In 1980, Joe McGrath suggested that the “three P’s” prejudice, poverty, and peace – captured the most frequently recurring themes in the first 36 years of the Journal of Social Issues. These remain core issues for SPSSI today. We also can identify the “five P’s” by which we carry out our work: Projects, Prizes, Publications, Policy, and most importantly, your Participation. Many of us support organizations like the ACLU, where we expect them to take actions in our names in line with our values. You can support SPSSI that way if you want to, and I’ll tell you what we are doing on your behalf. But let me also tell you how you can participate, by applying for funds to carry out projects, nominating yourself or others for prizes, submitting your work to new SPSSI publications, and getting involved in our policy activities. Do ask what SPSSI can do for you, but also ask what you can do for SPSSI.

Projects and Katrina. A number of our awards support research or intervention projects. In the wake of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina, SPSSI is accepting special applications for these projects, outside the usual deadlines, for work that 1) responds to Katrina or 2) has been disrupted by Katrina. These include Grants-in-Aid (for research on social problems), Clara Mayo Grants (for masters and pre-dissertation research on racism, sexism, and discrimination), Applied Social Issues Internships (for work with non-profit organizations), and Social Action Grants for Experienced Scholars, or SAGES (for scholars over 60 to address social problems). Interested members should use the usual application forms, available at www.spssi.org, but may submit the applications at any time. We will continue to accept applications for other work up until the usual deadlines.

Prizes. SPSSI also gives prizes for papers (Gordon Allport Prize, Otto Klineberg Award, Social Issues Dissertation Award) and for people (Kurt Lewin, Louise Kidder, and Michele Alexander Awards, and the Distinguished Service Award). The newest of these is the Michele Alexander Early Career Award for Scholarship and Service. There is an article in this edition of Forward describing the accomplishments of Regina Langhout of Wesleyan University, who was the first recipient. Please nominate yourself and others for these awards.

Publications. Our Publications Committee, under the leadership of Jack Dovidio and Ann Bettencourt, has negotiated contracts with Blackwell Publishing for several new SPSSI publications – an edited book series, a series of single-topic books, and an annual review volume to be published as a journal and bundled with our existing journals for library subscriptions. Gene Borgida and Ann Bettencourt have agreed to co-chair the committee to select editors for these new ventures. These publications promise to bring research on social issues to new audiences, generate revenues for SPSSI, and provide visible outlets for our members’ research. Please consider contributing your work to these efforts, in addition to the Journal of Social Issues and ASAP.

Policy. SPSSI is moving forward actively in the policy arena, and here, especially, I call on you to join in our efforts. Several new members have joined our UN group, which works actively on the international front in New York and Geneva. On the domestic side, the James Marshall Scholar (a postdoctoral position) and the Dalmas Taylor Minority Fellow (a graduate student) come to Washington to work on policy issues, the first for one or two years and the second for a summer. Now that SPSSI’s Central Office is also in Washington, we are coordinating more closely with these scholars, rather than simply sending them off to the American Psychological Association.

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We also have launched a Sabbatical Scholar Program that allows members to spend a summer, semester, or year in our office in Washington working on policy issues. Most recently, Chris Booker spent the summer at the SPSSI office working on the social status of Black males and their relationships with local, state, and federal institutions. The sabbatical scholar does not receive a stipend, on the assumption that salary will come from the home institution, but does get fully equipped office space, a small budget for expenses related to policy work, and the opportunity to work closely with our executive director, Shari Miles (priceless). We will be selecting people for all three roles this year. To apply, see http://www.spssi.org/policy.html.

The Policy Committee, under the leadership of Meg Bond and Maureen O’Connor, has done a wonderful job helping SPSSI develop procedures for deciding how to respond to policy opportunities (for example, deciding whether to sign on to a letter), and for choosing issues for more proactive involvement.

We’ll be surveying you shortly to determine:

1. Issues on which you think SPSSI should take a stand when supported by scientific evidence.
2. Issues on which you have expertise we could call on. We’ll also ask whether you would be willing to be listed in a data base of members’ expertise available to policy makers. We will publicize this data base to state legislators and local officials who could search, say, for an expert on affirmative action in Montana, or an expert on the consequences of natural disasters anywhere. We’ve put in an application to APA’s interdivisional grants program for funds to undertake this project jointly with another division with similar plans (27, the Society for Community Research and Action), and we hope to make the data base available to all the APA Divisions for Social Justice.
3. An issue on which you would be willing to work, a couple of hours per week, as part of an SPSSI Working Group, to develop an SPSSI policy statement, prepare a congressional briefing, or engage in other policy activities.

We’ll pick a priority issue for SPSSI involvement based on the survey. But rather than wait for the survey results, Council, on the recommendation of the Policy Committee, voted to select two issues for proactive efforts for the next couple of years. We will add other issues to our portfolio over time.

The first issue, scientific integrity, is a longstanding SPSSI concern. Indeed, SPSSI’s first official policy statement in 1938 inveighed against charlatanism in science as applied by a government agency. The specific problem is no longer current – SPSSI argued against the Ohio Parole Board’s employment of a graphologist to advise on eligibility for parole on the basis of handwriting analysis. But the principle of distinguishing genuine scientific research from quackery endures. (Thanks to Dalmas Taylor Fellow Demis Glasford and Shari Miles for compiling a list of all of SPSSI policy positions this summer.) In 1950, SPSSI established an Academic Freedom Fund to defend psychologists at the Universities of California, Washington, and elsewhere, who were under investigation.

In the McCarthy period, individual scientists were under attack for their political views. Today, one could argue that science itself is under attack. Although the press has focused attention on suppression of scientific evidence in the natural sciences – for example, in the case of global warming – social sciences are not immune. In Congress, the Toomey and Neugebauer amendments strove to undermine peer review and researchers’ freedom to pursue topics that both they and scientific review committees found important. Federal agencies also vet appointments to scientific panels on the basis of political views. An informal survey of SPSSI Council members this past summer turned up three people who had personal or vicarious experience, via students, with such efforts to sacrifice science to politics.

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In January 2006, Stacey Sinclair will officially step down as the editor of the Forward and I will take over the job. As my first official duty I would like to thank Stacey for all her hard work and devotion to the newsletter for the past three years. I hope to continue to produce a newsletter that serves the diverse needs of the members of SPSSI just as my predecessor has done. In the process, I also hope to add some new features to an already excellent publication. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, my interests, and my plans for the next several years.

The Forward is, of course, the official venue for the Society's many communications to its members. In the past, its columns have included such regular features as the president's column, the secretary-treasurer's report, the APA Council representative's report, congressional briefings, and official news reports (e.g., election results, convention materials, membership applications), as well as such special features as research reviews, interview reports of members, and special reports about ongoing projects. In the future, the Forward will continue these types of columns and will add some additional descriptive pieces about research areas and viewpoints of the Society's leaders. I plan to add to the newsletter columns that describe research laboratories and field sites in which our members, students, and colleagues complete their main work and contributions to our enterprise. I also plan to invite columns from prominent commentators in the social, legal, and policy arenas, both within and outside of psychology.

As an established faculty member, APA member, and applied social psychologist, I have the advantage of a seasoned perspective on our profession and on the need for balance in our newsletter. I am the director of the Law and Psychology Program at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where I studied law during one of my early sabbaticals from Saint Louis University. My current academic work focuses on legal decision making, jury behavior, public policy and law, and employment discrimination. I have served as the chair of the Psychology Department at Baruch College and have mentored doctoral students from Saint Louis University, City University of New York, and the University of Nebraska. As you can see, I take an eclectic view of the field of applied psychology and hope to introduce members of SPSSI to new areas of scholarship, practice, and education in the pages of the Forward.

In the upcoming months I will send out calls for columns that describe ongoing research programs in public policy, health psychology, organizational research, law and psychology, and other areas of interest to SPSSI members. Please consider taking a few minutes to write a description of your own research team or laboratory to share with your colleagues. I will invite well known commentators to contribute columns about socially interesting and timely issues, and I will be happy to consider opinion pieces that members would like to submit to the Forward. For as long as I have been an academic, I have considered service an important part of my professional career (e.g., I recently finished a long term as editor of Law and Human Behavior), and I look forward to continuing that part of my professional commitment as the new editor of the Forward.

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**Announcement:**

**Search for SPSSI Editors**

SPSSI and Blackwell Publishing are excited to announce three new publishing initiatives in the social issues arena. These include a SPSSI edited book series, a SPSSI monograph/text series, and a SPSSI review journal to be published annually. The edited books will focus on a single theme, with a mix of theory and research relevant to social issues and interventions. An example of the type of edited book we will be seeking is, "On the nature of prejudice, Fifty years after Allport," edited by John F. Dovidio, Peter Glick, and Lauri A. Rudman.

The SPSSI review journal will publish high quality review articles focused on cutting-edge topics relevant to social issues and social policy. Advances in Experimental Social Psychology is a model for the SPSSI review journal. The monograph/text series will focus on contemporary social issues; these texts will be suitable for use in graduate or advanced undergraduate seminar courses. An example is "Thriving in the face of childhood adversity" authored by Daphne Bugental.

A more detailed description of each is available at http://www.spssi.org/publications.html.

SPSSI seeks to establish a team of three editors to develop and guide these new SPSSI publications. Two Managing Co-Editors will have oversight for the edited book series and the review journal, and one monograph/text Series Editor will have oversight of the monograph series. The initial editorial appointments for the three editors will be four years, with the possibility of one additional three-year term.

SPSSI seeks candidates who are well established and active scholars, preferably with relevant editorial/publication experience (e.g., journal editing, edited books, publications committees of professional societies). Candidates currently do not have to be members of SPSSI, and candidates from any country are encouraged to apply.

If you are interested in one or more of these editorships, please send a brief cover letter highlighting your relevant experience, your curriculum vitae, and the names and contact information for three references to Ann Bettencourt (BettencourtA@missouri.edu) and Eugene Borgida (borgi001@umn.edu), Co-Chairs of the SPSSI Editorial Search Committee. We will begin reviewing applications on December 15, 2005.
From my perspective as Secretary/Treasurer, SPSSI has enjoyed largely favorable winds in the first half of 2005. In this column, I will cover SPSSI finances, decisions made at the summer Council meeting, SPSSI’s APA Convention activities, Katrina, and what lies ahead (Sally Shumaker to become SPSSI Secretary/Treasurer September 1, 2006, APA apportionment ballots, and the 2006 SPSSI Convention).

SPSSI’s Financial Situation
Financially, the six-month period from January 1 until June 30, 2005, was a good one for SPSSI. Revenues exceeded expenditures, and we enjoyed a roughly 6 percent increase in SPSSI’s capital assets. SPSSI encountered a difficult financial year in 2003-2004, but it appears that the Society’s financial situation is now back on a better trajectory. Two key factors in this rebound are (a) that SPSSI’s 2004 royalties from Blackwell increased over SPSSI’s 2003 royalties by 19 percent, and (b) expenditures have come down from 2003-2004. The jump in Blackwell royalties is an unusually large increase (in the previous two years the rate of increase had been under 5 percent). In substantial measure, the increase in Blackwell royalties is due to the excellent editorial work of Rhoda Unger (JSAP) and Irene Frieze (JSI), noted in my previous column, and to the strength of the articles by the authors who contribute to SPSSI’s journals.

Decisions Made at the Summer SPSSI Council Meeting
SPSSI made several key decisions at its 2005 summer Council meeting in Washington, DC. These included voting to:

- Add a fourth member to the Central Office staff and to give more responsibilities to the senior administrative staff person who will now be called office manager. These changes were approved in recognition of the staff’s dedication in the face of an increased work load over the past few years. They are designed in part to permit the executive director to allocate more time to policy-related activities. With the staff expansion and the addition of a Sabbatical Policy Fellow, SPSSI will increase the proportion of space it uses in the SPSSI Central Office building.

- Approve revisions to SPSSI’s contracts with Blackwell. These will extend the length of the current journal contract until 2009 and involve SPSSI in three new publishing ventures, each focused on social issues: an annual series, authored books, and an edited series.

- Bring a revised set of bylaws to the membership for approval.

- Reduce the cost of gift membership from $20 to $10 dollars per member, or $5 dollars for the purchase of five or more gift memberships.

- Change the description of the Clara Mayo Award to clarify that it is not intended for conference travel.

- Protest the APA president’s action in appointing a biased task force and ignoring traditional procedure and precedent in producing the PENS report and making it APA policy. In its vote, SPSSI Council endorsed the four Division 48 statements on this matter. The PENS report deals with participation by psychologists in the interrogation by U.S. of prisoners of war. The Division 48 statement calls for APA to acknowledge the UN Convention Against Torture and to issue a clear statement against the use of inhumane, degrading, or coercive interrogations and the use of torture, whether physical or mental, in the interrogation of prisoners.

- Make a one-year contribution of $5,000 to the Social Psychology Network website.

SPSSI APA Convention Activities
SPSSI’s 2005 APA Convention, chaired by Janet Swim, included Kay Deaux’s excellent presidential address, and special symposium, both focused on immigration. Other noteworthy features of the Convention included a very successful mentoring lunch, hosted by Lori Scott-Sheldon, and the JSI 60th Anniversary Celebration with reminiscences by three editors, including Brewster Smith’s wonderful remarks about the journal in the post-WWII era. Lou Penner and Sally Shumaker were given SPSSI’s 2005 Distinguished Service Awards.

Katrina
Since the summer meeting, a key concern for the SPSSI Executive Committee has been the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Incoming editor Geoff Maruyama has announced a special issue of ASAP devoted to this topic. Interested authors should contact Geoff immediately at asap@umn.edu. The SPSSI Executive Committee also voted to accept special applications to four of its award funds – Clara Mayo, Grants-in-Aid, Applied Social Science Internship, and SAGES – outside of the usual deadlines, for relevant work that 1) responds to Katrina or 2) has been disrupted by Katrina.

Looking Forward
SPSSI Council is very pleased to announce that, upon the August 31, 2006, completion of my term as secretary/treasurer, Sally Shumaker will become the position. Sally brings to this role extensive experience with SPSSI and university administration.

In late October of each year, APA mails apportionment ballots to its members. These ballots determine the number of seats various divisions and geographical regions have on the APA Council of Representatives. If you are an APA member, when you get your ballot, please vote. SPSSI has two seats at present, but in order to retain these seats, it is important that SPSSI get its share of apportionment support. On such issues as the PENS report, Irma Serrano-Garcia and Bernice Lott have done a very effective job of representing SPSSI’s perspective, and I am sure that Allen Omoto, who is replacing Irma, will continue in that tradition.

Mark June 23-25, 2006, in your schedule. Those are the dates of the sixth biennial SPSSI Convention, to be held in Long Beach, California. The theme will be Social Justice: Research, Action and Policy. The deadline for submitting papers is January 7, 2006. We encourage you to join other SPSSI members in Long Beach.
Since SPSSI moved its Central Office to the Nation’s Capital, it has been better situated to intervene in ongoing policy debates central to SPSSI’s mission. As our staff capacity grows, SPSSI is better able to participate in these discussions, gather information on social policy, and inject its expertise where it is most needed. The following is a summary of meetings that SPSSI staff recently attended. Additional summaries are posted on the SPSSI website’s Public Policy page. Handouts from these meetings are also available by calling or emailing the SPSSI Central Office.

AAAS Science and Human Rights Workshop

During July 25-26, 2005, I participated in a two-day meeting for members of the scientific community and human rights organizations organized by the AAAS Science and Human Rights Program. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways in which the scientific community can proactively engage in promoting human rights domestically. The goal was to begin developing a U.S. human rights network of scientists and scientific societies working on domestic human rights issues. The meeting provided an opportunity to hear from human rights activists about issues they consider most important – restricting basic freedoms and civil liberties, immigrants’ rights, racial and economic disparities in health and housing, and treatment of detainees at Guantanamo Bay and in domestic prisons and jails. We also discussed ways in which science has already been applied to specific human rights concerns, including GIS mapping to identify potential famines, social science research to identify patterns of racial disparities in health care, indicators to measure environmental health, and the use of budget analysis to measure compliance with the right to education.

Hans Hogrefe, the Minority Director of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, was the program luncheon speaker. He discussed how human rights issues are brought before Congress. The Human Rights Caucus bases its work on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but limits that focus to international, not domestic, issues and specific cases. One of Hogrefe’s points, reinforced by Sarah Olmstead of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Program staff, was that “there is a view on the Hill that scientists come at issues without an agenda. Therefore scientists can be very influential in presenting research and/or specific data in order to educate, rather than to push for a particular policy.”

During the remaining conference time, participants broke into three topical area discussion groups – Health and Human Rights; Discrimination/Environmental Injustice/Economic, Social, and Cultural rights; and Academic Freedom/the Right to Education. Each group was asked to identify ways to leverage the scientific sector’s resources for the protection and promotion of human rights in the United States. I participated in the Academic Freedom/the Right to Education session, and focused on both access to education and the ethics of scientific professional societies. Our group recommended finding ways to strengthen core scientific values and processes, such as peer review, and making these safeguards more understandable to the public. We also focused on public misperception of scientific information and manipulation of scientific data, which might lead to the rise of the “Academic Bill of Rights” that has been sponsored in several states seeking to politicize the hiring of professors. Finally, we recommended mainstreaming human rights into science education, at both the primary and secondary levels.

Commemoration of the International Day of the Indigenous

Because SPSSI has consultative status with the United Nations, SPSSI staff members are sometimes able to attend UN-sponsored events that are not open to the public. For example, on August 9, 2005, the United Nations celebrated the International Day of Indigenous People, to commemorate the beginning of the second decade of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. This forum has more than 1,200 members, 1,000 of whom are indigenous people who go to great lengths to attend, hoping to give voice to issues related to their struggles. These issues include cultural imperialism, land rights, lack of education, and the denial of basic needs.

The commemoration included statements from Secretary-General Kofi Annan and representatives of various branches of the UN. It also featured blessings, dancing, and storytelling by indigenous people. After the celebration, there was a panel discussion for consultative nongovernmental organizations, nonprofits, and the press, titled “The Indigenous Cause is Ours.” The discussion highlighted the interconnectedness of humankind and the ways in which the struggles of indigenous peoples affect the physical, cultural, and social environment of the entire world. The panelists emphasized the urgent need to address the problems of the indigenous. For example, they cited statistics showing that, if current trends continue, 95 percent of the world’s indigenous languages will be eradicated during this century.

Film producer Rebecca Sommer debuted a video informing the UN Secretariat for Indigenous Issues. This video could be a powerful teaching tool for the public and will be available to other organizations for their educational outreach work. More information on the video, gathered by SPSSI’s 2005 summer intern Moira Shaw, is available for those who are interested.

– Summarized by Moira Shaw

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For Members Interested in Applied HIV/AIDS Research and International Development

The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) is a Washington, DC-based non-profit that seeks pragmatic solutions to gender inequities worldwide. One of the group’s focus areas is the CORE Initiative (Communities Responding to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic) to help strengthen community- and faith-based HIV/AIDS projects worldwide. This year, the CORE Initiative is sponsoring the “Insight and Action” seminar series to raise awareness about international issues and to present specific research findings. SPSSI’s summer intern, Moira Shaw, attended an enlightening seminar called “Introducing a Participatory Design, Monitoring, and Evaluation Manual Tailored for Grassroots Organizations Fighting HIV/AIDS.”

For grassroots organizations to function well and monitor the progress of their projects, mechanisms for communication among donors, organizations, and communities where the project is taking place need to be developed. Communication can be problematic for several reasons. First, communication is often lost in translation between the communities and the donors. Second, the reporting process can often be laborious for the organizations, and information tends to flow in only one direction. It is an “extracting” process, instead of a dynamic one. Finally, the communication tends to be denied a voice in the design and implementation of the projects.

To address this problem, the ICRW has created the Participatory Design, Monitoring, and Evaluation Manual to promote a monitoring and evaluation method that employs techniques for creating dynamic and fluid communication among parties involved in a grassroots project. For example, a woman in Uganda was asked to draw a circle and put a stone in the middle. She drew several lines radiating from the stone, each representing a concern for women in the developing world (education, food security, control over their own bodies, health, etc.). She then placed smaller stones on each line, representing how empowered she felt on each axis. This is just one technique ICRW uses in this manual to make monitoring and evaluation accessible and concrete for all parties involved in a development project.

The manual is being field-tested in Malawi and Uganda, and will be available on www.icrw.org in September.

—Summarized by Moira Shaw

The Dellums Commission Holds First Public Forum

The Dellums Commission, chaired by former Congressman Ronald V. Dellums (CA-D), held its first public forum on July 25, 2005, followed by a press briefing at the National Press Club the next morning. The purpose of the forum was to share with the public the Commission’s initial findings and action. Established by the Joint Center Health Policy Institute of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, the Commission is charged with analyzing the impact of certain public policies on the physical, emotional, and social health of youth of color and their communities, and with recommending ways to improve them.

The Commission’s July 25 forum included panels on health, education, the community, criminal and juvenile justice, and the media, and highlighted policies that are detrimental to young men of color. Issues raised included the negative impact of the No Child Left Behind Act on opportunities for young men of color. Specifically, under No Child Left Behind, the worst-performing schools in the nation are penalized by a reduction in federal funding. Dr. Gloria Grantham, a member of the education panel, pointed out that this aspect of the law has caused a number of school principals and superintendents to implement a policy of permanently removing the worst performing students in the school, typically young men of color. Congressman Dellums stated that the Commission wants to inundate people with information about the realities of current public policy and challenged the media to uncover the consequences of current policies, such as No Child Left Behind, on communities of color.


For more information about the Dellums Commission and the July 25 forum, or to download presentations, visit www.jointcenter.org/healthpolicy/ hpiDellum.php.

—Summarized by Denis Glasford and Christopher B. Booker

Did You Know . . .

Representative Brian Baird (WA-D), one of the few psychologists currently serving in the U.S. Congress, recently encouraged psychologists to “engage in political activity” by contributing money, time, or energy. He emphasized his point by reminding those in attendance that “merit of argument alone does not carry the day in this political environment.” Representative Baird’s comments were delivered at an August 2005 reception sponsored by SPSSI, the Union of Concerned Scientists, Psychologists for Social Responsibility, and APA.
H ere in the District of Columbia, the political world has been turned upside down as politicians and advocates alike address the needs of those devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. While most of our attention has been directed recently toward helping hurricane victims, there has been a flurry of legislative activity on issues I have been working on culminating in both victories and disappointments. Some of my recent policy efforts are described below.

- **HIV/AIDS.** The reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act continues to be a top priority within the HIV/AIDS community. Our DC coalition made several Hill visits to members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which oversees the legislation. Unfortunately, the Ryan White CARE Act expired on September 30, 2005, without being reauthorized. A reauthorization bill has yet to be introduced in either the Senate or House. While this inaction is a great disappointment to the HIV/AIDS community, funding for the program fortunately is not in jeopardy. The Act can still be funded even without a reauthorization measure. In fact, the National Institutes of Health has not been reauthorized since 1993, yet its budget has more than doubled during that time.

  On September 29, 2005, I held a half-day advocacy training for members of APA’s Committee on Psychology and AIDS (COPA). After the training, members met with the staff of their respective Senators and Representatives, urging their support for and commitment to the mental health and substance abuse needs addressed by the CARE Act. In addition, the entire group, including myself and Dr. Ellen Garrison, Associate Executive Director for APA’s Public Interest Policy, had the opportunity to meet with Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), a longtime supporter of not only HIV/AIDS needs but the CARE Act but mental health parity.

  Dr. Denis Nissim-Sabat and I met with Senate and House Appropriations Committee staff to advocate for additional funding for HIV/AIDS programs within SAMHSA for FY2006. Through our efforts, language was included in the House FY2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations committee report highlighting the role of substance abuse and mental health service providers on rapid HIV testing and prevention counseling and recommending an additional $1 million toward the Rapid HIV Testing Initiative. The Senate report included similar language, but without the funding increase.

- **Hate Crimes.** The hate crimes coalition remains active and recently had a great victory. Hate crimes legislation was introduced as an amendment to the Children’s Safety Act (H.R. 3132), a bill intended to improve the national sex offender registry program. This legislation is under the purview of the Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Department of Justice. Both the amendment and the legislation passed the House, and we are awaiting consideration of the Children’s Safety Act in the Senate.

- **Immigration.** Right before Congress recessed in August, House and Senate Democrats reintroduced the Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act (H.R. 3561/S.1850). The legislation addresses current health and mental health disparities and includes provisions to create culturally and linguistically appropriate health care services. The APA Public Policy Office worked closely with members of the congressional caucuses of color, sponsors of the bill, to ensure that mental and behavioral health concerns are addressed throughout the legislation.

  Senator Bill Frist (R-TN) is working with Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) to develop a bipartisan health care bill that provides linguistically and culturally appropriate services. In early August, I joined Lori Valencia Green from the APA Public Policy Office and members of the language access coalition at a meeting with Senator Frist’s staff to brief them on this issue and discuss other ways to improve the current health care system.

  I am organizing a congressional briefing on immigrant women and reproductive health for November 2, 2005. This briefing will combine SPSSI’s public policy interest in reproductive technologies, the topic of a recent Journal of Social Issues, and my own interest in immigration. The panelists will include public health professionals, including psychologists and reproductive health advocates.

  The APA Public Policy Office is also organizing a congressional briefing around the issue of ethnic minority youth suicide, scheduled for mid-November. This briefing is being sponsored by Congressman Michael Honda (D-CA), chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

  It is hard to believe that I have already finished the first year of my fellowship. The continued support from Dr. Shari Miles and the SPSSI Central Office, the APA Public Policy Office, and my oversight committee has been invaluable. When I first started, I felt like a policy novice, with little advocacy experience. But I have accomplished a lot since then, from meeting with Senators to organizing a congressional briefing. I would greatly encourage individuals who are policy-oriented but not necessarily policy-skilled to look into this fellowship. I would be happy to talk to anyone about my experience. As usual, I appreciate your support and collaboration, and look forward to your comments and questions at kchen@apa.org.
Regina Langhout Wins SPSSI’s First Alexander Award

By Rodolfo Mendoza-Denton

Regina Langhout received her Ph.D. in community psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2001. The main social issue on which she focuses is schooling experiences for working-class, working-poor, and African American students. The U.S. culture of schooling often facilitates academic disengagement for many of these students, which leads to such long-term social problems as underemployment and decreased psychosocial and health functioning.

Gina has developed a theoretical model of school context that brings together the physical and psychosocial climates of students and teachers to predict psychological, health, and academic outcomes. Essentially, this model describes a progression whereby organizational and interpersonal school factors influence teacher work satisfaction, which then affects students prosocial development and academic achievement. The model is based in the social, community, personality, and organizational psychology literatures, which posit that climate influences individual and group behavior, with distal organizational and individual consequences. Context is comprised of a number of organizational components, such as local social norms, cultural practices, and the physical environment. Context influences behavior (e.g., interpersonal interactions), which then influences individual outcomes (e.g., work satisfaction, student learning). The benefits of the model include combining student and staff experiences, emphasizing student and staff autonomy, and integrating perceptual, cognitive-emotional, and environmental factors, as well as macro (social structural), meso (situational), and micro (individual) constructs.

Gina collected data related to different parts of her theoretical model in two schools. Using one school’s data, she concluded that, for students to thrive, school places must be socially just, allow autonomy/choice, facilitate leadership, and provide social support (Langhout, 2004). When these elements are missing, working-class, working-poor, and African American students often experience school as oppressive and behave in ways that are not teacher-condoned (Langhout, 2005). Data from the second school reveal the relation between student and teacher experiences based on shared climate (Mitchell & Langhout, 2005).

Currently, Gina is collaborating with an elementary school that serves working-class, working-poor, and ethnically/racially diverse students. The school has asked for help in decreasing recess violence. Gina and her students have observed recess, interviewed students and staff, and provided results and recommendations to students, staff, and parents. Based on the results of this research, she and her group are decreasing recess violence by increasing social support, student leadership opportunities, and choice. Some students are being trained as peer mediators; others will be trained as game leaders (leading optional non-competitive recess games). This intervention has been piloted at the school and will be fully implemented and evaluated this academic year. In addition, Gina and her students will be working with the school social worker to begin a schoolwide antiviolence project in the fall. Elementary school students will be mapping safe and unsafe places in the school and surrounding community, and creating a photo-journal presentation based on their results and recommendations.

With respect to service, Gina is a member of the Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA) 2007 Conference Planning Committee, an ad hoc reviewer for the American Journal of Community Psychology and the Journal of Adolescent Research, and has organized several symposia for SPSSI and SCRA conferences. In addition, she mentors students by involving them in research (in four years, eight students have presented nine conference papers or posters at SPSSI or SCRA, and three students have written manuscripts for publication with Gina).

Gina’s research also serves the community by changing how students and staff experience school. She has organized community members to develop and maintain a community garden on school grounds (Langhout, Rappaport, & Simmons, 2002), helped PTAs increase their outreach to be more racially diverse, and helped decrease school violence. She also participates in a grassroots, activist neighborhood organization and a local community garden in an economically depressed area.

REFERENCES


Dear SPSSI Members:

SPSSI has been thinking about how we can respond to the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina. Our hearts go out to everyone in the affected communities. As individuals, many of us have donated to various relief efforts, and we encourage these efforts to continue. Many of our universities are taking students and/or faculty on a temporary basis until universities on the Gulf Coast can re-group. APA has announced a variety of initiatives that have been posted to the SPSSI listserv. Here are some additional efforts:

**SPSSI Grant Programs.** SPSSI will also accept special applications to four of its award funds, Clara Mayo, Grants in Aid, Applied Social Issues Internship, and Social Action Grants for Experienced Scholars (SAGES), outside of the usual deadlines, for relevant work that 1) responds to Katrina or 2) has been disrupted by Katrina. For example, someone might apply to do an Applied Social Issues internship with an agency helping with recovery efforts or to Clara Mayo for an MA thesis on the differential impact of Katrina by race. Someone could ask Grants-in-Aid or SAGES either for funds to conduct a project on the effects of Katrina or recovery from it, or for funds to top up a research project disrupted by the flood. Work should be relevant to the purposes of SPSSI, and we regret that we cannot support basic living expenses. Note that these are small awards, ranging from a maximum of $1,000 for Clara Mayo, to $7,000 over two years for SAGES. To apply for funds, see requirements on the SPSSI Web site, (spssi.org), but apply any time this fall for a quick decision.

**SPSSI Dues Waiver.** SPSSI is always willing to waive dues for members experiencing hardships, and members whose livelihoods have been disrupted or whose property has been damaged by Katrina are invited to apply.

**NSF Grant Programs.** NSF is also making funds available under the SGER program (Small Grant for Exploratory Research) for proposals related to Hurricane Katrina via both its Social Psychology program and its Human and Social Dynamics program. Amber Story wrote us about the social psychology version, which will support research that is time urgent and that needs to move quickly to capture the current data. This is research that would simultaneously advance the field of social psychology. Before you submit your SGER proposal, please email both Kelli Henderson (khenders@nsf.gov) and Amber Story (astory@nsf.gov) with a brief description of your ideas. Be sure to make a compelling case for the intellectual merit, broader impacts, and time urgency of your research.

**Giving Psychology Away.** Amber Story also urges social psychologists (and we would add psychologists of all stripes) to go public with their relevant expertise, for example, by contacting university news services and the media.

**Health Care Professionals.** The Department of Health and Human Services has established a Web site (https://volunteer.hhs.gov) and toll-free number 1-866-KAT MEDI (1-866-528-6334) to help identify health care professionals and relief personnel to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Multidisciplinary health care professionals and relief personnel with expertise are encouraged to visit the Web site and register to volunteer for appointment by HHS. A list of areas of expertise can be found at: http://www.ncfr.org/about_us/n_news_announcements.asp?newsid=1011. These workers will be non-paid temporary federal employees, and will therefore be eligible for coverage under the Federal Tort Claims Act for liability coverage and workman’s compensation when functioning as HHS employees. Although there will not be any salary, travel and per diem will be paid.

**Other Volunteers.** Volunteers with no health care background can find information on volunteering USAFreedomCorps.gov or by calling 1-877-USA-CORPS (1-877-872-2677).

**Crisis Hotline.** Finally, The Department of Health and Human Services has announced the availability of a toll-free hotline for people in crisis in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. By dialing 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255), callers will be connected to a network of local crisis centers across the country that are committed to crisis counseling. Callers to the hotline will receive counseling from trained staff at the closest certified crisis center in the network.

If you have other ideas for how to help, please post them to the SPSSI listserv. To subscribe, send an e-mail to listserv@lists.apa.org with a blank subject line and the command subscribe SPSSI firstname lastname in the body of the message.
CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues proudly announces its sixth biennial convention, to be held in Long Beach, California, from June 23-25, 2006. All proposals related to the psychological study of social issues are welcomed and encouraged.

The program will consist of invited addresses, symposia, 15-minute presentations, and poster presentations. Some of the invited addresses will be given by:

- Patricia Devine (University of Wisconsin at Madison)
- Edmund W. Gordon (Teachers College, Columbia University)
- Aletha Huston (University of Texas at Austin)
- Sheldon Zedeck (University of California at Berkeley)
- Marybeth Shinn (New York University), SPSSI President
- 2006 Lewin Award Winner

We are also pleased to introduce best poster awards to be given at each poster session. Also new this year, graduate student activities will be integrated into the main convention. For more information about special events, please visit the convention website at: http://www.spssi.org/spssi_2006_Convention.html

Types of Programs

Submissions are being accepted under three categories:

**Symposia (1 hour or 1 hr. 45 minutes)**
Symposia include 3 to 5 talks on a common topic. Proposals must include a symposium title (10 words maximum) and a summary describing the symposium theme (300 words maximum), as well as titles (10 words maximum) and summaries (300 words maximum) of the expected contribution of each participant.

**15-minute Presentations - NEW!**
Individual proposals, including empirical reports, may be submitted as 15 minute spoken presentations. Presentation proposals must include a title (10 words maximum) and a summary (300 words maximum).

**Poster Presentations**
Individual proposals, including empirical reports, may also be presented in poster sessions. Poster submissions should include a title (10 words maximum) and a summary (300 words maximum).

Submission Instructions

Proposals must be submitted no later than **January 7, 2006** at:

Contact the program co-chairs if you are unable to submit on-line, or if you have other questions about the program or the submission process.

**Program Co-Chairs**
Sheri R. Levy, Ph.D., Dept. of Psychology, State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, New York, USA, 11794-2500, 631.632.4355, sheri.levy@sunysb.edu

Rodolfo Mendoza-Denton, Ph.D., Dept. of Psychology, University of California, Berkeley, California, USA, 94720-1650, 510.642.7137, rmd@berkeley.edu

**SEE YOU IN LONG BEACH!**
More than a Great Conference...

By Allen Omoto and Shana Levin
2006 SPSSI Convention Co-Chairs

California dreaming is epitomized by the city of Long Beach, running along miles of coastline and averaging 345 days of sunshine and summer temperatures ranging from the low 50s to upper 70s. From June 23-25, 2006, SPSSI will hold its biennial convention in this delightful place (see information on page 10). The geography and people of Southern California, and especially Long Beach, are diverse, and attendees will not lack for pre- and post-convention activities in the area, whether you enjoy hiking in the mountains, surfing in the ocean, attending a professional baseball game, listening to an outdoor concert, deep sea fishing, enjoying the serenity of the desert, or partaking of food for all tastes and budgets, theater and other performing arts, amusement parks, and other family fun. And Long Beach is conveniently located within 25 miles of three airports (LAX, Orange County, and Long Beach) – so do a little comparison shopping to get the best fares.

Once you’ve arrived, it will be easy to take in the splendor. The convention will be headquartered at the Hilton Long Beach, within easy walking distance of local attractions and the vibrant Pine Avenue retail and restaurant district. Consider taking the historical walking tour through downtown, visiting the museums (there is a fine one that showcases Latin American culture), or taking the 45-minute boat ride to Catalina Island. There’s also the Long Beach Performing Arts Center, the Aquarium of the Pacific, and the Queen Mary ocean liner. And, of course, there are plenty of opportunities to find entertainment, fine dining, and shopping. Along the water are Shoreline Village (www.shorelinevillage.com) and Rainbow Harbor (www.shopthepike.com), in the heart of downtown there is City Place (www.longbeachcityplace.com), and farther south there is eclectic Belmont Shore.

Getting around Long Beach is also easy. The Transit Authority provides three free shuttle bus routes throughout downtown: the Passport (www.lbtransit.com/passport.html), which links the most famous spots in Long Beach; the Village Tour D’art shuttle bus (www.lbtransit.com/tourdart.html), which takes passengers to museums and arts venues; and the Pine Avenue Link (www.lbtransit.com/pine_avenue.html), which runs from the water inland to the Pine Avenue district. In addition, the city has extensive bike paths along the coast for walking, running, blading, biking, or even kite-flying. You can take a dip in the Pacific, rent some equipment and try kayaking or jet skiing, or simply enjoy the views from a harbor cruise.

And that’s just Long Beach! It doesn’t even include the natural beauty and other attractions nearby, like Disneyland (“the happiest place on earth”), Knott’s Berry Farm, Universal Studios Hollywood, the Hollywood Bowl, and more. It’s going to be a great conference, but leave some time to enjoy Long Beach and Southern California, too! To start planning your trip to Long Beach, check out the city’s website (www.ci.long-beach.ca.us/visitors). See you in June 2006!

The Southern California Regional Council of Organizations (SCRCO)

By Paul Kimmel
SPSSI Representative

SCRCO is a body of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) corresponding at the regional level to the national council of organizations affiliated with the UN Association of the United States. SCRCO was established in 1993 to foster greater awareness of the work of the UN and to encourage UN-related activities in its 20-plus member organizations. I have been SPSSI’s representative to SCRCO since 1998.

My main contribution to the work of SCRCO has been as chair of our annual Celebrations of the Art of Peace. These Celebrations began in 2000 to raise awareness of the UN’s Year of the Culture of Peace. We contact all the high schools in LA County, encouraging them to have their drama, dance, music, and visual arts students create their conceptions of life in a culture of peace. These original Pieces for Peace are performed in April. We began with four high schools in 2000 and expanded to 13 in 2004, as the Year of the Culture of Peace became the UN Decade of the Culture of Peace and Non-violence to the Children of the World. Part of our growth was attributable to a two-year, $4,000 grant from SPSSI for 2002 and 2003.

We hope to continue these celebrations through 2010. However, due to shrinking budgets for the arts in the high schools, the splitting up of the LA County School system, and increasing difficulties in getting funds and volunteers for the event, we may not be able to continue. Despite the high quality of the performances in 2005, the number of participants and the size of the audience were much smaller than in 2004. Also, we were not able to obtain television coverage of the event this year as we were in 2003 and 2004.

Other SCRCO activities include conferences and speakers at SCRCO monthly meetings. In April, Wendell Harter of Citizens for Global Solutions spoke to us about UN reform. We also have produced literature about the UN, including the Our United Nations booklet from the Stanley Foundation and UNA-USA fact sheets on U.S. contributions to the UN, UN reform, Millennium Development Goals, and the Law of the Sea. Seven thousand human rights booklets, written and published by Irv Sarnoff, the founder of Friends of the UN, were distributed to teachers in LA and teachers and superintendents in New Mexico. Others will be mailed to elected officials in Southern California, along with a letter on SCRCO letterhead, around December 10, Human Rights Day.

Coalitions we have joined include Rescue and Restore, A Human Trafficking Outreach Campaign, sponsored by the LA City Commission on the Status of Women and LA Councilman Tony Cardenas. The coalition’s media launch was on September 27 at LA City Hall. We are also a coalition partner with the LA Commission on the Status of Women and Councilman Cardenas. Individual NGOs like SPSSI are invited to join the coalition to boost its visibility. Occasionally, we sign on to documents or petitions. For example, SCRCO NGOs signed a law of the Sea letter to California’s U.S. Senators earlier this year.
Kenneth Bancroft Clark
A Psychologist for the Century (1914-2005)

By James M. Jones
University of Delaware
American Psychological Association

Thomas F. Pettigrew
University of California, Santa Cruz

Kenneth Bancroft Clark, the eminent psychologist and political activist whose leadership in crafting the Social Science Statement in Brown v. Board of Education in 1954 influenced the U.S. Supreme Court decision to hold public school segregation unconstitutional, died at his home in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York, on May 1, 2005. Clark was 90.

In 1903, W.E.B. DuBois famously declared that the color line was the problem of the twentieth century. Clark spent half a century trying to erase it. A fierce, unrelenting, and uncompromising racial integrationist, he was the first Black person to earn a doctorate in psychology from Columbia University, to become a tenured instructor in the New York’s City College system, and to be elected to the New York State Board of Regents, presidencies of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI), and the American Psychological Association (APA).

More important, Clark played critical roles in dismantling American apartheid. Best known was the research he and his late wife, Mamie Phipps Clark, conducted on racial identity and the pathology of personality. The “doll studies” (which used white and brown dolls to ascertain children’s views about race) demonstrated that while Negro children in both the South and North could accurately “identify” their race, they did not “identify with” their race. When asked to point to the doll that was pretty and nice, two-thirds of the Negro children chose the white doll over the brown doll. Clark argued that the color line was etched in these children’s minds by forced racial segregation. The Supreme Court accepted the Clarks’ research, among that of other psychologists, when it declared:

Whatever may have been the extent of psychological knowledge at the time of Plessy v. Ferguson, this finding is amply supported by modern authority. Any language in Plessy v. Ferguson contrary to this finding is rejected. We conclude that, in the field of public education, the doctrine of “separate but equal” has no place. Brown v. Board of Education, May 17, 1954.

On Otto Kleinberg’s recommendation, Thurgood Marshall and his deputy, Robert Carter, contacted Clark to see if psychology could supplement the legal arguments they were preparing to dismantle racial segregation in public schools. Clark’s paper for the Mid-Century White House Conference on Children and Youth contained just what Marshall and Carter were seeking. Clark, then an assistant professor at City College, marshaled his energy, passion, and connections with the SPSSI Committee on Intergroup Relations to prepare a “Social Science Statement” on the psychological research relevant to racial segregation’s psychological damage to children. The list of those who testified as expert witnesses in the cases leading up to Brown reads like a “who’s who” of American social psychology and a roster of SPSSI leaders of the period.

In addition to Clark, Jerome Bruner, Isadore Chein, Stuart Cook, Otto Klineberg, David Krech, and Brewerst Smith all testified in the lower court trials. Thus, Clark played the lead role in establishing psychology as “modern authority” and helped usher in a vision of racial equality in America. Clark was a product of New York City’s public schools. As with many Black children, he was counseled to learn a trade. Mrs. Clark had far bigger ideas for Kenneth, and she vociferously refused to let her son be channeled into vocational training. Kenneth was himself more interested in books and ideas than finding a trade. He graduated from high school in 1931 and, armed with a solid basic education, extensive knowledge of Black life, and a commitment to collective action, entered Howard University. After Clark earned his bachelor’s degree in 1935 and his master’s degree in 1936, his professor, Francis Sumner, sent him to Columbia University to work with Klineberg. While at Howard, Clark had met Mamie Phipps, daughter of Harold H. Phipps, a physician, and Katie Phipps of Hot Springs, Arkansas. Their relationship grew during 1937, while Clark was commuting between New York and Washington, DC, and in 1938, they married.

From 1939 to 1941, Clark served as a research assistant on Gunnar Myrdal’s classic work on the American Negro, American Dilemma. The study documented massive racial inequalities and the manifest contradictions between racism and the lofty principles of equality. Solving the American Dilemma became Clark’s life’s work. After a brief stint at the Office of War Information, for which he and Mamie assessed Black morale throughout the nation, he returned to New York and joined the faculty of City College in 1942.

Mamie Phipps Clark was a full partner in everything the two did – from their research to their efforts to improve the lives of Harlem’s children. The famous “doll studies” grew out of Mamie’s master’s thesis at Howard. Mamie had earned her doctorate in psychology from Columbia in 1943, the second African American to do so. After a period of providing psychological services for homeless Black girls at the Riverdale Home for Children, she conceived the idea of developing a psychological center for New York’s minority children. In 1946, with financial support from her father, she and Clark established the Northside Testing and Treatment Center. In 1948, it became the Northside Center for Child Development. Though its services were first offered only to Black children, they soon became available to children of all races.

Clark held fast to his vision of a better America through discouraging as well as promising times. His vision consisted of two basic components – the problem and the remedy. In Clark’s view, the problem was very simply racism – a tragic, four-century-long national nightmare. The remedy required true racial integration of Black and White Americans as equals – not mere desegregation as unequals. His doll studies, his participation in Brown, his probing television interviews with James Baldwin, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King, Jr. (Clark, 1963), and his well-known books – Prejudice and Your Child (which grew out of his Mid-Century White House Conference paper in 1951), Dark Ghetto (an expansion of the Harlem Youth Unlimited Report HARYO), and Pathos of Power (an elaboration...
These are all common questions we encounter within our field, and we all understand that these questions refer to membership in specific APA divisions, or sections within the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology. Yet few of us can be easily categorized in one of these divisions or subareas within the field. Psychologists who are interested in individual differences often look at how these differences “play out” in the context of real-world problems, situations, and social structures. Likewise, psychologists examining intergroup behaviors often look at the cognitive mechanisms underlying such behaviors, and experimental social psychologists often consider the implications of their findings in such field settings as schools, businesses, or communities. The reality, more often than not, is that personality and social psychology is transcending the traditional boundaries that divide research domains within our field.

Beginning in Fall of 2005, the Department of Psychology at the University of Michigan will have a new area, Personality and Social Contexts, that acknowledges this reality. This area focuses on the interplay of individual differences and social contexts. Faculty research in this area focuses specifically on how individual differences are channeled and constrained by the immediate situation as well as by broader social contexts (including gender, family, schools, neighborhoods, social class, workplaces, organizations, communities, political structures, religion, ethnicity, culture, and history). Much of this research has important implications for real-world social problems.

“This was a bottom-up process that emerged from the faculty in our Personality and Organizational areas,” said Richard Gonzalez, chair of the Psychology Department at Michigan. “Faculty in both of these areas recognized that their research had evolved. For instance, much of the research conducted by the Personality faculty not only focused on personality characteristics but also on how individual differences are expressed within the context of relationships, neighborhoods, workplaces, and cultures. Along the same vein, the Organizational faculty had taken a broad view of organizations, beyond industrial/business settings, to include many different types of collectives, such as social identities (like gender and ethnicity), communities, and culture. There are so many synergies in the research between the two groups that it surprises me we haven’t done this sooner.”

Personality and Social Contexts is an interdisciplinary area in the sense that the research questions and methodologies do not necessarily fit nicely into a single APA division or sub-area. Within psychology and the social sciences, the Personality and Social Contexts area links the experimental analysis of fundamental processes that characterize general experimental psychology with the analysis of human relations, group dynamics, organizations, community, and society. Research in the Personality and Social Contexts area is astonishingly broad in substance and method, but five broad themes characterize this work: Identity, Motivation, Power, Oppression, and Culture. Faculty in the new Personality and Social Contexts area typically see their research as spanning more than one of these topics. For a comprehensive and detailed description (and sample publications) of faculty research within each of these topic areas, please go to the new area Web site at www.lsa.umich.edu/psych/areas/pasc. Most faculty in this area also employ multiple methods to triangulate their findings.

The Personality and Social Contexts area’s doctoral program is designed primarily for students interested in research and teaching careers. Doctoral students are encouraged to work with several faculty members, determine their own course of study, and pursue interdisciplinary training within and outside of Psychology. Students interested in this innovative and interdisciplinary doctoral program can apply for admission in Fall 2005.
Once again, in Fall of 2005, SPSSI-NY hosted a series of five activities for students and colleagues in Greater New York.

On September 6, 105 students and professionals from as far as Switzerland joined the conference on “Behavioral science and the global agenda,” funded by the APA Office of International Affairs (OIA), and hosted by Fordham University. The five interactive workshops brought together 20 psychologists working with the UN (including our SPSSI UN team) who were saluted at the evening reception, along with dynamic new OIA Director Merry Bullock.

On September 27, an SRO audience of 70 people heard Rosalind Dorlen of APA offer a lively presentation on “The mind-body connection?” This was the national debut of APA President Ronald Levant’s “Psychology as a Household Word” initiative, to increase the U.S. public’s understandings of psychology.

On October 4, a World Habitat Day symposium on “Cities in the 21st Century?” at Fordham University brought together six experts from the UN Human Settlements Committee to review the future trends in cities – population, transportation, health, and income.

On November 4, John Jay College hosts SPSSI’s 17th Greater New York Conference on Behavioral Research, chaired by Cheryl Camenzuli (Molloy) and William Gottdiener (John Jay). This full day of student and faculty research presentations was capped by a reception with guests of honor Marybeth Shinn (SPSSI President) and Kurt Salzinger (Hofstra).

On December 9, Anie Kalayjian chairs the Fifth Holiday Healing Circle at Fordham – an interfaith evening of joy and relaxation during the hectic holidays – a SPSSI-NY annual Holiday tradition since the traumatic 9-11-01 terror attack.
APA Council this fall was a bustling, energizing event. Members discussed many issues related to SPSSI’s concerns.

Organizational Issues
1. Budget: The probable surplus for 2005 is $456,900. The preliminary budget for 2006 has a surplus of $463,400. APA negotiated a tax exemption from the District of Columbia, allowing for savings of nearly $1 million in exchange for holding the convention in DC every three years. There will be an $8 membership dues increase ($1 for APAGS).
2. Council Priorities: Ten APA priorities, identified through prior member discussions and ranking, were approved. Those most relevant to SPSSI include: enhancing awareness of application of psychological science for prevention of human problems; increasing advocacy efforts; addressing societal problems; promoting diversity; and promoting human welfare through social justice research, practice, policy, and/or education (our italics).
3. Council Representation of Ethnic Minority Associations: Council heard remarks by the presidents of the Asian American Psychological Association, the Association of Black Psychologists, the Society of Indian Psychology, and the National Latino/a Association of Psychologists. Bylaws changes will be introduced to provide these representatives with voting seats on Council.

Social Issues
1. Presidential Initiatives
   a. Promoting Health Care for the Whole Person – Eleven leading health care, policy, and consumer groups endorsed an APA initiative to support health care that integrates psychological and behavioral health issues.
   b. Evidence-based Practice – Council approved a statement defining evidence-based practice and encouraging the development of health care policies that reflect this view.
   c. Task Force on Psychological Ethics and National Security – COR approved seven recommendations and four amendments offered by representatives from the Divisions for Social Justice. These statements mandated a review of language discrepancies in APA’s statements of ethical principles; acknowledged that there are no exceptional circumstances that may be invoked as a justification for torture; publicized APA’s 1986 Resolution Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and directed that specific allegations of ethical violations against an APA member be referred to the Ethics Office.
2. White House Conference on Aging (Dec. 2005) – COR approved a resolution on the importance of this event, affirming that the contributions of psychology are critical to the health and well-being of older people.
3. Resolution on Violence in Video Games and Interactive Media – COR approved a policy statement advocating the reduction of all violence in videogames and interactive media marketed to children and youth.
4. Task Force on Psychological Effects of Efforts to Prevent Terrorism – COR approved a resolution recognizing the potential negative impact of mascots, etc., and supported the immediate retirement of these symbols.
5. Resolution Recommending the Immediate Retirement of American Indian Mascots, Symbols, Images, and Personalities by Schools, Colleges, Universities, Athletic Teams and Organizations – COR approved a resolution recommending the immediate retirement of American Indian mascots, symbols, images, and personalities by schools, colleges, universities, athletic teams, and organizations.
6. Resolution on Anti-Semitism and Anti-Jewish Prejudice – Adopted with efforts to raise questions and offer amendments precluded by time constraints.
7. A Report on the World Conference Against Racism was received with contextual annotations provided in sections of the UN Declaration.
8. Infusion of Guidelines on Multicultural Education, Training, Research, Practice – COR approved such an infusion throughout APA.

This was Dr. Serrano-García’s last COR meeting. Her term as Council representative for SPSSI ends in December 2005. Dr. Serrano-García would like to thank SPSSI membership for trusting her to represent them on Council, and SPSSI Council and staff for their support during her term as Council representative.

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 $10. Five or more memberships given at one time are $5 each.

Contact Central Office for more information.
Smooth Transition

By Rick H. Hoyle
Editor-Elect,
Journal of Social Issues

In about two months, the “-elect” will be dropped from my title and the 18-month transition from Irene Frieze’s editorship to mine will be complete. I feel fortunate to be taking the reins at a time when the journal is thriving. As Irene has noted in previous columns, the citation impact of articles published in our journal continues to rise, as does the potential for our work to influence politicians and other decision makers. I thank Irene and her board for their sustained commitment to the publication of high-quality, policy-relevant social science research that is accessible to a wide readership. Because my board and I have made the same commitment, readers should scarcely notice that the editorial team has changed.

In the Pipeline

The first issue of JSI to appear in 2006 will be Post-Cold War Peace Psychology: More Differentiated, Contextualized, and Systemic, edited by Daniel Christie. Brenda Morrison and Eliza Ahmed are putting the final editorial touches on the second 2006 issue, Restorative Justice and Civil Society. Issues that are sufficiently far along that they could appear as the third or fourth issue in 2006 include International Perspectives on Homelessness (Paul Toro), International Perspectives on Gender and Political Socialization (Hans Peter Kuhn, Angela Ittel, Connie Flanagan, and Lonnie Sherrod), and Ethnic Prejudice and Discrimination in Europe (Andreas Zick, Thomas Pettigrew, and Ulrich Wagner). Approved formal proposals include Emerging Directions in Child Maltreatment Research: Perspectives on Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy (Bette Bottoms and Jodi Quas), Reducing Prejudice and Promoting Social Inclusion: Integrating Research, Theory and Practice on Intergroup Relations (Biren Nagda, Linda Trupp, and Elizabeth Paluck), and Human Behavior and Environmental Sustainability (Charles Vlek and Linda Steg). Preliminary proposals approved for further development include Group Processes in Decision Making and Decision Outcomes (Alexander Chizhik, Robert Shelly, and Lisa Troyer), Young People’s Perspectives on the Rights of the Child: Implications for Theory, Research, and Practice (Martin Ruck and Stacey Horn), and Pathways Through Education: Why Are Some Kids Not Succeeding in School and What Helps Others Beat the Odds? (Jacqueline Eccles).

Why Not You?

Consider editing or co-editing an issue of JSI. Detailed information about proposing an issue can be found www.spssi.org/jsti_guide.html. If you feel you could benefit from my input (or the input of any member of the editorial board) on an idea for a JSI issue, or if you have a suggestion for a JSI issue that I might solicit, please feel free to contact me at rhoyle@duke.edu.

Send Us Information on Your Book!

If you have recently published a book, please send us a paragraph describing it, with a full reference. We will do our best to include it in the next issue. Please e-mail contributions to Central Office at spssi@spssi.org.

ASAP Update

By Geoffrey Maruyama
ASAP Editor

SPSSI has always promoted research that can be applied to the problems of society. In today’s world, the pace of change and the unpredictability of events create uncertainty, fear, anxiety, and confusion. People seek explanations, but too often accept those that are based on hearsay rather than research. Much of what we believe comes from media reports, which are generally anecdotal and not based on rigorous research. For example, just today, a colleague reminded me that Tom Friedman’s influential book The World Is Flat, is anecdotal, and despite being widely accepted and cited, contains many statements not supported by direct examination of economic facts. In contrast, applied science can improve practice and shape policy while maintaining rigor. Applied science should help guide individuals on their daily “journeys,” and should be judged by its success in informing and improving the human social condition.

ASAP should be a major vehicle for displaying to the public as well as to social scientists the interface between science, practice, and policy. If we, as social scientists (particularly social psychologists) cannot conduct a science that is relevant to the important issues of the day, the public would be right to question the value of our entire enterprise. As we explore the roots of everyday social behavior, we should be able to translate our findings to help practitioners understand the world around them. Although the attention given to social phenomena by policy makers will wax and wane, those phenomena ultimately will affect the human condition in major ways. Our visibility in explaining social phenomena will be enhanced by our ability to explain to society why our work is valuable and warrants their attention.

In that vein, a first initiative for ASAP is to bring together social science evidence relevant to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. I am pleased that Janet Ruscher from Tulane University will co-edit these articles with me. A call for papers has gone out; we hope to see the first ones within a month. We encourage colleagues to submit if they have relevant work on such issues as volunteerism, the effects of media coverage on perceptions of victims, and whether the hurricanes have brought to the surface case studies illustrating aversive racism, classism, and ageism.
SPSSI at the United Nations

By Joseph DeMeyer
Main UN Representative, SPSSI UN Committee

The SPSSI United Nations and International Relations Committee welcomes three new representatives: Yvonne Rafferty, Rachel Ravich, and Neil Altman, who started their work for the committee at the opening of the 58th annual Non-Governmental Organizations and UN Department of Public Information (NGO/DPI) International Conference, which traditionally heralds the beginning of the new General Assembly in early September.

Dr. Rafferty, a psychology professor at Pace University, brings to the UN a strong background in advocacy for the needs and rights of children and education. Having lived in Northern Ireland, she is also interested in alleviating the trauma of armed conflicts and facilitating disarmament and peace.

Dr. Ravich, a former member of the UN Secretariat, teaches a course on the Fundamentals of Cooperation, Conflict Resolution & Mediation at Teachers College, Columbia University, Fluent in several languages, she is originally from Greece and is interested in contributing to the ongoing dialogue between social science research and UN development work.

Dr. Altman is in psychoanalytic private practice in New York City and is an associate clinical professor at New York University. He is a member of the Council of Representatives of the American Psychological Association, and in that capacity served on the task force addressing issues around the 2001 UN World Congress Against Racism. He is, therefore, well acquainted with sensitive international disputes and conflict resolution and has written numerous articles about the Middle East conflict. As a former member of the Peace Corps in India, he is also knowledgeable about the developing world.

With these three new representatives, the SPSSI UN Committee should be in an even better position to implement SPSSI’s mission at the UN, broadening the impact of psychological and social science scholarship on the formulation and implementation of UN policies. In addition, opportunities for meaningful dialogue between psychologists and other social scientists and representatives of UN agencies have now become even more feasible.

SPSSI was well represented at this year’s NGO/DPI International Conference “Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal,” held at UN Headquarters September 7-9. Readers are encouraged to visit www.undpingoconference.org, and links, to learn more about the conference and its proceedings.

Pete Walker was a speaker at the midday working group presentation “Progress through Partnerships for Decent Housing and Sustainable Livelihoods,” co-sponsored by the APA, among others. The meeting addressed UN Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7, which calls for improving the living conditions of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020, and how the dignity of shelter and meaningful employment contributes to poverty alleviation. Pete discussed, among other things, how the Habitat Agenda, Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and UN Millennium Declaration, as well as other initiatives, play a role in reaching the MDGs.

Joseph DeMeyer was co-moderator at the midday working group “Peace-building and Community Well-Being: The Importance of Media Collaboration and Strategies,” co-sponsored by SPSSI and the Communications Coordination Committee for the UN, among others. Speakers addressed how newer information and communication technologies (ICT), such as the Internet, provide unprecedented opportunities to promote social change and a safe and secure world. They also focused on practical, “how to” strategies to help organizations maximize their goals using media/ICT.

Corann Okorodudu was instrumental in co-organizing the midday working group: “Children as Victims and Perpetrators of Violence: Mental Health and Human Rights Perspectives,” co-sponsored by, among others, SPSSI and APA. The meeting focused on the culture of violence involving children, and how to provide interventions for their rehabilitation, social integration, and peace building.

The day before the start of the DPI/NGO Conference, psychologists representing various NGOs at the UN held their annual meeting at Fordham University. This year’s meeting, “Behavioral Science and the Global Agenda: Making a Difference in the 21st Century,” provided an opportunity for our new representatives to get to know their UN colleagues in behavioral science.

Also in the past month, the SPSSI UN Committee contributed extensively to written UN policies and statements, to SPSSI’s own positions on policies and UN-related matters, and to publications promoting SPSSI mission goals at the UN. Corann Okorodudu co-wrote a response to the Report of the Secretary General In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All. The response proposed language for the Outcome Document for the recent Millennium +5 Summit of world leaders, which emphasized, among other things, the need for education, psychosocial support, and coordinated response to the HIV/AIDS crisis; gender equality and the rights of children; psychological training for peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel; and the inclusion, in general, of civil society and NGOs in the UN goals’ achievements. Corann also co-wrote, on behalf of the NGO Committee on Children’s Rights, a letter to the President of the 59th Session of the UN General Assembly stressing children’s needs and rights.

The SPSSI Policy Committee contacted the UN Committee regarding the revelations about the role of behavioral scientists in alleged torture at the Guantanamo Bay prison facility. Joseph DeMeyer had the opportunity to submit UN-related documents, such as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to highlight the international position on this issue. Just recently, Joseph was contacted for clarification about certain campaign activities concerning human trafficking, and he put the Policy Committee in contact with the appropriate UN NGOs for assistance.

Pete Walker, in collaboration with Sarah Woodside and interns from SPSSI Central Office, has published a compilation of titles of...
Report on the Divisions for Social Justice (DSJ)

By Susan Clayton
SPSSI Council Member and DSJ Representative

The Divisions for Social Justice is an ad hoc group comprising representatives from 10 APA divisions: 9, 17, 27, 35, 39, 43, 44, 45, 48, and 51. Its goal is to work for issues of social justice within the APA. The current president is Neil Altman (Div. 39), the president-elect is Brad Olson (Div. 27), and the secretary is Div. 9 representative Susan Clayton, who replaced outgoing representative Bernice Lott.

DSJ met most recently at the APA Convention in Washington, DC. Programming, enabled through hours donated by several divisions, included a three-hour program on the effects of war and conflict on individuals, families, and societies. An hour of formal presentations was followed by small roundtable discussions. During the third hour, groups presented the advocacy/action initiatives that had been suggested by discussion participants.

Specific roundtable topics included women and families, communities, educating for peace, ethnic group relationships (and the Muslim community in particular), the media, masculinity and men, refugees, and the democratic process. Suggestions highlighted the need for communication across divisions, and included several specific ideas for action:

- Look at the impact of war on military families and on soldiers.
- Work with international psychology organizations to develop an ambassador program that would reach out to communities in conflict areas.
- Establish a peace education prize.
- Encourage individuals to think about their ethnic identities and histories in a way that promotes cooperation rather than victimization.
- Encourage APA to work with the Department of Education to focus history education on cooperation among nations, rather than on war and conflict.
- Hold a mini-convention on activism.
- Create teaching tools for educators.
- Train psychologists to work with immigrants, refugees, and torture survivors.
- Promote more accurate reporting of war in the media.

DSJ members who were also APA Council representatives were actively involved in responding to the APA task force on Psychological Ethics and National Security. The original task force report was criticized for making an insufficiently strong statement about psychologists’ involvement in torture and coercive interrogations. APA Council approved amendments, supported by Council of Representatives (COR) members of the Divisions for Social Justice, that strengthened the language of the task force and clarified the APA position in opposition to such activities.

Division 9 will be donating two hours of program time to a DSJ program at the 2006 APA Convention.

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Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues

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.
Psychologists can influence legislators in a number of ways. First, it is always good to develop a relationship with the offices of your Senators and Representatives. But it is also important to recognize and meet with members of Congress who sit on committees that oversee issues that affect you and your profession. The following are key committees that preside over social justice and psychological issues.

- Health-related issues generally fall under the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) and the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health. On the Senate side, Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY) serves as the chairman and Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA) is the ranking minority member. On the House side, Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX) serves as the chairman and Rep. John Dingell (D-MI) is the ranking minority member.

- Issues related to law and justice fall under the Senate and House Judiciary Committees. On the Senate side, Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA) serves as the chairman and Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) is the ranking minority member. On the House side, Rep. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-WI) is the chairman and Rep. John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI) is the ranking minority member. While both chambers oversee Department of Justice issues (e.g., hate crimes prosecution), only the Senate committee oversees federal judicial appointments.

- Each year, Congress must decide how to fund all federal programs, including the National Institutes of Health and the Ryan White CARE Act. These decisions fall under the jurisdiction of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees. On the Senate side, Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS) serves as the chairman and Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV) is the ranking minority member. On the House side, Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-CA) is the chairman and Rep. David Obey (D-WI) is the ranking minority member.

The University of Michigan and the SELF Research Centre at the University of Western Sydney will be hosting the 4th International Biennial SELF Research Conference at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI, July 23-27, 2006.

The conference provides an international forum for presenting, hearing, and discussing cutting-edge research on self-concept, identity, and related constructs. The SELF research conferences are unique in their exclusive focus on these constructs. Papers and presenters will provide views from different disciplines; many papers also integrate theory and practice. The 2006 SELF Research Conference will focus on different theoretical traditions that drive self-concept and identity research. It will bring together scholars interested in the nature of self-concept, self-esteem, and social and personal identities (including gender and ethnic identities) and their association with motivation, activity choices, and mental health.

We will be accepting proposals for symposia, individual papers, and posters until February 1, 2006.

More information about the submission and registration processes will be available October 1, 2005, on our Web site: www.SELFconference.org. In the meantime, you may contact either Jacque Eccles (jeccles@umich.edu) or Deanna Maida (dmigut@umich.edu).
The Five P's

In August, at the American Psychological Association meetings, I represented SPSSI at an event we co-sponsored with the Union of Concerned Scientists, Psychologists for Social Responsibility, APA Division 48 (Peace), and APA itself to alert psychologists to these encroachments on scientific integrity. Other speakers included U.S. Representative Brian Baird (D-WA) and longtime SPSSI member Paul Kimmel. To join the 7,000 plus signers of the statement on Restoring Scientific Integrity in Policy Making, go to www.ucusa.org/scientific_integrity.

The second policy issue selected by Council is reproductive justice. This effort grows out of the JSI issue on Current Reproductive Technologies, edited by Linda Beckman and Marie Harvey. As part of this effort, our James Marshall Scholar, Karen Chen, is organizing a congressional briefing this fall on immigrant women and reproductive health. This follows last spring’s briefing, organized by Shari Miles and based on the Maternal Wall issue of JSI, edited by Moncia Biernat, Faye Crosby, and Joan Williams.

As noted above, we expect to identify another policy issue for this year, and members to work on it, from the survey you will receive shortly. So pick the place you would most like to get involved in SPSSI’s efforts, and plunge in!

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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 webmaster@spssi.org

In Memory

Kenneth Clark is survived by his daughter Kate Clark Harris, his son Hilton B. Clark, three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Mamie Clark died in 1983.
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SPSSI at the United Nations . . .

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articles printed in our Journal of Social Issues (JSI) over the past 24 years, which address policies and actions related to the realization of the UN Millennium Development Goals. Each article is linked to one of the most relevant MDGs, with a cross-section highlighting valuable scholarship with relevance to more than one MDG. The result is an extremely useful overview of how SPSSI, over the years, has contributed to the goals of the UN. For people associated with the UN and those interested in UN accomplishments, this publication offers references to the contributions from psycho-social scientists. We hope to make an electronic version available soon on our Web site: www.spssi.org. In the meantime, we encourage you to visit the UN Web sites: www.un.org, www.un.org/milleniumgoals, and www.undp.org/mdg.
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