SPSSI moved to Washington in 2001. The move, voted on by Council in June 2000 after months and even years of discussion and deliberation, was motivated by a desire to make SPSSI more central to the national policy process. This aim has been fundamental to our organization since its inception. Indeed, as Fran Cherry and I described in our article on the Lewinian legacy (see the November 2004 newsletter or the SPSSI web page), an early recruitment flyer described two intertwined purposes for our organization-to-be: 1) “to encourage research upon those psychological problems most vitally related to modern social, economic, and political policies”; and 2) “to help the public and its representatives to understand, and to use in the formation of social policies, contributions from the scientific investigation of human behavior.” Although these aims were formulated in a different historical context, during a period of economic depression and the rising power of Hitler in Nazi Germany, they remain absolutely in tune with the needs of our time.

Presidential columns by Jack Dovidio and Jennifer Crocker during the 2000–2001 decision period expressed the anticipation and aspirations associated with this move, using phrases such as “noble goal” (Crocker, December 2000), “steps into the future” (Crocker, April 2001), and “a new day” (Dovidio, October 2000). Now, more than 3 years into the Washington chapter of our history, it is time to take stock and to move forward. In that spirit, I set as one of the major goals of my presidential year to help SPSSI find the best ways to have its very important voice heard by those who make the laws and establish the policies that affect us all.

For our first couple of years in Washington, policy necessarily took a back seat to practicality. Issues such as where we would live (now settled at 208 I Street, NE) and who would take care of us (a task accomplished by our Executive Director Shari Miles and a small and dedicated supporting cast), as well as fundamental tasks such as getting to know the neighborhood (both literally, in terms of community cooperation on I Street, and figuratively, in terms of developing connections with like-minded organizations as well as congressional staffs) were the central focus. Now in 2005, with those Maslow-like basic needs satisfied, SPSSI is poised to move more confidently toward our policy goals.

SPSSI doesn’t have unlimited resources, at least not in terms of financial assets and paid staff. We do, however, have tremendous human and social capital in the form of the expertise, commitment, and achievements of our members. To harness that energy and to define a course, I asked Meg Bond and Maureen O’Connor (both elected members of SPSSI Council) to co-chair a task force on public policy activities. After some initial conversations with Shari Miles and with me, Meg and Maureen convened an initial meeting of the task force in Washington on December 16, 2001. Joining M & M were Diane Elmore (a former Marshall Fellow who is now working in New York Senator Hilary Clinton’s office), Andrea Solarz (formerly in APA’s policy office and now head of her own consulting firm), Karen Chen (current Marshall Fellow and a recent University of Michigan graduate), Greg Herek (who joined in via telephone), and our Executive Director Shari Miles. This group did an amazing job, spending a full day in what was an enormously productive and generative activity.

Part of the agenda of that meeting was an assessment of where we are now: what activities are we currently pursuing, what resources do we have, and what constraints have we experienced? From that review, it was very clear that SPSSI is already moving on the policy front, engaged in numerous activities that are bringing our message to the attention of those who contribute to policy development. Our now well-established Marshall Scholar program, funded 80 percent by SPSSI and 20 percent by APA, is one important element of that effort. The Dalmas Taylor summer intern program allows a young scholar, still in graduate training, to... continued on page 2
The Best Science Makes the Best Policy

...from front page

become familiar with the activities of SPSSI in Washington. Since coming to Washington, we have had three congressional briefings on the topics of hate crimes, affirmative action, and aging. These meetings, in which SPSSI members with relevant expertise present research-based briefings to congressional staff members on topics that are pertinent to current legislation, have been highly successful. In the planning stages now is a fourth briefing that will use the recent issue of JSI on the “maternal wall” as a foundation for discussions of bias in the employment and promotion of working parents, particularly mothers. Issues of JSI are often provided to members of Congress, as well as to members of United Nations delegations through coordination with our UN committee, to bring them up to speed on the state of research in targeted areas. Indeed, JSI is an incredibly important emissary in our mission to communicate science to the public, and we should be immensely grateful to the editors and authors who have created such a valuable archive.

Our track record to date is something in which we can all take pride. At the same time, the task force envisioned many ways in which we could be even more effective. They began to lay the groundwork for future planning—first, by developing visions of where SPSSI might like to be in 5 years regarding policy issues, and then by developing some preliminary recommendations for future planning. These initial conversations served as the foundation for discussion at the second meeting of the Policy Task Force, which took place on the day preceding the Midwinter Council meeting in Washington. The generativity of the December meeting, which had yielded 14 pages of ideas, observations, and suggestions, was shaped into a 4-page agenda organized around three key issues: identity, infrastructure, and influence. In less alliterative but more detailed form, these issues are concerned with what the priorities of SPSSI should be, how to develop the processes and infrastructure to facilitate these priorities, and how to maximize the influence that SPSSI can have, given our limited resources.

The task force brought a series of recommendations to an enthusiastic and receptive Council. One result of the Council discussion was the creation of a standing committee on policy, which will be chaired by Meg and Maureen and expanded to include additional SPSSI members. One of the initial tasks of this committee will be to develop a priority list for policy issues within the general rubric of social justice. These priorities will be based on the state of the scientific database available to us, on the likelihood of meeting some preliminary recommendations for future planning. These initial conversations served as the foundation for discussion at the second meeting of the Policy Task Force, which took place on the day preceding the Midwinter Council meeting in Washington. The generativity of the December meeting, which had yielded 14 pages of ideas, observations, and suggestions, was shaped into a 4-page agenda organized around three key issues: identity, infrastructure, and influence. In less alliterative but more detailed form, these issues are concerned with what the priorities of SPSSI should be, how to develop the processes and infrastructure to facilitate these priorities, and how to maximize the influence that SPSSI can have, given our limited resources.

...from front page

Visit the SPSSI Web site at www.spssi.org

Feedback on the site and suggestions for improving it are invited. The Web developer would like to thank members for the comments and suggestions already made. Please e-mail your suggestions to spssi@spssi.org
Secretary/Treasurer’s Report

Multiple Highlights of the 2005 Mid-Winter SPSSI Council Meeting

By Daniel Perlman
SPSSI Secretary/Treasurer

SPSSI Council, the Society’s governance body, held its 2005 mid-winter meeting in Washington, DC, on Friday and Saturday, February 11 and 12. Four foci of the meeting were: (1) honoring deceased SPSSI members, (2) discussion of SPSSI’s financial situation, (3) revising SPSSI’s bylaws, and (4) identifying pathways to more fully achieving SPSSI’s policy agenda. My summary of the meeting will feature these highlights plus motions passed. In all, the Council’s agenda included 27 items. In several cases, Council received and discussed reports (e.g., information about SPSSI’s program for the August 2005 APA Convention, the activities of the Marshall Fellow, Awards) without taking further action, but expressed thanks to those responsible for the excellent work being done on SPSSI’s behalf.

Honoring Deceased SPSSI Members
On the recommendation of the Junior Scholars Task Force, SPSSI Council established a Michele Alexander Award for Early Career Scholarship and Service. Designed to stand beside the Louise Kidder Award, the Alexander Award will honor junior scholars who combine excellence in research with outstanding service (defined as community involvement and/or professional service). Michele headed the Junior Scholars Task Force at the time of her death in 2003 due to an automobile accident.

SPSSI Council also received notice of the deaths of six former members: Ken Dion, Robert Ellenbogen, Hal Gerard, William Grisby, Deniz Sahin, and Seymour Wagner. A tribute to former SPSSI Council member, Ken Dion, will appear in the upcoming Forward.

SPSSI’s Financial Situation and Membership Renewals
Apropos of the budget, in the audited account for the fiscal year 2003-2004, SPSSI showed a substantial operating deficit of $98,423. The deficit is largely attributable to the general increase in SPSSI’s operating expenses since moving SPSSI’s Central Office to Washington and to a 2003-2004 loss due to the 2004 SPSSI Convention of nearly $60,000. For the 6 month period July 1 - December 31, 2004, McGuire Associates, SPSSI’s accountants, showed SPSSI as having an unaudited surplus of $2,126,028 to $2,205,912 (i.e., $79,884). The increase in net assets is largely attributable to increases in value of SPSSI’s long-term investments. The table on page 4 shows historical trends in SPSSI’s financial picture.

Council approved a 2005 budget with an expected deficit of $51,445. We hope that, as has often happened in the past, SPSSI’s actual budget will turn out slightly better than has been proposed. The 2005 budget was largely a continuation of past SPSSI spending adjusted, where needed, for inflation. New money was allocated for having a Web Master ($6,500) and for having a Sabbatical Policy Fellow ($3,000). These increases were offset by lowering funding for Forward and the Applied Social Issues Internships, which were reduced by $4,400 and $5,000, respectively.

I have been interested in what effect the revision of the dues structure to include minimum levels might have on membership renewals. The number of members who have renewed is close to where it was at this time last year, so the change in dues does not seem to be a significant impediment to members remaining with the Society. A small number of e-mail messages suggest the dues change has adversely affected a few members, especially those with low incomes living in the United States or overseas, and members who value SPSSI’s activities but who are not themselves psychologists studying social issues. Members for whom paying dues would create a hardship can write the Central Office (membership@spssi.org) to request a dues waiver. It does appear that the dues increase will, as hoped, increase SPSSI’s overall annual dues revenue. Dues still only cover only a small fraction of SPSSI’s annual operating expenses (approximately 15%), a smaller fraction than is true for most other academic associations.

Review of Bylaws
In an important administrative development, Lou Penner (pennerl@karmanos.org) is revising SPSSI’s bylaws. Overall, his revision will update (e.g., acknowledge the role of electronic communication in SPSSI’s governance), simplify, and make more functional SPSSI’s bylaws. In talking about the revised bylaws, Council favored creating a student affiliate membership category for undergraduates and changing the composition of Council to include as voting members a SPSSI representative to the APA Council of Representatives and a graduate student. There will be a conflict of interest statement that all SPSSI Council members will be expected to sign. A revised version should be ready for the membership’s consideration following the August 2005 meeting of Council.


...continued on page 4
Policy Developments
One of the exciting aspects of the Council meeting was discussing ways SPSSI can more fully realize the policy objectives that were a central aspect of the decision to move to Washington. In advance of the Council meeting, a Policy Task Force, chaired by Meg Bond and Maureen O’Connor, had been working effectively. The Task Force brought forth several recommendations that were approved, including having a permanent Policy Committee. These recommendations will establish ways for SPSSI to set a policy agenda on a biennial basis yet have the capacity to respond quickly to policy issues as they come up. Concrete actions for the coming year included: having 3 as opposed to 2 congressional briefings, approving a small budget to cover having a sabbatical or post-doctoral policy fellow, and reducing the amount of CO office space that SPSSI rents to PsySR so that SPSSI has room for the new policy person. Kay Deaux’s Presidential column discusses these developments in more detail.

Motions and Action Items
A number of motions were passed during the Council meeting. These included the following:
- Council approved asking Geoff Marayuma to serve as the next editor of ASAP.
- Council approved Rick Hoyle and his coauthors developing a new edition of SPSSI’s classic Research Methods in Social Relations.
- Council agreed to devote 1 hour of SPSSI’s APA Convention once every 3 years to the Divisions for Social Justice program.

Overview of the Financial Statement
Percentages reflect the percentage of revenues (expenditures) in a given year

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Living with – and Studying – an Intractable Conflict

Daniel Bar-Tal
School of Education, Tel Aviv University

It is well known that directions of professional interest are determined by the personal experiences of the researchers. Hence, it is not surprising that, because I live in Israel, most of my professional career has been devoted to the study of conflicts in general and the Israeli-Arab conflict in particular.

I began my career studying prosocial behavior and attributions, and soon I realized that the mainstream of social psychology is somewhat like a blossoming island – detached from the mainland of real life. Conflicts are an integral part of human life, and severe conflicts such as the Israeli-Arab one cause great misery and many losses to the societies involved and threaten the well-being of the international community. My interest in studying them is not merely based on the will to advance knowledge in collective human behavior, but is also rooted in the necessity to prevent violent conflicts and to resolve them peacefully once they erupt.

Intractable conflicts are accompanied by intense psychological dynamics, which make them especially difficult to resolve. They deeply involve both leaders and society members, who develop a psychological repertoire of beliefs, attitudes, and emotions about their goals, about the causes of the conflict and its course, about their own group, about their rivals, and about the desired solution. The study of this repertoire has been the focus of my research in the last 24 years because I believe that conflicts begin in the minds of people and people have to change their minds in order to resolve the conflicts peacefully.

I began my research with four themes that were taken from the observation of a society involved in conflict. Patriotism is a primary force that leads to solidarity, mobilization, and motivation to act on behalf of the nation, including the sacrifice of life, in view of an external threat. Insecurity as a psychological experience resides in the human mind in the form of beliefs and feelings; in a society plagued by perceived permanent threat, security may become a master symbol and serve as a major determinant of societal action. Siege mentality, reflected in the belief that a society is surrounded by a hostile world, comes with important affective and behavioral implications for decisions taken by leaders. Delegitimization of the rival in conflict is one of the major factors in fueling the conflict and preventing its peaceful resolution.

Soon it became clear to me that this line of work required a conception that elaborates the notion of shared beliefs. I developed the concepts of group beliefs and societal beliefs to meet this need. Societal beliefs are cognitions shared by society members on topics and issues that are of special concern for their society and contribute to a sense of the uniqueness of their society. They provide a basis for communication, interdependence, and the coordination of social activities, all of which are necessary for the functioning of the social system. On this basis, was developed the notion of ethos, which refers to a configuration of central societal beliefs providing a certain orientation to a society. This idea led me to formulate the ethos of conflict, which evolves during prolonged experiences of intractable conflict. Eight clusters of societal beliefs compose this ethos of conflict: societal beliefs about justness of one’s own goals, security, delegitimization of the rival, victimization, positive collective self image, patriotism, unity, and peace.

In addition, societies involved in intractable conflict construct another type of societal belief – collective memory, which presents the history of the conflict to society members in a way that meets the society’s present needs and therefore is biased, selective, and distorted. The societal beliefs, which constitute the ethos of conflict and collective memory, give meaning to the social identity of society members. This approach also recognizes the role that emotions play in intractable conflicts and suggests that collective emotional orientations of fear, hatred, and anger determine the line of actions of the societies involved. The evolved societal psychological repertoire becomes institutionalized, enabling better adaptation to the conflict conditions by helping the society members to satisfy their basic needs, to cope with the stress, and to successfully withstand the enemy. But at the same time, this repertoire becomes a hegemonic and dogmatic prism through which society members construe their reality, collect new information, interpret their experiences, and then make decisions about their course of action. Thus it also maintains and prolongs the intractable conflict, creating a vicious cycle.

Since the negative psychological repertoire plays an important role in these cycles, it is vital to change this repertoire if we want to change the relations between the rival groups. Such change is a necessary condition for stopping the violence, for conflict resolution, for advancing a peace process, and for reconciliation. This is a crucial challenge in view of the behavioral consequences of this repertoire in situations of intractable conflict, leading to violence, loss of human life, ethnic cleansing, and even genocide.

Particular contributions of this line of research can be found at www.tau.ac.il/education/homepg/bar-tal, or e-mail daniel@post.tau.ac.il.
Social Research in Action

Service Learning: Examining Social Issues In and Out of Class

By Pamela Trotman Reid
Roosevelt University

Service learning is the “hot” new topic for faculty who wish to increase student engagement and connect classroom content with real-life experiences. It requires that students not only read about a topic, but also involve themselves with it through some activity. Service learning is particularly suited to classes that address social concerns because it puts students in touch with a segment of the community that they may not interact with otherwise. Ideally, students should take a role that permits them to serve both as provider and learner, thus allowing them to gain respect for new perspectives.

Advocates of this approach to experiential learning distinguish it from mere volunteering by insisting that the required student activity must be combined with the opportunity for reflection and analysis. These components are essential to prevent reinforcement of any misconceptions or preconceived stereotypes that may be brought to new situations. Since service learning is characterized by having service embedded in and integral to the experience of learning, it must take place contiguously with a content-based course of instruction. Additionally, it should be removed from the realm of a single event and located within a larger framework suitable for an ongoing evaluation.

Benefits for Students and the University

For those of us who teach courses focused on social issues, service learning may provide new routes to help students understand and appreciate the complexities of these topics. By connecting the student through readings, discussion, and activities, we can more readily establish a basis for examining a wide variety of concerns. For example, at the University of Michigan, students in one women’s studies course served variously in a food bank, a shelter for victims of domestic abuse, and a low-income day care center. When they read Barbara Ehrenreich’s book Nickeled and Dimed, the perspectives of the various student experiences came together in class discussions to provide a nuanced and compelling view of reality in their own community.

In my own course on the psychology of adolescent girls, Middle School Girls: Theory and Practice, students learn about the stressors of adolescence and girls’ attitudes toward academic achievement through their participation as mentors. The college students serve in an enrichment program that my colleagues and I developed and now conduct at Wayne State University. Our program, Gaining Options: Girls Investigate Real Life (GO GIRL), provides 7th grade girls with a curriculum designed to contextualize mathematics through social science inquiry. The college students work in teams to teach small groups of girls how to approach social questions scientifically and to use statistics to evaluate results. The culmination of the term and the once-a-week sessions with the girls is a conference-ready poster of the questions and analyses that each team of girls has designed based on their work across the 10 weeks of the program.

Service learning gives students a more in-depth awareness of social issues and enables them to understand how their academic studies relate to and operate in the real world. Students value these experiences and these classes highly; often they find them to be transformative and describe them as critical to making career decisions. For the university there is the added benefit of visibility and connectivity to the community. The value of the service to the community and the goodwill accrued contributes in many ways outside of the actual efforts of the students and faculty involved.

Growing Resources

Preparing to engage students in a service learning experience clearly takes time for thought and preparation. At some institutions, this is facilitated by release time or stipends. At Eastern Michigan University, for example, the administration has made the commitment to encourage faculty to make this effort; each semester, five faculty members receive a course release to spend Friday afternoons discussing service learning. Additionally, each faculty member commits to incorporating a service learning component into one of his or her courses and to offering that course in the subsequent semester. Other institutions, such as Roosevelt University, are using funds to provide summer stipends or small grants to faculty who wish to develop a service learning component for a course.

Faculty interested in developing materials or programs for service learning now have a number of “best case” examples as well as numerous articles on this compelling pedagogical strategy. There are also many funding agencies and foundations interested in supporting these efforts. Finally, service learning offers opportunities for widespread collaborations – bringing community, students, faculty, and staff members together in creative ways to provide intellectual enrichment and serve the social good.

Sustaining Membership

This recently established 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!
Immigration Issues in the 109th Congress

By Shari E. Miles
Executive Director

Immigration policy is one of the many issues that confront the 109th Congress. It is also an issue that interests President Bush. I recently attended an immigration briefing in an attempt to get up to speed on these issues. The progressives, represented by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund and National Immigration Forum, called for Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR) – which includes promoting citizenship and English language acquisition, easing community integration, ensuring due process, and protecting civil liberties. The conservatives, represented by the Center for Immigration Studies, called for abolition of guest worker programs, employing attrition as a means to increase border security and ensure national security: Improvements needed to reduce the time taken to adjudicate visa for science students and scholars.

Guest Workers. President Bush continues to make statements about balancing the interests of those who say illegal immigration costs taxpayers’ money and may be a national security threat – with U.S. businesses’ need for low-cost labor. Progressives and conservatives are somewhat skeptical of the President. It is typical for the President to present Congress with a version of the legislation he wants passed. However, he seems to be expecting Congress to draft this legislation, rather than developing a roadmap to help Congress navigate these difficult and complicated issues.

The Senate recently held hearings on the majority’s preferred principles to be included in a successful temporary guest worker program. These principles included increasing funding for border security, ensuring that reforms do not create incentives for undocumented immigrants, creating a temporary worker program, and ensuring that American jobs are protected. Democrats and conservative Republicans disagreed with these principles. Democrats suggested that undocumented workers would not sign up for a temporary guest worker program if it did not contain a provision to gain permanent legal status in the United States. Conservative Republicans wanted to include a provision granting local police officers the authority to arrest illegal immigrants and enforce federal immigration laws (previously introduced as the CLEAR Act Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Alien Removal). The CLEAR Act would require local jurisdictions to enact laws that would authorize law enforcement personnel to ask individuals for proof of their legal status, or risk losing federal funds.

Currently, enforcement of federal immigration laws rests with the INS within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Local jurisdictions, police, and women’s rights activists have raised concerns that CLEAR Act provisions endanger immigrant women who are victims of domestic violence because women will be less likely to come forward to report abuse if they fear consequence to their immigration status.

The House of Representatives recently passed the REAL ID (the Immigration Security Standards) Act along party lines. The REAL Act would, among other things, establish federal standards for state drivers’ licenses, make it easier to remove a person from the United States as a terrorist, and mandate the completion of a border fence between San Diego and Mexico. Supporters suggest that these measures are necessary to ensure national security. Opponents say that by passing this bill, the United States is one step closer to requiring a national identification card and that the legislation makes it easier for the federal government to deport legitimate asylum seekers back to countries where they could be tortured or killed.

The Agricultural Job Opportunity, Benefits, and Security (AgJobs) Act of 2005 is a bipartisan bill sponsored by Senators Kennedy (MA) and Craig (ID) and Representatives Berman (CA) and Cannon (UT) that would allow eligible undocumented farm workers to apply for temporary immigration status based on past work experience and to earn the right to permanent legal status through future work and lawful behavior. Senator Kennedy is also working on a compromise bill with Senator McCain.

International Student and Scholars. The House Science Committee held a hearing to review the impact of increased security measures on the entry of foreign science students and scholars into the United States. Responding to concerns that these increased security measures were having a negative impact on U.S. scientific enterprise, the DHS announced that it would relax some of these requirements. This program was established in 1998 as a way to prevent entry into the United States by scientists who might export U.S. secret technology or scientific advancements. Currently, all immigrants seeking to study or work in the United States on a temporary basis must undergo this clearance process. In 2003, the DHS completed 20,000 screenings. To learn more, consult the Government Accountability Office report titled Border security: Improvements needed to reduce the time taken to adjudicate visa for science students and scholars.

Gender-based Persecution. Under U.S. law, asylum applicants have to show that they face persecution at home because of their religion, race, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. Regulations proposed by then-Attorney General Janet Reno near the end of the Clinton Administration would have allowed battered women to be considered members of such a group. However, Attorney General John Ashcroft never dealt with gender-based persecution. The DHS has developed new regulations that would make domestic abuse a valid legal basis for asylum-seekers. The DHS maintains that not all battered women should be granted asylum, but that asylum is appropriate where local authorities refuse to help and the victim’s attempts to flee within the country are unsuccessful.

Update on Head Start

Born out of research conducted by SPSSI members, the Head Start program was created in 1965. It began as an 8-week comprehensive program designed to meet the emotional, social, nutritional, health, and psychological needs of poor preschool children in an attempt to break the cycle of poverty. Since 1965, the program is said to have served more than 20 million children. Congress has been attempting to reauthorize Head Start since 2003. The President’s FY 2006 proposal to...continued on page 16
PASSINGS

Martin Deutsch

Martin Deutsch, a former President of SPSSI, died in June 2002. The contributions that he made to SPSSI will long be appreciated, and we regret that there has been such a delay in recording his passing as part of the SPSSI chronicle.

Marty Deutsch joined SPSSI in 1949 and remained involved with our organization throughout his career. He served two terms on Council from 1961 to 1965 and served as President in 1968. During the 1950s, he was chair of the important Desegregation Committee, appointed by then President Marie Jahoda. SPSSI honored Marty in 1997 as one of its longest-serving leaders by presenting him with a Distinguished Service Award.

SPSSI’s goals, then and now, to link research to policy were the foundation of Martin Deutsch’s work in child development and the Head Start program. As he himself said in a celebration of the 20th anniversary of Head Start, the program was “an important reminder to us all that our society is capable of calling forth resources that can make a humane difference in how children are regarded.” His goals for children are the goals that SPSSI holds in all those domains in which research has the potential to create a greater good.

With Cynthia Deutsch, his wife and herself a former President of SPSSI, Martin Deutsch gave much to SPSSI and to the community at large. We are grateful and proud that Martin Deutsch is part of our legacy.

Michele Alexander

Michele Alexander died, unexpectedly, in December 2003. She was a wonderful person, a promising scholar, and an active member of SPSSI. For someone so young in her career, she has served SPSSI in many different and important capacities. She did an outstanding job as co-chair of the 1998 SPSSI Convention in Ann Arbor. The talks were so relevant and substantive that several were combined into a special *Journal of Social Issues* volume of which she was also a co-editor. Michele subsequently took on the Chair of the SPSSI Theme Conference Committee and shortly thereafter was elected to SPSSI Council. Although she was in her last year on Council, she recently took on the Chair of the Junior Scholars Professional Development Task Force. In this position, she used her energy and ideas on behalf of young scholars and was eagerly pursuing ways that SPSSI could provide more tangible and needed support to their professional development. This task force spearheaded the creation of The Michele Alexander Early Career Award for Scholarship and Service to honor her memory (see elsewhere in the newsletter for an award announcement).

In addition, the Psychology Department at University of Maine established the Michele Alexander Scholar Award to honor Michelle and support undergraduate students interested in pursuing advanced training in social psychology. The award will annually recognize an outstanding University of Maine senior continuing on to graduate study in social psychology. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please send your support to The University of Maine, Office of University Development, 168 College Avenue, Orono, ME 04473-9966. Make checks payable to University of Maine and please indicate that your contribution goes to the Michele Alexander Scholar Award.

Michele was joyous, mischievous, compassionate and endlessly energetic. She will be profoundly missed. SPSSI shares the grief of Michele’s husband, Steve, her son Camden, and the rest of her family and friends. We take solace in her legacy of giving and loving, and her gift of joy.
By Karen Y. Chen
SPSSI James Marshall Public Policy Scholar

During the fall of 2004, much of the political energy in Washington, DC, was focused on the highly anticipated November elections. Now with President George W. Bush serving his second term and Congress starting a new session, the start of 2005 is once again filled with much policy activity, from reintroducing past bills to developing new legislation. I am continuing my involvement in issues related to HIV/AIDS, hate crime, and immigrant populations. Some of my recent policy efforts are described below.

- HIV/AIDS. The domestic epidemic of HIV/AIDS has been a high priority issue both here in Washington, DC, and around the country. Of particular importance is the reauthorization of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act, which will expire on September 30, 2005. This legislation focuses on the care and treatment of people with HIV/AIDS, including provisions for mental health and substance abuse services. The bill has been a success and has garnered bipartisan support since its inception in 1990. It was encouraging to hear President Bush affirm the need to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act in his State of the Union Address this year.

   However, the CARE Act has encountered level funding or funding increases primarily directed toward payments for medication. Medical advances have created drugs that allow people with HIV/AIDS to live much longer than before. But successful treatment of HIV/AIDS needs to be comprehensive and extend beyond access to medication. For example, studies have shown that many individuals with HIV/AIDS suffer from a mental illness and those who seek mental health services are more likely to adhere to the strict medication treatment.

   As a member of a CARE Act coalition group within the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership (FAPP), I have been working closely with Hill staff, educating and garnering support for the Act. The coalition has drafted a sign-on letter, sent to every Senator and Representative, emphasizing the need to reauthorize the CARE Act. More than 60 organizations, including SPSSI and APA, have signed on. In addition, we have been meeting since December with staff of Senators and Representatives who are involved in, or are interested in, the legislation. Currently we are putting together congressional briefings for both the Senate and House to further educate people about the legislation.

   As probably the sole behavioral scientist in the coalition, I speak to the need for mental health and substance abuse services for people with HIV/AIDS. I developed a briefing sheet providing information about the relationship among HIV/AIDS, mental health, and substance use. The document, which highlights the underutilization of mental health and substance abuse services among people living with HIV/AIDS, has been distributed to various policymakers, including Hill staff and HIV/AIDS advocates.

- Hate Crimes. I continue to be involved with a group of advocates fighting against hate crime injustices. Although the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, which would have extended hate crime laws to include crimes against gay men and lesbians, did not pass in the last Congress, we are working with staff on the Hill to develop stronger legislation and have the bill re-introduced. In addition, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has asked the coalition to help it improve its data collection of hate crime reports, which was last updated in 2000. We are in the process of reviewing the data collection process and providing our feedback.

- Immigration. I recently joined a coalition group focused on language access and limited English proficiency issues. The coalition held a congressional briefing on December 9, 2004, addressing the lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate services for immigrant and refugee populations in health care settings. Recognizing a growing population with limited English fluency, Senator Kennedy (D-MA) is working with the coalition, including myself and other staff members of the APA Public Policy Office, to draft a bill providing culturally and linguistically appropriate health services. The APA Public Policy Office developed and distributed a briefing sheet with our policy recommendations on language access within the mental health field to the Hill staff working on the legislation and members of the coalition.

   As you can gather, my experience as the SPSSI James Marshall Scholar continues to be very stimulating. It has been exactly the type of public policy opportunity I envisioned. I am very grateful for all the support I have received, particularly from Shari Miles, the SPSSI Central Office, the APA Public Policy Office, and my oversight committee composed of past Marshall Scholars and local, policy-minded SPSSI members. I appreciate your support and collaboration, and look forward to your comments and questions at kchen@apa.org.
SPSSI 2005 Convention at APA
Marginalized Groups: Public Policy and Psycho/Social Well-Being

By Janet Swim
2005 APA Program Chair

The theme for this year’s convention at APA is “Marginalized Groups: Public Policy and Psycho/Social Well-Being.” There are several symposia on this theme, and a poster session. The invited symposia and keynote speakers provide examples of the conference presentations:

Invited symposia:

1. New Weave Sexism Research: Tangled Webs of Feminism, Romance, and Inequality.
   Chair: Susan T. Fiske, Ph.D.

2. Public Policy and Same Sex Relationships: Scientific Perspectives.
   Chair: Allen Omoto.
   Presenters: Gregory M. Herek, Charlotte J. Patterson, and M.V. Lee Badgett.

3. Immigration and Public Policy.
   Chair: Kay Deaux.
   Douglas Massey will give a talk on “The Costs of Contradiction in U.S. Immigration Policy” and Victoria Esses and Michael Maggio will respond to his presentation.

   Chair: Robert M. Sellers.

   Chair: Theresa K. Vescio.
   Presenters: Mark Snyder, Marc T. Kivinimi, Stephanie Madon, Kerry Kawakami, and Jennifer Crocker.
   Discussant: Theresa K. Vescio.

   Chair: Stephanie Shields.
   Discussant: Marianne LaFrance.

Speakers

1. Faye J. Crosby will be awarded the SPSSI Kurt Lewin Award. She will give a talk titled The Uses of a Good Theory.
2. Kay Deaux will give her presidential address on A Nation of Immigrants: Living Our Legacy.

There will also be several workshops that are likely to be of particular interest to students: Benefits and Challenges to International Research, Changing the World Through Social Science, The Bridge between Community and Academia, and Non-Academic Job Opportunities.

Finally, there will be a business meeting and two social hours. One of the social hours will be shared with Division 8. The second will be a celebration of 60 years of the Journal of Social Issues and everyone is invited.
Interdivisional “Minority Pipeline” Project

By Bernice Lott
Div. 9 Representative to COR

S PSSI is represented on this project by Council member Bernice Lott (University of Rhode Island), with SPSSI Past President Michele Wittig (California State, Northridge) as a continuing member. The project committee is chaired by Ken Maton (University of Maryland, Baltimore County) of Division 27 and includes Luis Vasquez (New Mexico State University) from Division 45, Margie Rogers (University of Rhode Island) from Division 16, and Sheila Grant (California State, Northridge) and Melba Vasquez (Austin, Texas) from Division 17.

The project was funded by small grants from APA’s Interdivisional Grant program and the National Institutes of Health, and a grant procured by Margie Rogers from her university. The goals of the project are to: 1) gather information on undergraduate and graduate psychology enrollment trends for minorities of color; 2) identify “best practices” on the part of graduate departments; and 3) make recommendations to APA and to departments regarding strategies for admissions, retention, and high achievement of minority students of color.

The project members communicate by e-mail and conference calls. Activities since the last newsletter report include:

• Seven papers, detailing the work of the first project undertaken (examining relevant data, strategies for recruitment and retention, model graduate programs, and others) were submitted to the American Psychologist for a special section on the psychology pipeline for graduate students of color. Five survived the first round of review and revised papers have been submitted for final review.

• A second project is currently underway. It is a large-scale electronic survey of undergraduate and graduate students in psychology in which respondents are asked questions about their experiences with curriculum, faculty, and peers, about their personal backgrounds, and about their expectations and career plans. Responses given by students of color will be compared with those given by white students. Participants are being solicited with the assistance of APAGS, PSI BETA, some PSI CHI chapters, the minority Psych Associations, and other groups.

• A panel discussion by faculty and students of color was presented at the 4th National Multicultural Summit and Conference (NMCS), held in Hollywood in January 2005. Presenters talked about their personal experiences in white majority graduate programs and workplaces. This program extended one given previously by the Pipeline group at the 3rd NMCS.

Divisions for Social Justice (DSJ) Update

By Bernice Lott
Representative to DSJ from APA Div. 9

DSJ is a coalition of 10 APA divisions (9, 17, 27, 35, 39, 43, 44, 45, 48, and 51) that strives to contribute to the work of APA by proposing and supporting activities and policies that reflect a commitment to social justice. The current SPSSI representative to DSJ (Bernice Lott) will be replaced by Susan Clayton in August 2005.

A list of programs relevant to social justice that were presented in Honolulu at APA’s national 2004 conference was prepared and distributed electronically to the listserv of each DSJ division. APAs Office of Division Services also had copies of this list available at its convention booth. At the Honolulu meetings, all members of DSJ divisions were invited to a reception hosted by Division 39.

At the 2005 Multicultural Conference, DSJ presented a very well- attended program on its “Past, Present, and Future.” The lively and eager discussion of social justice issues generated a wide range of important future objectives. A summary of these will be shared electronically with division members.

DSJ representatives to APAs Council of Representatives are committed to supporting social justice legislation and to sharing the names of nominees for APA boards and committees.

Announcing the Michele Alexander Early Career Award for Scholarship and Service

SPSSI and the Junior Scholars Professional Development (JSPD) Task Force are pleased to announce the creation of a new award to recognize early career scholars who combine excellence in both scholarship and service: The Michele Alexander Early Career Award for Scholarship and Service. This award stands apart from the Louise Kidder Early Career Award by recognizing those individuals who not only excel in scholarship but who combine excellence in scholarship (defined as theoretical, applied, or empirical contributions) and in service (defined as community involvement and/or professional service).

In many ways, this award captures the spirit of SPSSI as an organization committed to both social issues and scholarship. It was inspired by the memory of Michele Alexander, a talented scholar and dedicated teacher who brought exceptional insight, passion, and commitment to social issues research. Michele also gave generously to students, colleagues, and communities through voluntary service.

Applications for the award are due May 1, 2005, and must include a 500-word statement outlining how the nominee combines scholarship and service, along with a current curriculum vita. Nominees should have received their Ph.D. within 5 years of the time of application. Please consult the JSPD web site (http://www.spssi.org/junior_scholar_task_force.html) for more details.

The JSPD Task Force was created in 2003 to foster the professional advancement of early career scholars interested in the psychological study of social issues. (See “Passings” for Obituary)
SPSSI - New York Activities, Fall 2005

By Harold Takooshian
New York Regional Group Chair

In the past 20 years, SPSSI-NY has hosted more than 100 gatherings for the 400 members in Greater New York, six of these in the fall of 2004:

1. On September 27, 45 people attended a Symposium at Hunter College on “Perceptions and fear of crime and terrorism: Implications for New York City,” chaired by Jason Young of Hunter and featuring Derek Chadee (Trinidad), Hugh O’Rourke (Nassau Community College), and Maureen O’Connor (John Jay College).

2. On October 4, 100 attended Dr. Bert Hellinger’s (Germany) World Mental Health Day workshop at Fordham University on “Ethnic reconciliation.”

3. On October 25, 40 attended a symposium on “Social psychology of city life” at Fordham University featuring Thomas Blass (UMBC), Robert V. Levine (CSU-Fresno), Henry Solomon (NYC Department of Education), Pete Simmons (ABC News), and Harold Takooshian (Fordham).

4. On November 5, 90 attended the 16th Greater New York Conference on Behavioral Research, chaired by Vincent R. Brown (Hofstra University) and held at Fordham University in Manhattan.

5. On December 5, SPSSI-NY joined 8 other groups to cosponsor a New York benefit screening of Stolen Childhoods, a film narrated by Meryl Streep on the global problem of 246 million child laborers today. This was hosted by Fordham Law School, and featured audience discussion with producer Len Morris and director Robin Romano.

6. On December 10, SPSSI-NY held its fourth annual Holiday Healing Circle, a joyous interfaith evening of renewal during the hectic holidays, first organized by Anie Kalayjian following the trauma in New York City of 9-11-01.

The SPSSI-NY committee that planned these diverse activities was composed of Thomas Blass, Vincent R. Brown, Derek Chadee, Anie Kalayjian, Ann Saltzman, Harold Takooshian, and Jason R. Young. For spring 2005, SPSSI-NY plans more local activities, including a symposium on the psychology of genocide at Drew University on April 7, seven SPSSI panels at the Hunter Psychology Convention on April 16, and a lecture on the legacy of Stanley Milgram at the CUNY Graduate School on April 19. Those who want advance notice of future SPSSI-NY activities should be sure to send their e-address to takoosh@aol.com. Anyone interested in joining the planning committee should call 212-636-6393.
ASAP – Spring 2005 Update

By Rhoda Unger

ASAP Editor

The print edition of Volume 4 was published in December 2004 and we have begun to put the first articles of Volume 5 on the web site. The first two articles in this volume are by researchers from outside of the United States: the first is titled “Racism and indigenous Australians”; the second is on television characterization of homeless people in the United Kingdom by a group of researchers located in New Zealand and the UK. A third article, titled “Predicting support for eliminating the dividend tax: The role of framing and attributions for wealth,” has been accepted and is being revised for publication. We are currently reviewing a number of other manuscripts on the judicial system, prejudice and racism, environmental issues, and teacher accountability.

We will not have a point/counterpoint feature in this volume. However, several members of the editorial board have volunteered to do special features/issues on areas of current concern. These special sections are “Psychological perspectives on threats to democracy,” co-edited by David Mandel at the University of Toronto and Mandeep Dhani at Cambridge University (UK), and “The social psychology of the 2004 U.S. presidential election,” edited by Kevin Lanning of the University of South Florida.

All past volumes of ASAP are now abstracted by APA in PsychInfo. However, I continue to receive inquiries about usage, citation figures, etc. This information is important to researchers as they decide where to submit an article. I have referred these requests to Blackwell, which no longer supplies me with information on the monthly use of the ASAP web site. We continue to work to make ASAP more visible and credible as an outlet for important research on policy issues. There are now more than 5,000 references to ASAP on Google, although many of these are duplicates.

Volume 4, with 271 pages, was the largest issue of ASAP to date. Since we will have two or more special features in Volume 5, I expect that this issue will be even larger. However, we have not yet exceeded the page length allocated for the journal. Since a new editor will be in place for Volume 6, I believe further change should wait until he or she takes over.

Update on the Journal of Social Issues

By Irene Hanson Frieze

Journal of Social Issues Editor, 2001-2005

Issues for 2005

In this last year of my editorial position, we again have a very interesting set of issues planned. Titles and issue editors are:

1. Current reproductive technologies: Psychological, ethical, cultural and political considerations.
   Linda J. Beckman and S. Marie Harvey.
3. Inequities in higher education: Issues and promising practices in a world ambivalent about affirmative action.
   Yolanda Flores Niemann and Geoffrey Maruyama.
4. Religion as a meaning system.
   Israela Silberman.

New issues with Rick Hoyle

There are a number of other journal issues that are in various stages of development. They will be completed under the new editor, Rick Hoyle. Rick can be reached at rholy@duke.edu or at:

Dr. Rick Hoyle, Editor Elect
Journal of Social Issues
Department of Psychology: SHS Box 90085, 9 Flowers Drive
Duke University
Durham, NC 27708-0085

New issue ideas are now being handled by Rick as well. To check the status of issues, see our web site at http://www.spssi.org/jsi_issueinfo.html. We also have a complete listing of all published tables of contents for the Journal of Social Issues on the web site. The web site includes guidelines for someone thinking about putting together an issue, as well as other information.

Anniversary!

The Journal of Social Issues is one of the oldest journals in psychology. We published our first issue in 1945. We will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the journal at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, August 18-21, in Washington, DC, at the Division 9 Social Hour. Please come and join us.

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Gift memberships are a great way to bring in new members. If you know someone who would be interested in SPSSI, give him or her a gift membership. Once new members 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 $25. Five or more memberships given at one time are $20 each.

Contact Central Office for more information.
SPSSI at the United Nations

By Joseph DeMeyer
UN Main Representative

SPSSI’s United Nations and International Committee consists of five UN/NGO Representatives: four in New York–Pete Walker, Nora Alafari Pharaoh, Corann Okorodudu, and Joseph DeMeyer and one in Geneva, Switzerland–Astrid Stuckelberger.

They are active in committees associated with the United Nations Council of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO), of which SPSSI became a member in 1991, pursuing the implementation of SPSSI’s mission and goals at the United Nations: “To bring theory and practice into focus on human problems of the group, the community, and nations, as well as the increasingly important problems that have no national boundaries.”

The committee’s activities cover issues such as the rights of older people, women, and children; refugees and persons with disabilities; HIV/AIDS; mental health and trauma; racism and discrimination; human settlements; and terrorism and the well-being of humanitarian workers and peacekeepers.

In the past year the reputation of the UN has suffered damage, but significant reforms are now being discussed for implementation, including a reconfiguration of the Security Council and a drastic overhaul of the internal functioning of the UN: replacing the “old boy’s club” with younger, more dynamic figures. In the midst of all this, SPSSI’s UN representatives have been able to maintain a steady course of implementing psychological and social science scholarship in the goals of the United Nations; influencing formulations of global policies; and collaborating with other NGO representatives to identify and formulate psychological and social issues in statements expressed and distributed at the United Nations and among its member states.

In that regard, one of this year’s highlights was Pete Walker’s address to the Commission on Social Development on February 14, during its 43rd meeting, where he read a statement titled “Urban Dwellers and the Copenhagen Declaration: Four Essential Commitments” to a gathering of 175 Mission Delegates, UN Secretariat Staff, and NGOs. His presentation was simultaneously translated in all official languages of the UN, and copies of the paper were distributed to all attendees. Pete prepared this paper at the request of the NGO Committee on Human Settlements, and was endorsed by 20 additional NGOs, as a follow-up to the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, where UN member states made commitments to eliminate poverty, support employment, protect the right to adequate shelter, and achieve equity between women and men. Among his other contributions has been his cosponsoring of a side-event at the United Nations Department of Public Information/NGO 57th Annual Conference, held in September 2004, on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The title of the session was “The MDGs and the Madrid Plan of Action on Aging: Forging Links.”

Nora Alafari Pharaoh has been very active in the UN NGO Committee on Mental Health, where she addresses in particular the need to attend to the care of traumatized UN humanitarian workers and peacekeepers; the impact on the social service workers and spiritual leaders of groups stressed by cultural and political conflict, such as the Muslim, Arab American Community; and the news reporting of terrorism and violence and its Arabic perspective. She shares her insightful observations about these topics at the UN Department of Public Information briefings, at monthly meetings of various NGO committees and working groups, and with other NGO representatives at the UN.

Corann Okorodudu has been very active as cochair of the NGO Committee on Children’s Rights, in which capacity she supports UNICEF’s work, with special focus on rights-based approaches to child, family, and community development, and she attends its Executive Board meetings to monitor its progress. She also participated in developing a brochure, “Focus on children: The impact of rights-based strategies,” commemorating the 14th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. At its 15th Anniversary, she moderated a conference featuring a film on global child labor: Stolen Childhoods, narrated by Meryl Streep. She helped obtain funding for a project promoting health and psychosocial support for children and families affected or infected by HIV/AIDS in Lesotho, Africa, and codrafted a statement on HIV/AIDS orphans for review at the World Summit for Social Development. At the 57th Annual DPI/NGO Conference on Millennium Development Goals, Corann helped to implement a midday event called “HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care with Special Emphasis on Engaging Boys and Men as Full Partners.” She is also a member of the NGO Committee on Human Rights Sub-Committee Against Racism and the NGO Committee on Mental Health. In that capacity she is active in following up on the World Conference Against Racism. Just recently, Corann participated in drafting a statement on the mental health and psychosocial well-being of women and girls for the 2005 Commission on the Status of Women.

Joseph DeMeyer, a member of the UN NGO Committee on Mental Health, is particularly interested in the mental health aspects of refugees and the prevention of sexual abuse of refugee women and girls. His focus is on the stresses and mental health conditions of UN field workers as well as UN staff, and his experience with counseling them. At the APA Convention in Hawaii, for the session “Caring for Humanitarian Workers and Peacekeepers: How Can Psychologists Help, “his paper” The United Nations Headquarters staff and its reaction to trauma” was read. Following up on a recent message by the UN Secretary-General for World Mental Health Day (October 10) – “Recognizing the co-occurrence of mental and physical illness, [which] reflects the reality of people’s experience, and pledging to treat people, not parts of people”--Joseph helped organize in November a World Health Organization and Committee for Mental Health special program with a focus on complex emergencies and mental health. The UN Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Coordinator of Emergency Relief, Jan Egeland, reiterated his commitment to addressing, globally, the mental health needs of people in distress. This conference was well timed; shortly thereafter the tsunami calamity took place.

...continued on page 16
SPSSI Nongovernmental Representative at the United Nations Sought
Position Description

SPSSI welcomes nominations and applications to fill one vacancy on its team of Nongovernmental Organization (NGO) Representatives to the United Nations in New York City. The Society's involvement with the UN and international issues spans several decades. SPSSI has been represented at UN headquarters in New York since 1987 and has held consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN since 1991. The Society's UN/NGO Representatives participate in a wide range of activities, primarily focused on broadening the impact of psychological and social science scholarship on the formulation and implication of UN policies. SPSSI UN/NGO Representatives collaborate with representatives of other NGOs to identify and articulate social issues and draft statements intended to influence responsive formulation and implementation of global policies. They also attempt to create opportunities for meaningful dialogue among psychologists, other social scientists, and representatives of UN agencies.

Qualifications
Applicants must hold doctoral degrees or be candidates for doctoral degrees in psychology or another social science, and must be either members of SPSSI or eligible to be members. Applicants selected must join SPSSI prior to their appointment by SPSSI's President.

Candidates must provide evidence of interest or involvement in the application of psychological or social science knowledge to social issues at the international, national, or local level. Candidates must also be able to demonstrate effective oral and writing skills as well as the ability to both exercise personal initiative and work collaboratively with others who may hold different viewpoints or interests. Proficiency in a foreign language would be helpful. Prior knowledge of the inner workings of the UN system is not required; new representatives receive assistance in “learning the ropes.” However, an unbiased interest in and some basic knowledge about the UN, in particular in light of the recent developments at the UN and its plans for reformation, are also desirable.

A visit to one of the following web sites may serve as an introduction to the wide-ranging activities of NGO Representatives at the UN: www.un.org/partners/civil_society/home.htm, www.ngocongo.org/ngosubs/index.htm, and www.spssi.org/policy.htm.

Requirements
In order to contribute to the SPSSI mission to the UN, persons who volunteer and are selected to serve as representatives are expected to identify and become productively engaged in at least one substantive NGO committee (visit the CONGO web site, www.ngocongo.org/ngosubs/index.htm) beginning in their first year of service. Currently, representatives are active in committees related to aging, women and children, racism, mental health, trauma and refugees, and human settlements. In addition, there are committees related to media, peace and disarmament, UN development programs, UNESCO, UN environmental programs, criminal justice, technology, indigenous people, health and disabilities, complex emergencies and humanitarian aid, and other topics that could be of interest to a potential candidate.

Each representative is expected to schedule several visits to UN Headquarters in New York City each month, including attendance at a minimum of one of the weekly Department of Public Information briefings, held on Thursday mornings, 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM, and one meeting of the SPSSI UN/NGO team. In general, one should expect a full day of attendance requirements, and should commit to doing so on a consistent and possibly long-term basis. SPSSI Representatives are also expected to consult with the Main Representative, to whom they submit semi-annual and annual reports to be compiled for regular meetings of SPSSI Council.

Nomination/Application Process
All applications should be received May 15, 2005; interviews will be held in May or June. Whether nominated by others or self-nominated, persons interested in serving as UN/NGO representatives should submit a letter of application, a curriculum vitae, two letters of recommendation, and two samples of relevant written work to:

Joseph A. DeMeyer, Ph.D.
SPSSI Main UN/NGO Representative
1330 Hamburg Turnpike
Wayne, NJ 07470
This Society shall be a non-profit body, no part of the net earnings of which shall inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. It shall be organized and operated exclusively for educational and scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. The Society’s scientific research shall be carried on in and to serve the public interests. In furtherance of the Society’s purposes it shall engage in activities to instruct the public on subjects useful to the individual and beneficial to the community (1) by obtaining, and disseminating to the public factual data regarding social change and other social processes through the promotion and encouragement of psychological research on significant theoretical and practical questions of social life and (2) by promoting and encouraging the application of the findings of such psychological research to the problems of society.

SPSSI at the United Nations

Astrid Stuckelberger, SPSSI’s UN representative in Geneva, Switzerland, is a member of the NGO Committee on Aging; the NGO Committee on the Status of Women; the working group on Health and Human Rights and Peace, where she is in charge of the “Mapping Peace” project, which has been adopted by the 1st Conference of Women defending Peace, organized by the Swiss government; and the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values, and Global Concern. She represented SPSSI at the Conference on Women Defending Peace, organized by the International Labour Organization, and the NGO Forum on Health. Astrid gave a speech, “Human Dignity Development: The Importance of Aging with Dignity for the Family and Future Generations,” at the European Regional Dialogue in preparation for the Doha International Conference for the Family, at the 10th Anniversary of the UN International Year of the Family, in Geneva.

One of SPSSI’s UN representatives, Lauren Appelbaum, recently accepted a teaching assignment in California and, therefore, could no longer fulfill her UN obligations. For more than two years, Lauren was active addressing the eradication of poverty MDG at the UN, culminating in the publication of a survey to identify best practices, taken among NGOs working directly in the field, which was consequently distributed by the Commission on Social Development to the UN missions.

In this newsletter, we have placed an announcement for filling one open UN representative positions; I hope this article will give interested applicants an idea of what it means to be a UN representative. Readers are encouraged to visit the UN web site mentioned in the announcement to gain further insights into the United Nations, including the plans for its reforms and restructuring.

SPSSI UN representatives feel very much supported in their work with the United Nations by the leadership of our Society—Kay Deaux, our previous Liaison with Council, and her successor, Susan Opotow—as well as by the staff in Washington, D.C. The UN visits by interns, as well as by Marshall Scholars, are always welcome and enjoyable. We hope that this brief report about the activities of SPSSI representatives at the United Nations will encourage other SPSSI members to renew their interest in the goals and missions of this world body.

Immigration Issues in the 109th Congress

Congress recommends transferring the program to the Department of Education, offers states the opportunity to develop their own standards, and includes a small increase in funding for FY 2006. Organizations like the Children’s Defense Fund, the Children’s Welfare League of America, and Results want the program to be expanded to cover more children and to remain within the Department of Health and Human Services. They oppose turning the program into a block grant to the states, and propose a greater funding increase than the President’s budget includes. You can keep track of Head Start reauthorization by visiting www.house.gov and www.senate.gov.

Milestone

On January 1, 2005, Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman elected to Congress and the first black person to be considered for the presidential nomination of a major national party, died. She was one of the founders of the National Organization for Women and a tireless advocate for social justice issues, advocating for civil rights, women’s rights, and the poor.

Why don’t you...

- Give part of your tax refund to charity
- Thank a teacher who influenced you
- Start a community garden
- Send a care package to a soldier
- Visit residents at a local nursing home
Field Experiments of Discrimination in Markets

July 6–8, 2005
Monash University, Prato Centre
Prato, Italy

This conference:
• Is endorsed by the ILO International Migration Branch, whose staff will participate.
• Is aimed at specialists who conduct experimental work gathering data on the extent of discrimination in markets, particularly labor markets.
• Represents an opportunity to discuss strengths and weaknesses of current anti-discrimination legislation and equal employment opportunity policies.
• Aims to make constructive suggestions for reforming both anti-discrimination legislation and equal employment opportunity policy to better target and reduce discrimination in markets.

Key note speakers:
Dr. Mark Bendick, Jr. – consultant and researcher in the area of field experimentation
Professor Barbara Bergmann, American University – theoretical economist, particularly in the area of discrimination
Professor Frank Bowenkerk, University of Utrecht – researcher and consultant to the ILO in the conduct of its ongoing study of discrimination against immigrants in Europe
Dr. Peter Riach – researcher in the area of field experimentation
Mr. Patrick Taran, International Migration Branch, ILO – responsible for the ILO program to combat discrimination against immigrant workers.

For conference program details and further information:
Conference web site: www.monas.edu.au/cmo/discrimination

Conference Convenor: Dr. Judith Rich, Monash University, Clayton, Australia 3800; e-mail: judy.rich@buseco.monash.edu.au
Conference Secretariat: Irene Thavarajah, Manager, Conference Management Office MAPA, Monash University, Clayton 3800 tel: +61 3 9905 1344 fax: +61 3 9905 1343 e-mail: irene.thavarajah@adm.monash.edu.au

German Peace Psychology Conference Call for Papers

The 18th Annual Conference of the German Peace Psychology Association will be held June 10-12, 2005, in Erlangen, Germany. The conference title is “Psychological Contributions to Peace and Justice: Current Challenges.”

The aim of the conference is to take stock of important present and future aspects of peace psychology in research and professional work. Conference languages are English and German.

We call for empirical and theoretical papers from all fields of psychology that can contribute to peace and justice. Papers may be submitted in English (preferred) or German. Each talk will be 30 minutes long, including discussion time. Submitted papers will be screened with regard to their general appropriateness and grouped with related papers into thematic sessions. The deadline for paper submissions is April 15, 2005. For more information or to submit a paper, visit http://www.sozialpsychologie.phil.uni-erlangen.de/ -> Tagung Friedenspsychologie.

National Leadership Summit to Develop an Agenda for Blacks in Higher Education

April 20–23, 2005
Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
Washington, DC

The National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education and a diverse group of executives and decision makers— including roughly 300 presidents, chancellors, and administrators of colleges and universities; presidents of higher education and sister associations; higher education researchers; policy makers; policy shapers; and chief executives of philanthropic organizations, businesses, foundations, advocacy, and faith associations—will convene at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC, for three purposes: 1) to reach a common understanding of primary issues of concern regarding blacks in higher education around which a broad and diverse group of stakeholders might work collaboratively during the next three years; 2) to present a clear view of the current status, achievements, challenges, capacities, and potential for historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to continue to provide solutions to the higher education access, achievement, and graduation gaps, as well as assist graduate and professional schools to meet their excellence and diversity goals, and assist employers in meeting their human resource needs; and 3) to reach consensus on a limited number of strategic, quantifiable actions on which the invited participants and others might work collaboratively to strengthen HBCUs, and increase the number of African Americans and other traditionally underrepresented students, faculty, and staff in higher education.

For more information or to register online, visit http://www.nafeo.org/summit.htm.

2006 APA Scientific Awards Program: Call for Nominations

The APA Board of Scientific Affairs invites nominations for its 2006 scientific awards program. The Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award honors psychologists who have made distinguished theoretical or empirical contributions to basic research in psychology.

The Distinguished Scientific Award for the Applications of Psychology honors psychologists who have made distinguished theoretical or empirical advances in psychology leading to the understanding or amelioration of important practical problems.

The Distinguished Scientific Award for Early Career Contribution to Psychology recognizes excellent young psychologists. For the 2006 program, nominations of persons who received doctoral degrees during and since 1996 are being sought in the areas of: 1) animal learning and behavior, comparative; 2) psychopathology; 3) health; 4) developmental psychology; and 5) cognition/human learning.

To obtain nomination forms and more information, visit the Science Directorate web page (www.apa.org/science/sciaward.html) or contact: Suzanne Wandersman Science Directorate American Psychological Association 750 First Street, NE Washington, DC 20002-4242 by phone, (202) 336-6000 by fax, (202) 336-5953 or e-mail, swandersman@apa.org

The deadline for all award nominations is June 1, 2005.
### SPSSI Membership Application

**Demographic Information**

- Gender:  □ Female □ Male
- Race/Ethnicity (check all that apply):
  - □ American Indian or Alaskan Native
  - □ Asian or Pacific Islander
  - □ Black or African American
  - □ Hispanic or Latino
  - □ White
  - □ Other
- Date of Birth: ___/____/____
- 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.
- **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. 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**


**Gift Memberships**

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 $25. Five or more memberships given at one time are $20 each.

Applications are also available on the Web: [www.spssi.org](http://www.spssi.org)

*Please complete and return this form with your check or credit card payment information to: SPSSI, 208 I Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002-4340*

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**Please check appropriate category** (See Membership Categories for descriptions):

- □ Affiliate Member: $50 per year
- □ Student Member: $25 per year (full member privileges)
- □ Full Member: $30 initial dues (after first year a graduated dues structure is suggested, ranging from $50 to $100)
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- □ Gift Membership: $25 each, $20 each for more than five memberships given at one time. (Please include a form for each gift membership. Form may be copied.)

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*The card verification value is a three-digit number printed on the signature panel on the back of your credit card immediately following your credit card account number.*

**Fax to:** 202/675-6902 or **Send application to:**

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FORWARD is published three times a year to provide information and comment of interest to members of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues. Unless stated otherwise, the opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not represent the official position of the Society.

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Copy deadlines: July 2005 issue: September 30, 2005
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Copy submission: Please submit copy via e-mail to spssi@spssi.org. Receipt will be confirmed upon request. For more information, contact: Stacey Sinclair, Tel: 434/982-4733, E-mail: stacey.sinclair@virginia.edu.

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