Looking Forward:
Are We Headed in the Right Direction?

By Louis Penner
SPSSI President

At this past mid-winter meeting, the members of SPSSI Council engaged in an activity that was somewhat unusual for organizations such as ours – we spent almost half the meeting discussing and planning for the future of SPSSI. It may sound strange that I describe this exercise as unusual, but the fact is that large professional organizations, especially those with a leadership that more or less completely turns over every 3 or so years, rarely step back and look at where they have been and then begin to carefully consider where they want to go in the next 5 to 7 years. I guess the first thing you might want to know is, why did SPSSI decide to do this?

Good question. In my view, two things led Council to begin this planning process. First, there are the positive reasons. For over 3 years, our primary planning efforts have been directed towards deciding if we should move to Washington, then planning the move to Washington, then actually making the move to Washington, and then making the move actually work. As you probably know by now, this became a task that almost overwhelmed us and, to paraphrase a saying that was popular in my former home state (Florida), “It’s hard to think about draining the swamp when you are up to your neck in alligators.” But the great SPSSI relocation has been completed. The renovation is complete; we have moved into the house on I Street; we have a paying tenant for a portion of the house; our central office is fully staffed for the first time in almost 9 months; and we seem (finally) to have a handle on SPSSI’s day-to-day core operations. Things are going along fairly smoothly and it’s time to turn our attention to the future.

But, alas, there are negative reasons as well. The cost of staffing and maintaining the central office in Washington has turned out to be much greater than we expected. Some of these costs were one-time items, but it’s become clear that our recurrent expenses will be substantially more than we had anticipated. Further, the chief source of revenue for SPSSI is proceeds from institutional subscriptions to JSI and ASAP, and this has not increased at a rate that matches our increased expenses. In fact, we expect that these revenues will decline slightly this coming year (but only for this year). Our other major financial asset is our investments in stocks and other securities, and I don’t think I need to tell you how those have been doing. Therefore, it was time to take a hard look at where we are now and where we want to be in the future. We hope the planning session Council engaged in will help guide us if and when some difficult decisions have to be made.

But I would add that even if the fiscal picture were much rosier, many of us would still have pushed for this planning session. I think that organizations such as SPSSI greatly benefit from exercises that systematically ask where they have been and in what directions they
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should head. If nothing else, this activity might tell us if we are on course and, if not, where we have lost our way.

Fortunately, two former Presidents, Jenny Crocker and Jack Dovidio, who had some experience with "futures planning," agreed to come out of (SPSSI) retirement and organize Council’s attempts to plan for the future. They, along with the immediate past President, Geoff Maruyama, led Council in this effort. We began with an Internet survey and face-to-face interviews conducted with SPSSI members and individuals/organizations which interact with SPSSI on a regular basis. Geoff and others summarized the data from the survey and interviews for Council. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of these data was people’s image of SPSSI. When asked what they thought of when they thought of SPSSI, three clear themes emerged: science in the support of the public good; advocacy and activism related to social issues; and support for professional development. As a 30-plus-year SPSSI member, this was fairly reassuring to me, as these were the primary organizational attributes that caused me to belong to SPSSI for all these years.

Building on these themes, Council then considered a number of specific goals that SPSSI might pursue over the next 5 to 7 years. Our initial list contained 14 nonexclusive goals. After considerable formal and informal discussion, Council decided on 5 goals for SPSSI to pursue. They are (not in any particular order):

1) Enhancing our fiscal strength.
2) Increasing our responsiveness to and influence on policy makers.
3) Increasing the diversity of SPSSI’s membership.
4) Enhancing support for research on social issues.
5) Encouraging the development of young professionals interested in social issues.

The final action taken at the meeting was to identify steps that SPSSI might take to reach each of these goals. It would be naive to think these goals will be easily reached. To be even more realistic, it’s very unlikely that all can be reached at the same time. Indeed, it is quite possible that we will have to delay reaching one goal in order to successfully reach others. Our resources are, as I’ve already noted, limited, and it’s hard for me to see achieving any of these goals without expending some financial or social capital.

So, where does that leave SPSSI at this time? Are we wandering about without a map or have we set a reasonable course? Well, as you might expect, I prefer the latter phrase. After all, the first thing that must be said about the planning process is how clearly it revealed a consensus about what SPSSI members value about the organization and the things they want it to achieve. That is, I strongly suspect that if we had been able to bring all 3,000 members of SPSSI together and give them a chance to engage in the same sort of discussion, at least 4 of these 5 goals would have been the ones that were identified (the one possible exception being the fiscal strength). Further, I think the emergence of these goals speaks volumes about why an organization like SPSSI is so important at the present time. To be sure, today, almost every professional organization needs to improve its fiscal strength, but I have difficulty thinking of another organization that has formally dedicated itself to the other 4 goals. And I must quickly add that SPSSI is already doing much to achieve these goals. For example, this year we have already organized two congressional briefings on hate crimes and affirmative action; we helped write APA’s amicus brief on the Michigan affirmative action case (see my column in the April 2003 issue); we continue to offer grants in aid to researchers studying social issues and to sponsor conferences related to social issues; and in many different ways we help in the development of young social and behavioral scientists. (By the way, the second edition of The Compleat Academic: A Career Guide, by John Darley, Mark, Zanna, and Henry Roediger III, a SPSSI-sponsored book, will be published by APA Books this August.)

We will, of course, keep you as up-to-date and informed as possible as to how this planning proceeds. And we would welcome your input as to how we might reach these 5 goals. So if you want to comment on this process or to offer suggestions, please feel free to contact Central Office (spssi@spssi.org) or me directly (pennerl@karmananos.org).
Secretary-Treasurer’s Report

By Dan Perlman
Secretary-Treasurer

In this SPSSI Secretary-Treasurer’s report I will focus on SPSSI’s current budget situation, and a corporate bankruptcy with spillover implications for SPSSI.

The Current Budget Situation

The budget is one of the matters most prominent for me as SPSSI’s Secretary-Treasurer. SPSSI’s 2002–2003 year-end figures are not available at the time of this writing. Nonetheless, the year-to-date figures are available for July 1, 2002, to April 30, 2003. While complexities in accounting may lead to debates over exactly how large it is, SPSSI – plain and simple – is headed for a deficit in the current fiscal year. This year, SPSSI has, somewhat atypically, encountered some substantially higher expenditures than projected. These have been primarily associated with the renovations of the SPSSI house, including building costs per se as well as architectural and legal fees.

SPSSI’s proposed 2002–2003 budget was for revenue of $539,700 vs. expenditures of $641,734. Thus, SPSSI Council anticipated the possibility of a deficit, but sometimes expenditures are a bit less than budgeted if positions go unfilled or activities are not undertaken. The Finance Committee had hoped the actual deficit would be less than the $102,034 projected. Disregarding investment losses, we’ve had $512,101 of income. (With investment losses, SPSSI’s income for accounting purposes has been $463,119.) Our expenditures to date at the end of April were $526,475. We have received most of our revenue for the year but still have two more months of expenditures. Given the expenditure trends from the first 10 months, SPSSI’s deficit for the year may be in the $160,000 range ($630,000 of expenditures less $470,000 of revenue). A substantial part of this deficit is attributable to investment losses and the special one-time expenditures for the house. Some of the house expenditures may be removed from annual operating expenses by year-end accounting adjustments that may, reasonably I believe, reduce the final size of the year’s deficit shown on SPSSI’s audited annual financial statements. But SPSSI has gone from a point in the 1990s where ongoing revenues regularly exceeded expenditures to a point where this year’s real income is not adequate to cover this year’s ordinary annual expenses. As I indicated in my last report, for the foreseeable future SPSSI appears to be facing the challenge of increasing revenues, cutting costs, and/or having to dip into accumulated assets.

The Rowe Bankruptcy

Adding to SPSSI’s fiscal challenges for 2003–2004, the Rowe Company has gone into bankruptcy. What difference does this make for SPSSI? Over 80% of SPSSI’s current annual income derives from the Society’s journals, which are published by Blackwell. Like most publishers, Blackwell does not sell its journals directly to libraries; instead, subscription agents do this. Rowe.com was one of Blackwell’s...
SPSSI NEWSLETTER

July 2003

Results of the SPSSI President and Council Elections

SPSSI is pleased to announce the results of its election of officers. The President-Elect is:

Kay Deaux
Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Women’s Studies, Graduate Center of the City University of New York

The four incoming members of Council are:

Daniel Bar-Tal
Professor of Psychology at the School of Education, Tel Aviv University

Hector Betancourt
Professor of Psychology, Senior Researcher, Loma Linda University

Susan Clayton
Associate Professor of Psychology, The College of Wooster

Steven Spencer
Associate Professor of Psychology, University of Waterloo.

The Nominating Committee, cochaired by Margo Monteith and Dan Perlman, was delighted at the quality of the candidates who were willing to run for SPSSI offices, and would have been pleased no matter who was elected. Given the distribution of this year’s votes, it is clear that the slate of candidates presented “approach-approach” conflicts for many voters. SPSSI extends a warm thanks to all who stood for office.

2002–2003 Gordon Allport Prize Winners Announced

The papers submitted for SPSSI’s Gordon Allport Award, which honors research and scholarship on intergroup relations, covered a variety of topics. Scholars from a number of social science disciplines and countries submitted papers written or published this year.

The winner of the 2002-2003 award is “A Meta-analytic Test and Reformulation of Intergroup Contact Theory” written by Thomas F. Pettigrew, University of California, Santa Cruz, and Linda R. Tropp, Boston College. The paper reports findings from a meta-analysis examining relationships between intergroup contact and prejudice, based on 515 studies gathered across many disciplines and spanning the 1940s to 2000. It shows that the positive effects of intergroup contact are enhanced when the contact situation is explicitly structured in line with Allport’s proposed conditions, yet they can also be achieved even when Allport’s conditions are not explicitly met within the contact situation.

Honorable mention was awarded to a paper by Joshua Correll, Bernadette Park, and Charles M. Judd, University of Colorado at Boulder, and Bernd Wittenbrink, University of Chicago, titled “The Police Officer’s Dilemma: Using Ethnicity to Disambiguate Potentially Threatening Individuals.”

The 2002-2003 Award committee included Denise Sekaquaptewa, University of Michigan, Chair; Sam Gaertner, University of Delaware; and Steve Spencer, University of Waterloo.

Congratulations to all of the award recipients.

Visit the SPSSI Web site at www.spssi.org
2003 Otto Klineberg Award Winner Announced

The Otto Klineberg Award honors research and scholarship for the best paper or manuscript of the year on intercultural and international relations. This year, there were a number of very high-quality submissions spanning a wide range of potential research areas and disciplines. The breadth and depth of the manuscripts made the committee decision difficult. The award recognizes originality as one of the primary criteria for submissions.

This year’s winner is Vanessa Pupavac from the School of Politics at the University of Nottingham. Her paper, “Pathologizing populations and colonizing minds: International psychosocial programs in Kosovo,” was published in Alternatives, 27, 2002, 489–511. The paper discusses the ways in which Western therapeutic approaches for treating postconflict populations often ignore the normal and productive coping mechanisms of the war-torn populations. In the process, populations are colonized via “a new mode of therapeutic governance” that often harms the associated populations. The author contends that the Western approach often ignores the resilience and strength of the populations, inhibiting self-determination.


This year, the committee consisted of Ramaswami Mahalingam, Dale Miller, Harry Triandis, and Michael Zárate (chair). Congratulations to Vanessa Pupavac, the finalists, and the authors of all of the submitted manuscripts.

EAESP/SPSSI Small Conference

SPSSI will contribute $2,000 to an international small conference titled “The Social Psychological Analysis of Social Inclusion and Exclusion.” This conference is being organized by Vicki Essex, Dominic Abrams, and Miles Hewstone, and will be held in Canterbury, England, this September. It aims to bring together social psychologists (associated with the European Association of Experimental Social Psychology [EAESP] and SPSSI) and policy makers who are interested in learning more about problems of racism, intergroup and intercultural conflict, and migrant populations.

This year, the EAESP/SPSSI Small Conference Committee consisted of Ann Bettencourt, Kerry Kawakami, Carey Ryan, and Monica Biernat, Chair.

2002–2003 Grants-In-Aid Program Fall Award Recipients

Dr. Izumi Sakamoto, University of Toronto $2,000
“Negotiating Multiple Cultural Contexts: Cultural Selfways of Japanese Academic Migrants in North America”

Dr. Stacey Sinclair and Ms. Wendy L. Morris, University of Virginia $2,000
“Stigma Awakening: Benefits to Self-esteem”

Dr. Yuri Jang, University of Georgia $1,500
“Cross Cultural Comparison of Perception of Aging Between Older Koreans and Older Americans”

Dr. Kristen N. Moreno, University of Memphis $1,960
“Understanding the Impact of Violent Video Games on Aggressive Behavior”

Dr. Jocelyn Turner-Musa, Morgan State University $770
“An Investigation of the Role of Religiosity/Spirituality and Social Support on Health Behaviors of African American College Students”

Dr. Ariel Knafo, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, $2,000
“Values as Protective Factors Against Substance Abuse Among Israeli Adolescents”

Ms. Elizabeth Mullen, University of Illinois at Chicago, $675
“Affective Influences On People’s Fairness Reasoning”

Ms. Karen Albright, Ms. Courtney Abrams, and Mr. Aaron Panofsky, New York University $1,000
“Things Will Never Be The Same Again: The Social Construction of Disaster in Narratives of September 11th”

Mr. Gregory Walton, Yale University $1,000
“Stereotypes and Academic Achievement”

Ms. Heather Miller, California School of Professional Psychology, and Dr. Edward Dunbar, University of California, Los Angeles $1,000
“Collaborative Community Efforts to Examine Hate Crimes”

Ms. Susan P. Farrugia, University of California, Irvine $1,000
“The Transition From Foster Care to Independence”

Mr. Andrew Rasmussen, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign $1,000
“A Defendant’s Teen Court: Impressions of Youth Justice”

The Grants-In-Aid committee consisted of Diana Cordova, Chair, Alan Omoto, Dick Moreland, and Janet Swim. Congratulations to each of the recipients.
Seeking Voices From Abroad

By Shari E. Miles
Executive Director

Input from International Members

I had the pleasure of traveling to Western Europe several weeks ago. What started out as a quickly pulled together vacation turned out to be a wonderful opportunity to meet and talk with some of our international members about their impressions of SPSSI and ways we might better serve them. I asked Sougata Roy, our database coordinator, to identify SPSSI members who live in Belgium and surrounding countries. He identified several members, but I was only able to contact members in France and the Netherlands. I spoke by phone with a few members and met with two: Gail Pheterson, who lives in France, and Collette van Laar, who lives in the Netherlands.

Some of their initial thoughts included a recurring theme – to make the membership database technology-driven. A Web-based system would allow our members to pay their dues, update their member profiles, and vote online. (We recognize that timely mail delivery can be an issue, so we now post the SPSSI Newsletter online. Just click the “Newsletter” link at the top of the homepage to view this newsletter as well as the April 2003 issue.)

We also discussed having regional gatherings, especially in non-stand-alone convention years, and ways to enhance international participation at the biennial meetings. Any other international members who would like to join in the conversation may e-mail me at smiles@spssi.org. I will share the results of our discussions with Council at the August meeting and will write in more detail in my next article.

More Updates from SPSSI’s UN Committee

The SPSSI UN Committee was first seated in 1987, but much of its work has been conducted outside of the SPSSI spotlight. No longer. Our UN Committee will begin posting a regular update on its activities to the SPSSI listserv. The updates will also be stored on the UN Committee Section of the SPSSI Web site. Peter Walker, our main UN Representative, and his colleagues, Lauren Appelbaum, Corann Okorodudu, Nwayer Phaoran, Astrid Stuckelburger, and Joseph de Mayer, work year-round to infuse United Nations debates with the research that SPSSI members are engaged in.

In addition, Central Office will work with the UN Committee to position SPSSI as an organizational resource for UN folks who are interested in social science research on specific topics. In 2001, the UN distilled action items from the 1990s’ World Conferences and created the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These goals are to (1) eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; (2) achieve universal primary education; (3) promote gender equality and empower women; (4) reduce child mortality; (5) improve maternal health; (6) combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; (7) ensure environmental sustainability; and (8) develop a global partnership for development. Our next intern will work on cataloguing past issues of JSI that address many of these compelling social issues. This information will help our UN Representatives contribute research and understanding to the UN process of achieving these internationally endorsed goals. The results will also be posted on SPSSI’s UN Committee Web page so that members can learn more about these areas of international concern and commitment.

What’s Been Going on at Central Office?

We are pleased to have Ms. Toya Williamson on board as SPSSI’s new Office Manager. Toya is completing her accounting studies at Strayer University. She comes to SPSSI from the Institute on Crime, Justice, and Corrections at The George Washington University, where she served as both Office Manager and Project Manager. She has had a variety of work experiences in the academic, nonprofit, small business, and legal industries, both in the public and private sectors. She is very organized and eager to establish a records management system for SPSSI. After three moves in two years, you can imagine that our paper and electronic records are in need of a major overhaul.

We are also excited to announce that we will have company in the I Street house. Psychologists for Social Responsibility (PsySR) will join us as our upstairs tenant. As many of you know, PsySR works to promote peace with social justice at the community, national, and international levels. We are very pleased about sharing space and interests with our sister organization. SPSSI members might be interested in the October 2003 conference that PsySR is planning. The theme of the conference is “Rethinking Gender War and Peace: Feminist Perspectives.” Its primary goal is to advance the field of peace psychology by examining its past, present, and future work from a feminist perspective. You can visit PsySR’s Web site, www.psysr.com, for more details.

Finally, Georgia Skoumbis completed her internship with SPSSI on May 14 and has returned to UCLA. She will spend her summer in Los Angeles preparing for the LSAT and deciding whether to pursue a law degree or to explore a joint JD/PhD program.

Amber Allen, our 2001-2002 intern, will receive her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Social Behavior from the University of California at Irvine on June 14, 2003.

Did You Know?

Concepcion Picciotto has been vigiling for peace across the street from the White House since 1981. Now in her 50s, she is a constant fixture in Lafayette Park (also known as Peace Park), protesting for peace, justice, and global nuclear disarmament.
The 47th Annual Meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women

By Martha Mednick
SPSSI Past President and Visiting NGO Representative for the Commission

For two weeks in March, the 47th annual meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women took place. In a first for me, I attended for several days as a SPSSI NGO (nongovernmental organization) representative. I came there completely untutored and only minimally prepared, and came away having learned a great deal and persuaded that it is very important that we stay involved and continue to try to influence the outcomes of such meetings.

On the day before the start of the main event, I attended an NGO Consultation held at Barnard College. The event was organized by the New York NGO Committee on the Status of Women. The opening speaker for this conference was Carol Bellamy, the Director of UNICEF. She spoke about the need for female empowerment in this increasingly unstable world, noting that violence is about more than inter-country war; wars are increasingly waged within countries. The victims of such wars are mainly civilian (read women and children); still, women are almost never at the tables that discuss building and keeping peace, though they are actors, even if behind the scenes. She also brought up the desperate need for gender equality in education. Finally, she commented on the dearth of women in high-level positions in the UN, in spite of their enormous stake in the peace process — a reflection of their insufficient power and influence.

At this event, I also attended a panel on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The Convention, which has been ratified by 179 countries (not including the United States), is a wide-ranging human rights document for women. The discussion was intense, with attendees raising questions about difficulties with the Convention, even when a country has ratified. In the meantime, SPSSI needs to join in the efforts pushing for ratification by the United States and other nonsignators (http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states.htm). Also discussed, during mostly informal exchanges, was the matter of another global meeting (http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/beijing+5.htm). There were some differences of opinion about the need for such a meeting, but it seems the concerns are more about potential for renewed conflict and politicization. At the formal NGO briefing, the firmly stated opinion was that another worldwide conference would be needed, if only so that a new generation can be reached. However, at this point, no group seems to be arguing for a specific time or place. This is a very serious matter and the NGOs will be watching. This must include SPSSI.

The 47th annual meeting of the Commission itself focused on two major themes. The first was women’s human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls. The second theme was the integration of women into the media in all their forms and the recognition, as stressed in the Beijing Platform for Action (PFA), that media policies must be inclusive and must benefit women all over the world. These themes are pursuant to the direction of the UN General Assembly to followup on and implement the Beijing Declaration and PFA.

I was able to attend the presentation of two reports on the issue of violence and the trafficking of women. Reports of preparatory meetings and investigations were available. Excellent summaries are available from http://www.iwtc.org/; look at statements #225, #226, #227, and #228. (http://www.iwtc.org/225.html, etc.). For a report of the expert group meeting on trafficking in women and girls, visit http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw. Other documents prepared for these meetings are on http://www.genderIT.org.

In one presentation, some of the experts on trafficking described it as a “growth” industry. According to these individuals, there is a great demand and it is related to poverty and gender inequality. Besides the obvious customers (anyone who has money and access), shockingly, the business is patronized by peacekeepers; UN employees are often the suppliers. In general, there is great tolerance of anti-women crimes around the world.

Sadly, resolutions directed at ending violence toward, and trafficking of, women were turned down. Although the resolutions had been adopted by consensus, at the last minute three member state representatives ‘registered their governments’ objections to the paragraph that read: condemn violence against women and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition, or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination” (see #228). The session was suspended with no resolutions of this issue, though it was noted that the language came directly from the Beijing Platform for Action. There was, therefore, an explicit refusal to use the Beijing language. The opinion in the document from Women’s Globalnet #228 is that there is an alliance of conservative countries (including the United States) that has the goal of undermining the language of the PFA. There is great disappointment at this outcome and at this point I have not heard of a new date to finish the suspended session.

In contrast, the Commission adopted most of the recommendations on information and communications technologies (ICTs). The draft statements on ICTs agreed that the benefits of the new ICTs should be available to all. Unfortunately, “[t]he delegates failed to come to an agreement on calling for inclusion of at least 30% women in” (IWTCC # 225) all delegations to relevant UN meetings. “The representative from the USA objected to the quota…” (Op.cit).
Public Policy

Washington Update from the 2002-2004 SPSSI James Marshall Public Policy Scholar

By Diane Elmore  
SPSSI James Marshall Scholar

Spring 2003 has been filled with much policy activity here in Washington, D.C. I continue to be committed to the issues of aging, hate crime, and trauma and abuse. Some of my recent policy efforts are described below.

Aging and Mental Health

Aging and mental health issues have been at the forefront both here in Washington, D.C., and around the country. Particular attention was given to both issues in the month of May, which was both Older Americans Month and Mental Health Month.

The Positive Aging Act (H.R.2241) was introduced on May 22 by Representatives Patrick J. Kennedy (D-RI) and Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD), Democratic Whip of the House of Representatives. This legislation is designed to enhance access to vital mental health services for older Americans through mental health outreach to primary care and community-based settings. Initially drafted by the American Association of Geriatric Psychiatry (AAGP) and Representative Kennedy’s office, the bill was oriented to geriatric psychiatry. However, prior to its re-introduction in this Congress, a team of advocates, including myself and other staff members of the APA Public Policy Office, the Office on Aging, and the Committee on Aging, completed a careful review of this piece of legislation. We then worked with Representative Kennedy’s office and AAGP to modify the bill to provide a more inclusive model of health care to older adults. Our proposed modifications included:

• The recognition of the role of psychologists in mental health screening and assessment in a collaborative health care model within primary care.
• An expanded range of evidence-based interventions and locations/providers eligible for grants for community-based mental health treatment.
• At least one position on the advisory council of the Center for Mental Health Services reserved for a psychologist.
• The inclusion of language that promotes a positive image of older adults to reduce prejudice and stigma.

Following several weeks of meetings and negotiations, our modifications were incorporated and the Positive Aging Act was introduced as a piece of legislation that promotes a comprehensive and collaborative model of health care for older Americans.

The Elder Justice Act (S.333) was introduced in the Senate in February by Senator John Breaux (D-LA) to ensure that critical attention is devoted to addressing elder abuse, comparable to that for other forms of abuse, such as violence against women and child abuse. The bill currently has more than 23 cosponsors in the Senate, and a companion bill in the House of Representatives is expected to be introduced in June.

• Meeting with Senator Breaux’s Staff: Nina Levitt, Director of Education Policy, Deborah DiGilio of the APA Office on Aging, and I met in April with the Senator’s office and successfully requested that a technical amendment be made to the Elder Justice Act. This amendment will include psychologists (who had been inadvertently omitted) in the list of health care professionals eligible for training through grants awarded as part of the legislation.

Ageism

On May 19, the Senate Special Committee on Aging held a hearing titled “Ageism in the Health Care System: Short Shifting Seniors?” This hearing, which received national media attention, focused on ageism primarily from a medical perspective. Little attention was directed to mental health overall, and the contributions of psychological research and practice were neglected. Therefore, I am now working with the APA Office on Aging to promote psychology as a resource on ageism issues by:

• Preparing written testimony related to ageism, with the assistance of ageism experts in our field, to be included in the public record of the Senate Special Committee on Aging hearing on ageism.
• Providing relevant resources from the psychological community—including the book Ageism: Stereotyping and prejudice against older persons, the May APA Monitor article titled “Fighting ageism,” and the APA Council of Representatives Resolution on Ageism—to the offices of Senator Larry Craig (R-ID), chairman, and Senator Breaux, ranking member, of the Senate Special Committee on Aging.
• Working closely with members of Senator Breaux’s staff to encourage additional congressional hearings on this topic, focusing on the mental and behavioral health needs of older adults and effective interventions to address these needs.
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**SPSSI - NY Regional Activities**

By Harold Takooshian  
NY Regional Group Chair

Once again in spring 2003, our SPSSI–New York regional group offered diverse activities for SPSSI members and their guests, some of them in concert with other local psychology groups.

- On March 10, at the New York Academy of Sciences, SPSSI members heard Susan Fiske of Princeton lecture on “The perils of prejudice.”
- On April 12, some 50 professionals and students attended a workshop on “Brain trauma in children and adults,” chaired by neuropsychologist Rolland Parker of the New York Academy of Traumatic Brain Injury.
- SPSSI members participated in three annual research conferences: the Third Lehman Undergraduate Psychology Conference on April 30, the 31st Hunter Psychology Convention on May 3, and the 11th Pace Psychology Conference on May 10.
- The largest SPSSI–NY activity in spring 2003 was a Town Meeting on “Car security in New York City” on March 13, presenting applied research on a local issue. It was organized by Andrew Friedman of Silent Majority, and featured five other panelists: Andrew Karmen of John Jay College on “The auto manufacturer’s role in car crimes,” Harold Takooshian of Fordham on “Behavioral research on antitheft devices,” psychologist Arline Bronzaft of the NYC Mayor’s Task Force on Noise on “Urban noise and quality of life,” Aaron Naparstek of Transportation Alternatives on “Public policy,” and attorney Steven Brautigam of the NYC Sanitation Department on “Legal issues.” The Town Meeting was attended by 60 people, including members of the press who later reported on the session in the print and broadcast media, including a detailed press release by Transportation Alternatives. Following this SPSSI–NY Town Meeting, the NYC Council scheduled hearings in June on the possible prohibition of sonic car alarms in the City, inviting the panelists to testify on their research.

The spring planning committee that organized these diverse activities was composed of Steven Armeli, Aaron Friedman, Ed Hollander, Aaron Naparstek, Rolland S. Parker, and Jason R. Young. We greatly appreciate their service to SPSSI.

**Looking Ahead to Fall 2003**

The SPSSI–NY planning committee foresees sessions on diverse topics — forensic psychology, psychometrics, brain trauma, psychology in the workplace, and psychology at the United Nations. For advance information on the November 15 workshop on brain trauma, contact Dr. Rolland Parker at 212-222-4543. The SPSSI–NY 15th Greater New York Conference on Behavioral Research is set for November 21, 2003, with a call for student/professional papers due by October 31 at 5 pm. For any details on SPSSI–NY activities, contact the chairperson at takoosh@aol.com.

By Harold Takooshian
By Rhoda Unger
ASAP Editor

What does one do when one is three years old? If I were my three-year-old grandson, I would ask for a goldfish named Dorothy. It is not as easy to figure out in what ways we should encourage our no-longer-newborn electronic journal to grow. Therefore, instead of using this column to announce articles that are newly published on the Web site (although there are new ones that I recommend you read), I have decided to use it to ask for your help in brainstorming the future activities of SPSSI’s youngest offspring.

The journal appears to be successful in terms of a growing readership (Blackwell, our publisher, calculates this for us in terms of total and unique hits). We have published articles on a variety of social issues, including health, the environment, peace and war, affirmative action and gender equity, transportation, and so on. We have also been able to attract manuscripts both from recognized researchers and scholars and from people new to the field. But I think we can do more.

One of our most successful features has been point/counterpoint. This feature involves a focus paper on a topic that is provocative to our readers. So far, we have had dialogues about the ethical and methodological issues involved in doing research on welfare reform (in Volume 1) and about hypotheses that may be generated from simulations of international politics involving individuals who are high in authoritarianism and social dominance (ongoing in Volume 3). In both features, I was unable to predict either the positions or the variety of concerns expressed by contributors.

Point/counterpoint dialogues appear to be particularly well...
suited for classes – to help students recognize that social problems are neither simple nor easily resolved. I would like more such features, but I cannot generate them by myself. They must come from ASAP readers. I invite suggestions about topics for such features, names of people who might be interested in writing a focus article (including yourself), and/or your willingness to spread the word to your intellectual community about possibilities in this area.

What else do I want? The electronic media seem to be an excellent venue for international communication. ASAP has published a number of articles from researchers outside of the United States, including collaboration between Israeli and Palestinian social scientists (Volume 2) as well as articles from other researchers in Israel, Australia, and Canada. We have had less success with researchers from countries where English is not commonly used. Therefore, I invite you to contact colleagues in these countries (especially those who have already published in English) and tell them about the possibility of publishing in ASAP. I would also welcome volunteers who would be willing to assist foreign scholars in putting their work into a form that is clearly understood by English-speaking readers. This is particularly important for ASAP because we aim to reach a broader audience than is usual for an academic journal.

New contributors and/or potential reviewers are also welcome! I am particularly interested in dialogue about social issues we have not already covered. Questions about the journal and ideas for its continuing development will be answered promptly. I do ask, however, that our dialogue be electronic via asap@spssi.org. I spend so much time online that it is sometimes difficult to remember what envelopes are for and where they may be found.

During this very difficult period both nationally and internationally, we must make sure our voices are heard. ASAP is one vehicle for doing this, and with your help we can make ASAP an important source of ideas about the ways social science can contribute to public policy. Please help us to be part of the solution.

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**Citations**

The 2001 impact factor (number of citations of articles that appeared in the 1999 and 2000 issues of JSI divided by the number of articles published in JSI for the same period) was 1.174. This is higher than any of the five previous years and third among the 33 journals in the same category in the Social Sciences Citation Index. Citation data are not yet available for ASAP.

**Readership (Online Usage)**

There were 42,654 full-text article accesses to JSI during 2002. This represents an increase of 35,000 over 2001 and is almost three times the average number for comparable journals. Some of this increase is due to the greater accessibility of JSI online, but the journal still does much better than comparable journals. For ASAP, the total number of hits increased from 276,737 to 9,283,732! The total number of “unique visitors” went from 8,272 to 101,891, more than a tenfold increase.

It’s hard to overstate the significance of the growth in online readership. More and more people are accessing articles online, but we strongly suspect that the growth for our journals is primarily due to their quality. The quality of the journals is, in turn, the result of the outstanding efforts of our two editors, Irene Frieze and Rhoda Unger, and the issue editors for JSI.

All in all, then, our journals, JSI and ASAP, have had another great year and they are achieving, or perhaps even surpassing, our financial and educational goals for them. We look forward to another strong report for 2003.
official report was scheduled to be submitted to the President in April, it is not expected to be released until late June at the earliest.

**Hate Crime**

The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act (S.966 – “The Hate Crime Bill”) was introduced in the Senate on May 1 by Senators Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), Arlen Specter (R-PA), and Gordon Smith (R-OR). This legislation, which has 49 original cosponsors, would add protections for crime victims who are targeted based on sexual orientation, disability, or gender to the current law (which currently only includes crime motivated by race, color, religion, or national origin). In addition, this legislation removes the requirement that the hate crime be committed while the victim is engaging in a federally protected activity (e.g., voting); authorizes the U.S. Attorney General to make grants and provide technical assistance to state and local law enforcement authorities; and allows federal prosecutors to bring federal charges if the state and local law enforcement authorities are unwilling or unable to properly investigate or prosecute hate crime.

**Hate Crime Coalition:** I continue to represent APA and SPSSI as a member of the National Hate Crime Coalition. Our ongoing efforts focus on promoting the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, improving hate crime reporting and statistics, and educating individuals, groups, and communities about the impact of prejudice and hate.

**Anti-Bias Education Conference:** On June 6–8, I attended the Anti-Bias Education Conference in Evanston, Illinois. This event, which is cosponsored by SPSSI along with the American Jewish Committee and the Alan Slifka Foundation, brought together practitioners and academicians to enhance the anti-bias education efforts of both groups by (1) expanding the theoretical and research skills of the anti-bias practitioners, and (2) providing intergroup relations researchers with information on best practices in the field. In addition, I gave a presentation titled “Evaluating a program which uses the Holocaust to promote tolerance,” based on my dissertation research. Many SPSSI members attended this historic event, including conference organizers Walter and Cookie Stephan who shared their extensive work in the area of anti-bias education.

**Trauma and Abuse**

**Sexual Exploitation of Children:** I have been communicating with members of the U.S. Campaign Against the Sexual Exploitation of Children. The Campaign was created by nongovernmental organizations across the country that specialize in advocacy, education, and treatment for children who have been sexually exploited. The purpose of the Campaign is to end the abuse of children in prostitution, pornography, and sex trafficking.

On May 1 I was invited to give a presentation titled “Understanding the impact of sexual trauma on child and adolescent survivors” at the Campaign’s national meeting. In speaking to this diverse group of advocates, I was able to provide a general overview of the consequences of sexual exploitation from a psychological perspective. I plan to continue to serve as a resource to the Campaign to assist in its efforts to end the sexual exploitation of children.

**Women and Trauma Legislation:** Over the past few months, I have worked with Lori Valencia Greene of the APA Public Policy Office on a campaign to support two pieces of trauma legislation introduced during the last Congress by Senator John Edwards (D-NC). These bills would improve treatment to address the mental health and substance abuse needs of women with trauma histories (S.2204) and expand research related to female survivors of trauma (S.2559).

Our efforts have included a meeting with Senator Edwards’ office to stress the importance of his legislation supporting research and treatment for female survivors of trauma. Following this meeting, we sent an action alert to North Carolina psychologists to encourage them to make telephone calls to the Senator to applaud his past efforts on behalf of these issues, restate the importance of the legislation, and encourage the reintroduction of the trauma bills. We were very pleased with the advocacy efforts of this group of psychologists and will continue to encourage the re-introduction of the trauma bills during this Congress.

**National Child Abuse Coalition:** An opening recently arose in the Public Policy Office to contribute in the area of child abuse policy. Because of my interest in this issue, I have eagerly taken on the role of representative to the National Child Abuse Coalition. This group of seasoned advocates has worked together for many years to advance legislation such as the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), which has recently been reauthorized by Congress. I look forward to sharing more about the Coalition efforts as I become increasingly active and involved in these issues.

As you can see, my experience as the SPSSI James Marshall Public Policy Scholar continues to be stimulating and exciting. I have received overwhelming support from a variety of individuals and groups, including Shari Miles and the SPSSI Central Office staff, the APA Public Policy Office, the APA Office on Aging, and my oversight committee composed of past SPSSI scholars and outstanding local SPSSI members. In addition, I have received a variety of e-mails from SPSSI members around the country, offering their support, encouragement, and tremendous knowledge as a resource. I cannot say enough to express my thanks, as each of these contributions has not only enhanced my work, but also, made my efforts more enjoyable. I appreciate your comments, suggestions, and questions and look forward to hearing from you at delmore@apa.org.
## SPSSI (Division 9) Program at APA 2003

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

**11:00 – 12:50 pm  Symposium: Models and mechanisms of narrative persuasion**

Chair: Timothy C. Brock, PhD, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Participants:
- Transportation into written, spoken, and filmed narratives
  Melanie C. Green, PhD, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- Narrative persuasion and attitudes toward smoking
  Sonya Dal Cin, BA, University of Waterloo, ON, Canada
- Direct comparisons of narrative and rhetorical persuasion
  Stephen D. Livingston, BA, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- Abstraction and the vividness of details in fiction
  Raymond A. Mar, BS, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada

**1:00 – 2:50 pm  Symposium: Psychotherapy research using critical methodology: A focus on racism**

Chair: Chalmer E. Thompson, PhD

Participants:
- Why critical methods are important to psychotherapy research
  Khym N. Isaac, MS, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- Background on the study and descriptions of participants
  Jeannie R. Annan, BS, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- Critical methods used to conduct the research
  Bong Joo Hwang, MS, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- Emergent patterns in therapy dyads when clients talk about racism
  Yoonhwa Cho, MS, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

Discussant: Barbara Korth, PhD, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

**8:00 – 9:50 am  Workshop: Opening windows: The Role of implicit culture in intercultural interactions**

Chair: Rashmi Jaipal, PhD, Bloomfield College, Bloomfield, NJ

Participant: Seow Patricia, AA, Bloomfield College, Bloomfield, NJ

**3:00 – 3:50 pm  Presidential Address: Volunteering and social problems: Making things better or worse?**

Chair: Geoffrey Maruyama, PhD, APA, Minneapolis, MN

Participant: Lou Penner, PhD, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

**4:00 – 4:50 pm  Business Meeting**

Chair: Lou Penner, PhD, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

**5:00 – 5:50 pm  Kurt Lewin Memorial Award: Thriving in the face of early adversity**

Chair: Marilyn Brewer, PhD, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Participant: Daphne Bugental, PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA

**6:00 – 7:50 pm  Social Hour**

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

**8:00 – 9:50 am  Psycho-social reactions to the events of September 11th**

Chair: Aghop DerKarabetian, PhD, University of La Verne, La Verne, CA

Participants:
- Terror management theory and coping responses to September 11th
  Ann Wichman, PhD, University of La Verne, La Verne, CA

**9:00 – 10:50 am  Symposium: Relationship violence: Exploring new theoretical approaches**

Chair: Georgina Hammock, PhD, Atlanta, GA

Participants:
- Cross-cultural differences in physical aggression between partners: A non-sexist analysis
  John Archer, PhD, University of Lancashire, Lancashire, Wales, United Kingdom
- Gender-relevant predictors of intimate partner violence
  Jacqueyn W. White, PhD, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC
- Stalking by ex-partners: Is it just another type of domestic violence?
  Jennifer Langhinrichsen-Rohling, PhD, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL
- Pre-relationship stalking, relationship violence, and breakup stalking: Redefining relationship violence
  Irene H Frieze, PhD, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Discussant: Deborah S. Richardson, PhD, Augusta State University, Augusta GA

**11:00 – 11:50 am  Roundtable Discussion: Doing it differently: Women in academia**

Chair: Lori A. J. Scott-Sheldon, MA, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

**12:00 – 12:50 pm  Roundtable Discussion: SPSSI members and public policy: Becoming involved in policy issues and debate**

Chair: Pamela Valera, MSW, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

**1:00 – 2:50 pm  Poster Session (co-listed with Div. 48)**

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

**10:00 – 11:50 am  Symposium: New theories of acculturation**

Chair: Floyd W. Rudmin, PhD, University of Tromso, Tromso, Norway

Participants:
- Acculturation, social identity, and social cognition: A new perspective
  Amado M. Padilla, PhD, Stanford University, Stanford, CA
- The acculturator and acculturee are active agents
  Forrest B. Tyler, PhD, University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- Acculturation in context
  Dina Birman, PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL
- Metacognition and semiotics in an acculturating robot
  Floyd W. Rudmin, PhD, University of Tromso, Tromso, Norway

**12:00 – 12:50 pm  Roundtable Discussion: Jobs outside of academia: A focus on social issues**

Chair: Antoinette H. Semenya, MA, University of Western Ontario, London, Canada
Book Announcements


Call for Proposals for Hyde Graduate Student Research Grants. These grants, each up to $500, are awarded to doctoral psychology students to support feminist research. The grants are made possible through the generosity of Janet Hyde, PhD, who donates the royalties from her book, Half the Human Experience, to this fund. Winners will be announced at the APA convention during the Division 35 Social Hour. The names of the winners may also be posted in the Division 35 newsletter as well as on Division 35 Web page and LISTSERV. Deadline: Proposals should be postmarked by either March 15 or September 15. Proposals (5 copies) should be submitted to the committee chair:

Silvia Sara Canetto, PhD
Chair, Hyde Research Award Committee
Department of Psychology
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1876
Phone: 970/491-5415
FAX: 970/491-1032
E-mail: scanetto@lamar.colostate.edu.

Join SPSSI in South Africa

A delegation of professionals specializing in the psychological study of social issues has been selected to visit South Africa. The purpose of this delegation is to provide an opportunity for U.S. and South Africa psychologists to exchange ideas about important social issues, including ones tied to intergroup relations as well as to educational, legal, and mental and other health programs and practices in order to improve practices in both the United States and South Africa. The program is being arranged by People to People Ambassador programs and will be led by SPSSI President-elect James Jones. The delegation will have focused meetings with educators, policy makers, mental health professionals, community leaders, and other health care providers while also participating in discussion groups and workshops. In addition, meetings with professors at selected universities, as well as professionals at various facilities, will help accomplish the goals of this delegation.

The estimated cost per delegate or accompanying guest is U.S. $4990 (departs from and returning to New York). This includes round-trip air fare, group transportation, meetings and cultural activities, accommodations, most meals, and essentially all costs associated with participation in the program. A supplemental cultural and educational program will be arranged for accompanying spouses and guests who choose not to attend the professional sessions. For more information, contact SPSSI at spssi@spssi.org or 202/675-6956.
**Demographic Information**

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

**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.

**Lifetime 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 $1,000.00 provides exemption from member dues for the duration of membership. Lifetime members have voting rights.

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

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

Send application to: SPSSI Central Office, Attn.: Membership
208 I Street, NE
Washington DC 20002; Fax 202/675-6902.
Applications are also available on the Web: www.spssi.org
To all SPSSI members:
Please keep Central Office informed of any change of address or other contact details!