force report has failed to put to rest questions about the role of psychologists in the detention centers. One problem that emerged in the immediate aftermath of the PENS report concerned two sections of the Ethics Code, 1.02 and 1.03 (www.apa.org), which stated that psychologists may resolve conflicts between the ethics code and laws, regulations, orders, or organizational requirements by following legal orders, regulations, or organizational demands. The aspirational (i.e., non-enforceable) part of the ethics code stated that psychologists may do so only in keeping with “basic human rights,” while the enforceable part of the code omitted this phrase.

In 2006, collaboration between Division 48 (Peace Psychology) and Division 19 (Military Psychology) and the Divisions for Social Justice resulted in a resolution passed by the Council of Representatives re-affirming a 1986 resolution against torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. The significance of this resolution was that it noted that APA, which had become a non-governmental organization (NGO) accredited to the United Nations, pledged to promote and uphold international law in the form of UN documents and conventions. A problem arose when the U.S. Congress passed the Military Commissions Act of 2006, which created a discrepancy between U.S. law and international law in relation to the Geneva Conventions.

U.S. reservations concerning enforcement of the Geneva Conventions say that mental pain or suffering rises to the level of torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment (CIDT) only when harm results from: (1) the intentional infliction or threatened infliction of severe physical pain or suffering; (2) the use or threat of mind-altering substances; (3) the threat of imminent death; or (4) the threat that another person will imminently be subjected to the above mistreatment. Much of the abusive treatment being used around the world – such as sensory deprivation, isolation, sensory overload, and various forms of humiliation - is based on psychological research (for example, research on sensory deprivation) and would be acceptable according to the U.S. reservations, though not acceptable according to Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions. The United States reservations also defined torture and CIDT consistent with the 5th, 8th and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantee due process. When the United States began capturing prisoners in Afghanistan in 2001 and 2002, it labeled them “enemy combatants,” as opposed to “prisoners of war,” in order to establish a category that would not be subject to the Geneva Conventions. Government lawyers argued that the due process provisions of the U.S. Constitution were inapplicable to detention centers outside the United States, so detainees in foreign centers had no such rights under either U.S. law or international law.

In 2006, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Hamdan vs. Rumsfeld, ruled that the military commissions proposed for trying these detainees would be illegal because they had not been approved by Congress. The Court also ruled that the Geneva Conventions must apply to the detainees. In response to this ruling, Congress passed the Military Commissions Act of 2006, which authorized military commissions to try the detainees according to certain procedures, but also specified how the Geneva Conventions would apply. The Act raised the standard so that war crimes included only “grave” breaches of the Geneva Conventions. Merely “significant” breaches of the Geneva Conventions were no longer to be considered war crimes. Further, the bill gave the President the sole authority to judge which actions qualified as grave breaches.

The Military Commissions Act created a situation under which a member of the armed forces, or a psychologist participating directly or indirectly in interrogations in the detention centers, could be accused of a war crime under international law for obeying an order that was legal under U.S. law. The APA, as a United Nations NGO, had pledged to promote international law. For these reasons, I, along with 19 co-sponsors, submitted a resolution to the Council of Representatives in August 2006, requesting that APA call for a moratorium on the participation of psychologists in interrogations taking place in U.S. detention centers holding foreign detainees, or “enemy combatants.” The resolution is now working its way through the governance structure of the Council of Representatives. SPSSI, along with the Divisions of Psychoanalysis and Community Psychology, has formally gone on record in support of the resolution. The Division of Military Psychology and several APA boards and committees have declined to support it.

Opposition to the resolution rests on a number of misconceptions regarding its intent. The measure does not allege that any psychologist involved with interrogations has done anything illegal or unethical, nor does it suggest that any psychologist would commit any such act. The policy statement would not be an enforceable moratorium; instead,
By Corann Okorodudu
SPSSI UN/NGO Representative

On November 28, 2006, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution proposed by the Caribbean Community of Missions to the United Nations (CARICOM) calling for the Commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade on March 25, 2007 (www.unesco.org). On March 25, 1807, the British Parliament passed the Abolition of Trans-Atlantic Slavery bill. A few weeks earlier, on March 3, 1807, President Thomas Jefferson signed a similar bill prohibiting the importation of slaves into any port or place within the United States.

The General Assembly resolution recalled that the brutality of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, an international commercial enterprise between the fifteenth and the nineteenth centuries, was among the worst violations of human rights in the history of humanity. The resolution acknowledged that the slave trade and the legacy of slavery are at the core of social and economic inequality, hatred, racism, and prejudice, which continue to affect people of African descent today. The resolution urged member states that have not already done so to develop education programs, including school curricula, designed to inculcate in future generations an understanding of the lessons, history, and consequences of the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

Two sets of activities to commemorate the abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade took place during the week of March 25, at the United Nations in New York. Planning for the first set of events was implemented under the leadership of the CARICOM Group. These events began on March 26 with a General Assembly Commemorative Session in the morning and culminated in a keynote address by the eminent scholar Professor Rex Nettleford, Vice Chancellor Emeritus of the University of the West Indies, Jamaica, and Chair of the UNESCO Slave Routes Project. A panel titled “Acknowledging the Tragedy, Considering the Legacy” followed in the afternoon and focused on the development and impact of the trans-Atlantic slave trade in various regions of the world.

The Sub-Committee for the Elimination of Racism of the NGO Committee on Human Rights, which I chair, reserved March 29, 2007 on the UN calendar for a second set of commemorative events. These events began with a Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Morning Briefing in observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The Sub-Committee also organized an afternoon session on March 29 titled “The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade: Intergenerational Consequences, Resistance, Transformation, and Unfinished Business.”

While the space constraints of this report preclude a summary of these substantive contributions, a number of cross-cutting observations are possible: The trans-Atlantic slave trade was systemic, both nationally and internationally. All aspects of the economic, social, and political systems of the participating countries were involved. The slave trade, and slavery itself, disrupted family systems and communities of Africa, while enriching the imperial powers. It provided the economic foundation of the British Empire. The slave trade also supported the creation and development of the U.S. economy. Although the British and U.S. governments enacted laws abolishing the international slave trade in 1807, for the past 200 years there has largely been silence about, and denial of responsibility for slavery and, correspondingly, denial of responsibility for the racism and terrible social problems to which 400 years of slavery are directly linked.

Participants in the afternoon session concluded that much needs to be done to cope with the legacy of the trans-Atlantic slave trade and to bring about reconciliation, reparations, and healing, but that our hope of being able to do that depends on our willingness to be open to understanding and confronting the past. A significant step in this direction was taken in 1994 when UNESCO launched the Slave Routes Project at the initiative of Haiti and several African countries. The project aims to work with universities and research centers to make known the slave trade’s causes, implications, modalities, and consequences in contemporary societies; to promote historic sites and places of remembrance; and to develop relevant curricula and educational materials, including those relating to the contribution of Africa and its diaspora (www.unesco.org/culture/slaveroute).
SPSSI's 2007 election closed on May 10.

Susan Opotow will be SPSSI's new President-Elect. She will serve as President in 2008-2009.

Incoming Council Members, whose terms begin in September 2007, are Elizabeth Cole, Susan Fiske, Peter Glick, and Sheri Levy. Robert Sellers is the designated alternate, should anyone resign from Council.

**Congratulations To All!**

APA is still conducting the election for SPSSI Representative to APA Council. Please check the SPSSI website at www.spssi.org for results of this election.

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**New SPSSI Officers Elected**

- Elizabeth Cole
- Peter Glick
- Susan Fiske
- Sheri Levy
- Susan Opotow
- Robert Sellers

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**SPSSI’s 2007 Dalmas A. Taylor Summer Minority Policy Fellow**

The purpose of this award is to annually honor the memory of Dalmas Taylor, a long-time SPSSI leader, who passed away during his term as President of SPSSI. He was instrumental in establishing the Minority Fellowship at the American Psychological Association and in increasing the APAs attention to inclusion of people of color. The fellowship bearing his name is administered in conjunction with APA's Public Policy and Minority Fellowship Offices, and provides an opportunity for a graduate student of color to work on public policy issues in Washington, DC.

In June, SPSSI welcomes Besangie Sellars to Washington as our 2007 Taylor Summer Fellow. Besangie is currently a doctoral student enrolled in the Developmental Psychology program at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and comes to SPSSI with a range of research interests, including lifespan development, positive effects of social relations, mental and physical health of African American elders, and factors that promote psychological well-being.
The following is the text of a petition now posted online at:

**Petition for Moratorium on Psychologist Involvement in U.S. Detention Centers for Foreign Detainees**

Posted February 7, 2007 by Psychologists Acting with Conscience Together (www.psyact.org)

Psychologist Neil Altman, a member of APA's Council, along with 16 co-sponsors, is bringing to Council a resolution tentatively titled "A moratorium on psychologist involvement in interrogations at U.S. detention centers for foreign detainees." The petition calls for a moratorium on all psychologist involvement, either direct or indirect, in any interrogations at U.S. detention centers for foreign detainees or citizens detained outside normal legal channels. The resolution has the support of the Divisions of Social Justice, representing 12 divisions of the APA.

The Resolution states:

This moratorium is necessary as detainees may be currently denied protections outlined under the Geneva Conventions and interrogations techniques in violation of the 2006 APA Resolution against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment may be considered acceptable practice according to the Military Commissions Bill of 2006. Thus far, the American Psychological Association (APA) has not made it clear that it is unethical for psychologists to participate in interrogations of alleged enemy combatants, nor to insist that psychologists may only work under conditions which are consistent with international standards of basic human rights. In this, the APA is virtually alone among the health professions and casts doubt upon its support of fundamental human rights.

Since the commencement of the so-called “war on terror,” news reports have repeatedly brought disturbing news of torture and/or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of those deemed "enemy combatants." Potential abuses have been reported at the detention centers at Guantanamo Naval base, in detention centers in Iraq and Afghanistan, and at a number of secret CIA detention centers around the world. These abuses have been condemned by the United Nations Committee on Torture, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the European Parliament, Amnesty International, the International Committee of the Red Cross and numerous other national and international organizations concerned with human rights.

These abuses have been reported both during general treatment of these detainees and during interrogations. A central part of the interrogation process has been the participation of health professionals, most notably psychologists, in the interrogation process. Such participation has been condemned by the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, and the American Nursing Association. The American Anthropological Association has prohibited its members from contributing their expertise to these endeavors for the same reasons.

Given the repeated news reports of torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of those deemed enemy combatants, the authorization given by the 2006 Military Commissions Act to the President for “harsh treatment” of detainees, as well as the lack of any legal protections for these detainees, it is time for the APA to join the other health professions by acting on its stated support for human rights and to protect its members by calling a moratorium on psychologist involvement in interrogations of these detainees.

Some of us believe that psychologists should never participate in these interrogations. Others of us believe that such participation is acceptable provided fundamental human rights are respected and no harm, physical or mental, is done to those interrogated. But we are all in agreement that a moratorium is vitally necessary in the current conditions.

We, the undersigned psychologists call upon the APA Board of Directors to bring to Council and urge approval of the Moratorium Resolution.
2007 Applied Social Internship Winners Announced

The Spring 2007 Award Committee, consisting of Dr. Alisha Ali, New York University (Chair); Dr. Taryn Tang, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto; and Dr. Teceta Thomas Tormala, Indiana University, have announced the most recent awardees. The Applied Social Issues Internship Program encourages research that is conducted in cooperation with a community or government organization, public interest group, or other not-for-profit entity that will benefit directly from the project.

Congratulations to each of these young scholars:

- **Michele Billies** (Graduate Center, City University of New York) for a project titled “Free to be who I want to be: Low-income lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people challenging criminalization”
- **Natasha Davis** (Teachers College, Columbia University) for a project titled “HIV/AIDS and the Black Church”
- **Emily Kissel** (Washington University, St. Louis) for a project titled “Evaluating a home-based program for dementia caregivers”
- **Peter Yeomans** (Drexel University) for a project titled “The effect of posttraumatic stress disorder psychoeducation on the nature and severity of traumatic stress symptoms in a Burundian sample”.

The Otto Klineberg Intercultural and International Relations Award

This award commemorates Otto Klineberg (1899-1992), a founding member of SPSSI and a life-long advocate of psychological science in the service of international peace and human justice. This year, the Otto Klineberg Intercultural & International Relations Award Committee read papers published across a wide array of topic areas, including policy, political science, and experimental social psychology, developmental and clinical psychology. After careful review, the committee selected Dr. Wan-chi Wong as its winner, for her work titled “Understanding Dialectical Thinking from a Cultural-Historical Perspective” (published in Philosophical Psychology). Congratulations to Dr. Wong.

The Otto Klineberg Award Selection Committee consisted of Dr. Daphna Oyserman, University of Michigan (Chair); Dr. Markus Kemmelmeier, University of Nevada, Reno; Dr. Floyd Webster Rudmin, University of Tromso; and Dr. Robert W. Rieber, Fordham University.

**OCTOBER 1 NEXT SPSSI AWARD DEADLINE**

Please visit the SPSSI website at [www.spssi.org](http://www.spssi.org) for more information on the following awards, for which applications are due by October 1, 2007.

- Fall Clara Mayo Grants Program
- Gordon Allport Prize
- Fall Grants-In-Aid Program
health care, community improvement, and public/societal benefits. Those organizations account for 58 percent of the reporting groups. SPSSI falls into the category of educational groups, which make up only 18 percent.

Overall, 72 percent of all reported nonprofit income is derived from fees for services; 14 percent comes from private contributions, 9 percent from government grants, 3 percent from investment income, and 2 percent from “other” sources. These data are somewhat skewed, however, as illustrated by the fact that while nonprofit hospitals comprised less than 2 percent of reporters, they held almost 30 percent of nonprofit sector assets! Nevertheless, with no government grants and no fees for services, SPSSI is atypical. Our operating funds come largely from the two smallest categories. And while 77 percent of reporters had assets under $1 million, SPSSI is among the 15 percent with assets between $1 million and $5 million.

Looking at SPSSI in a geographical context, I found 3,809 nonprofits in Washington, DC alone. This is less than half the number in Michigan, long SPSSI’s home before we moved to DC in 2001. On the other hand, when the numbers for our very close neighbors in Maryland and Virginia are included, we are one in a pool of 18,479 nonprofits.

Any social scientist knows that numbers don’t tell the whole story; but they are, of course, instructive. As sure as those of us who know SPSSI well are that SPSSI is a unique organization, it is still clear that finding a way to stand out from the crowd is an important organizational goal when there is so much competition for attention and resources. We must engage our members and potential members, our profession, the public, policy makers, and donors if we hope to educate them about the value of our programs and science-based approach. In such a crowded pack, how do we ensure that our messages aren’t lost in the din of so many voices?

One of the cornerstones of the most effective nonprofits - those that rise above the crowd and are able to exercise influence in the areas dictated by their missions - is a solid and effective organizational infrastructure. In SPSSI, I believe that translates into maintaining a well-organized and highly efficient Central Office. SPSSI’s dedicated volunteer leadership must rely on both the institutional memory and the professionalism of our staff and the completeness and accuracy of our records if we are to ensure that membership services and benefits are delivered as promised, that there is continuity and consistency in the exercise of our fiduciary responsibilities, and that our policy initiatives are delivered by credible messengers with the resources they need to provide appropriate follow-through.

Looking back on my first six months with SPSSI, I can report that we’ve instituted a series of procedural changes that together have improved the efficiency and quality of the support that we can provide to our leadership, our members, and the many volunteers who give so much of their time to making this organization work. Aside from the general recognition that quality and efficiency are inherently good, I believe that in the context of the Washington, DC and national nonprofit sector, these are not just good, but essential components of SPSSI’s future growth and success.

CO Shorts:
This year, SPSSI’s Administrative Coordinator, Anila Balkissoon, has worked proactively to promote better awareness of SPSSI awards programs. The results of these efforts speak for themselves: We had 31 applications for this year’s Dalmas Taylor Minority Fellowship, up from only 6 in 2006, and 36 applications for the 2007 Applied Social Issues Award, compared with only 5 applications in 2006. The number of applicants for the most recent rounds of Grants-in-Aid, Clara Mayo, and SAGES Awards has more than doubled over the last round. We are encouraged by the increased interest in each of these programs.

The Central Office has welcomed two new faces this spring. Our new James Marshall Public Policy Scholar, Carrie Langer, joined us in March (see Carrie’s first Forward report, page 6 of this newsletter), and Spring intern Kenneth Bondele from Portland State University in Oregon joined us in April. Kenny is a sophomore with particular interest in issues related to capital punishment.

After eight months of great work at SPSSI, our temp employee, Erica Fogle - the bright voice you heard on the phone when you called the Central Office – has moved on to a permanent job in her chosen field of social work. She will be starting an MSWJD program at the University of Maryland in the fall.

Sustaining Membership
This membership category is available to all current and new members. For a one-time dues payment of $1,500, members will receive all benefits and voting rights and enjoy exemption from paying dues for the duration of their membership.

Sign up now and become a sustaining member!

Update on Interrogations

it would amount to a position statement on the part of APA, similar to the position taken by the American Medical Association. Finally, those who worry that APA would be acting in the capacity of lawyer, as opposed to scientist, should consider whether those psychologists who have to judge which interrogation techniques are legal and which are not are being improperly forced to act as lawyers rather than human scientists. In the modern world, most torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment rests on psychological methods such as sensory deprivation and isolation, rather than the infliction of physical pain (McCoy, 2006). Therefore, the APA has a special responsibility to make it very clear that organized psychology opposes this misuse of its research. The resolution, its justification, and the resulting correspondence can be found at www.apa.org/ethics.

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