As the incoming GSC gets into gear, we have a lot of exciting plans for the year. One emerging focus is on international collaboration with the aim of creating relationships and gaining an understanding of how psychology is applied to social issues in different parts of the world. Many of our GSC members this year have an international background or are interested in cross-cultural research. Each newsletter issue this year will highlight graduate student experiences by looking at similarities and differences in psychology programs around the world. In this issue we’ll visit the Netherlands—see page 3 to compare your own experiences. In future issues we would like for you to tell us about your research and experiences in graduate school. As budding psychologists we can all benefit from learning about cross-cultural issues and the role of psychology in other countries.

As always, we have other exciting information to share with you in this issue. Read on to learn about past events and upcoming plans for the year. Find out what other students are working on and consider sharing your own work. Write to us about any questions or suggestions you may have, or tell us about your experiences in school. With your help, we can create bigger and better networks among grad students and with professors throughout the world!

Get involved—join the SPSSI GSC group!
Click: http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/spssigsc
Or e-mail: Spssigsc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Continued on page 4...
There were a host of activities sponsored by GSC at the recent APA convention held in San Francisco.

Michelle Kaufman and Jenny Escobar led a round-table discussion with Beth Shinn, Heather Bullock, and Linda Tropp. The focus was on how we can ensure our research goes beyond a journal publication and reaches a non-academic audience. This discussion was well-received by discussants and audience members alike. Attendee Peter Yeomans stated, "Listening to the speakers, it was very clear to me that these were academics who really were committed to using the research to address social issues and affect social policy. It gave me a renewed sense that I could do academic research AND feel like I was making a direct social contribution." This is further evidence that academic researchers can move beyond the ivory tower.

Another roundtable was organized by Michelle Kaufman and Janice Adelman, providing an opportunity to hear about the international work experiences of Jeffrey Fisher, Jeanne Marecek, and Marilyn Safir. In this discussion, these experienced researchers described their own research projects conducted in locales such as India, Israel, Sri Lanka, and South Africa.

We also co-sponsored a coffee break with the SPSP GSC. Students were able to partake in scrumptious desserts and coffee while speaking more informally with experienced members of the social psychology community. Those of us in attendance gained wisdom from Jack Dovidio, Diane Elmore, Brian Lowery, Enrique Neblett, Maureen O’Connor, Allen Omoto, Heather Smith, Linda Tropp, and Michael Zarate. We thank both the student mentees for attending and the wonderful mentors for sharing their knowledge.

We hope you enjoyed some (or all!) of these events. We are currently planning more great programming for the SPSSI Biennial Convention this coming June in Chicago. We would love to receive feedback on past events or recommendations for future events, so don’t hesitate to contact the GSC. We look forward to seeing you in Chicago!

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**Travel Award Winners**

Compiled by Namrata Mahajan

Congratulations to the winners of the student travel awards for the 2007 APA Convention in San Francisco, CA.

**Paula Brochu**

*University of Western Ontario*

Paula’s research interests include prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination, particularly within the domain of weight bias. Some of her other research interests include examining the consequences of implicit bias and terminology usage in weight bias evaluations, and examining the influence of various social cues on eating behavior.

Presentation: Old-fashioned and modern weight prejudice: Scale development and validation.

**Sara McClelland**

*City University of New York*

Sara’s research concerns how gender expectations shape women’s experiences in work, school, and health care settings.

Presentation: Modern sexism? Positive and negative responsibility for gender diversity.
What is your research about?

My research centres on prejudice from the target’s perspective. I consider how targets respond to discrimination (i.e., perceptions of discrimination, well-being) in situations where it is ambiguous for targets whether or not they are being discriminated against (i.e., subtle discrimination).

What are some of the expectations for a PhD student in the Netherlands?

We are expected to write about three to four empirical articles that are, hopefully, published and also form the main part of our dissertation. Unlike American graduate students, to start our dissertation, we have to apply for a dissertation project with a pre-set topic and supervisors. You do, however, have the freedom to develop your own studies and ideas. We are paid and are considered (temporary) faculty members. We teach and take courses/workshops at our research school.

What do you wish was different about graduate student life in the Netherlands?

Two things: (1) the US system of prelims (e.g., at University of Connecticut) in which you have to gain broad knowledge of social psychology is great. (2) I like the American system whereby you can orient yourself on a number of topics and work with different researchers before deciding on the topic of your own dissertation.

What are PhD students in your country concerned about?

One major concern is getting (enough) publications. We are supposed to aim at sending out one (empirical) article a year. And of course, in the last year or so, whether you will find a job becomes a concern.

What are some of the social or policy issues going on in your country that might be of interest to SPSSI members?

I think one of the major issues in the Netherlands is the integration of Dutch and non-Western minority groups. We have a fairly large Muslim minority, and since 9/11 and the death of Theo van Gogh (killed by a Muslim because of his anti-Muslim media presence) there have been strained relations between these groups. People are openly anti-Muslim (or Moroccan – many Muslims in the Netherlands are of Moroccan origin). A lot of public policy centers on this. One example has been a government policy to try and counter radicalization of youngsters at an early stage. The first subsidy as part of this policy has been given to one part of Amsterdam (a part where the group that killed Theo van Gogh lived). The plan in this part of town is to increase intercultural dialogues and help non-western foreigners be more aware of their own identity - given that they pinpoint the struggle between their own and religious identity as one of the aspects making youngsters more vulnerable to radicalization. For social psychologists this of course is a very interesting question, both in considering causes of radicalization, as well as evaluating/measuring the extent to which these approaches work and/or can be improved.

What general advice do you have for graduate students interested in SPSSI and its goals?

Become a member and also attend the SPSSI convention next year. I went to the convention and was very impressed by the type of research that SPSSI members conduct. It showed how valuable, and at the same time theoretically interesting, the work of social psychologists can be in an applied setting.

Thank you to Colette van Laar for providing questions for this interview!
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GSC Goals for the Year
Compiled by Robert Blagg

Your new Graduate Student Committee is dedicated to enriching and expanding the role of graduate students within SPSSI. We aim to foster opportunities for both career and mentor resource networks. Additionally, we encourage international graduate student outreach and participation. Each of the seven members of the committee is focused on a separate endeavor to accomplish this vision, while collaborating with and supplementing the efforts of the others. Some of our tasks for the year include efforts to:

- build international relationships and collaborations;
- develop available resources and job opportunities;
- encourage a sense of cohesion among SPSSI graduate students and recent PhD’s;
- coordinate more focused and frequent networking and mentoring opportunities;
- provide up-to-date information about our activities through our newsletter and website.

The GSC is committed to ensuring that SPSSI continues to be an effective, collaborative, and useful organization for its graduate student members. However the GSC cannot realize our vision without the help of you—SPSSI graduate student members. Please contribute some of your ideas, imagination, resources, and time to helping SPSSI realize its potential. We look forward to an exciting and challenging year ahead!

Continued from page 1...

development opportunities. We’re planning more exciting activities for you in Chicago, including mentoring opportunities, and topics of internationalization, writing, publishing, research, and more. Keep an eye out for more details and save the dates now for the SPSSI convention in Chicago: June 27-29, 2008.

I am very excited as I step into my role as GSC chair. I look to you to guide the direction of the GSC with your input. We are interested in what is relevant to students from across the globe. What issues or challenges do students face in North America, in Europe, in the Middle East, in Asia, or wherever you are? Don’t hesitate to contact any one of us (see sidebar), post a discussion thread to the SPSSI GSC groups page (groups.yahoo.com/groups/spssigsc), or volunteer to get involved—in the SPSSI community or your own home community. The world of applied psychology is ready and waiting at your fingertips!