Some Affirmative Moves

By Louis Penner
President

About three years ago, the members of SPSSI Council decided that we should move our central office from Ann Arbor to Washington, DC. This decision was not made easily; indeed, the final vote came only after several prolonged discussions over the course of about a year. In this column I would like to talk about the move, and what it has led to.

But first, I need to discuss the rationale behind Council’s decision to move. As I discussed in my previous column, SPSSI has a long history of using social and behavioral research to inform and influence public policy. Council decided that SPSSI’s ability to pursue this part of our mission would be greatly facilitated by a move to Washington where we could establish personal contacts with the individuals and institutions that create, implement, and modify American domestic and foreign policies. It was believed that the move would also facilitate SPSSI’s efforts to address international issues. That is, we thought that having our office in Washington would provide us with a better base from which to connect with organizations that address social issues that cut across national borders.

And so, about two years ago, we packed up the Ann Arbor office and moved to Washington. The move was much more difficult than we had anticipated. We lost a good portion of our institutional memory; there were numerous personnel problems, and this affected many of the functions and services that SPSSI provides to its members. Office space was extremely expensive, so we decided to use some of our resources to purchase a small building that would house the central office staff. We found a house in an excellent location and we got a great price on it, but then we encountered an incredible number of problems with the renovation and remodeling of the building. To summarize all this travail:

There were days when we wondered why in the world we had ever left Michigan.

But to paraphrase a former resident of a large white house in Washington, it now appears that our long national nightmare is finally at an end, and the sun is shining again (to mix metaphors). The remodeling on the building should be finished by the time you receive this newsletter. The building is located near Union Station in a part of Washington that is experiencing a major revitalization. It will house our offices as well of those of one tenant, probably another nonprofit organization with values and goals similar to our own. As soon as we move in and get settled, we plan to have an official house warming and you are cordially invited.

But just putting the central office in Washington is not enough. We have to be a visible presence in the city. The person who has the primary responsibility for this is Dr. Shari Miles, who is profiled elsewhere in the newsletter. One of Shari’s many assets is a substantial amount of experience interacting with congressional staff members, and other important contacts in Washington. Shari, however, has had to devote much of our first year and a half in Washington to getting the central office functioning properly and our new home ready for occupancy. Shari succeeded very well at these tasks, but up until quite recently, there was relatively little time to address SPSSI issues. In the last six months things have started to change. At the end of last year, SPSSI sponsored its first congressional briefing on the topic of hates crimes. The briefing was remarkably well attended and well
received. Moreover, it facilitated contacts that should lead to collaborations between SPSSI members and congressional staff people working on legislation concerning hate crimes.

Our increased visibility in Washington also led to another recent SPSSI activity of which I am extremely proud. It concerns the legal challenge to the University of Michigan’s affirmative action admission procedures (Grutter, Gratz, and Hamacher v. Bollinger et al). As you probably know, the Supreme Court will hear this case in the early spring. Some believe it represents the most significant challenge to universities’ affirmative action programs since the 1978 Bakke case. The University of Michigan’s admissions procedures were upheld at the Appellate level, but then successfully appealed to the Supreme Court. Individual psychologists (especially Patricia Gurin) were actively involved as expert witnesses in the Appellate decision, but neither SPSSI nor any other professional psychological organization took an official position in this case. Because of our contacts in Washington, we were able to approach the American Sociological Association and the Civil Rights Project of the Harvard Law School to become signors on the Amicus briefs they planned on filing with the Court. We were given drafts of these briefs and were reviewing them at the January council meeting when we learned that APA hired to write the brief. Over the next few weeks several SPSSI members continued to work with the lawyers to develop the final version of the brief, which has now been submitted to the Supreme Court.

Council formed an expert taskforce to work with APA. The taskforce gathered scientific findings on the reasons for affirmative action programs, the pervasiveness of racial and ethnic prejudices in the United States even among people who might not be aware of their prejudices, the value of interactions among diverse populations in reducing this prejudice, and the value of diversity for the educational process and provided this information to the lawyers APA hired to write the brief. Over the next few weeks several SPSSI members continued to work with the lawyers to develop the final version of the brief, which has now been submitted to the Supreme Court.

SPSSI’s impact on the final version is striking. The individuals cited at the beginning of the brief read like the list of attendees at a SPSSI conference. In the Table of Authorities (a.k.a. the references) there are (roughly) 36 articles written by (roughly) 26 different active members of SPSSI. The first two substantive sections of the brief are a monument to Kurt Lewin’s dictum that there is nothing so practical as a good theory. In sum, the brief contains some compelling research based reasons why the Court should uphold University of Michigan’s affirmative action program.

Moreover, it facilitated contact with Kurt Lewin’s dictum that there is nothing so practical as a good theory. In sum, the brief contains some compelling research based reasons why the Court should uphold University of Michigan’s affirmative action program.
Multiple Highlights of the 2003 Mid-Winter SPSSI Council Meeting

By Dan Perlman
Secretary/Treasurer

SPSSI Council and other SPSSI officer holders, the Society’s 29-member governance body, held its 2003 mid-winter meeting in Hollywood, California in conjunction with the Multicultural Conference and Summit on Friday and Saturday, January 24-25. The Council’s agenda included 34 items. Three highlights of this Council meeting included (a) strategic planning for SPSSI’s future lead by Jenny Crocker and Jack Dovidio, (b) discussion of an amicus brief to support the University of Michigan’s affirmative action policy, and (c) seeing pictures of the renovations of SPSSI’s Washington house. Jenny Crocker and SPSSI President Lou Penner will present the first two highlights of the meeting more fully in separate Newsletter items and pictures of the house are shown on page 18. My summary of the meeting will feature other matters considered at the Council meeting (e.g., budget, publications, motions). In several cases, reports (e.g., Courtwatch, New York Regional Group, Lewin Award) were reviewed without further action being taken and thanks were expressed to those responsible for the excellent work being done in SPSSI’s behalf.

SPSSI’s Financial Situation and Central Office Operation

While some challenges stemming from the move to Washington still persist, Council complimented Executive Director Shari Miles for the strides she has made in
Awards

2003 Kurt Lewin Award Announcement

By Marilynn B. Brewer
2003 Kurt Lewin Committee Chair

Professor Daphne Blunt Bugental is the winner of SPSSI’s 2003 Kurt Lewin Memorial Award. Dr. Bugental will deliver the Lewin award address in August at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in Toronto. The title of her talk will be “Thriving in the Face of Early Adversity.”

This award recognizes Dr. Bugental’s outstanding achievements in research related to interpersonal conflict, parent-child relationships, and the understanding and prevention of child abuse. After receiving her Ph.D. in personality and social psychology at UCLA, Dr. Bugental joined the faculty in the Department of Psychology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she is now Professor of Psychology and Co-Director of the Interdisciplinary Program in Human Development. Over the course of her remarkable career, she has been honored for her research contributions, her community service, and her mentoring of undergraduate students. She is a Fellow of the American Psychological Society and of three divisions of the American Psychological Association (SPSSI, SPSP, and Developmental Psychology). She has served on SPSSI Council (1999-2002), on the editorial boards of numerous journals, and as Associate Editor of Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin (1994-1998) and of the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology: Interpersonal Relations and Group Processes (2002-present). Her numerous research articles have appeared in the premier journals of several different sub-disciplines, including Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Child Psychology, Psychological Bulletin, and Journal of Social Issues. Most recently, she has authored a book entitled Thriving in the Face of Childhood Adversity, soon to be released by Psychology Press.

Professor Bugental’s programmatic research epitomizes the Lewinian tradition of “contributions to the development and integration of psychological research and social action,” which this award is intended to honor. From this research, Bugental and her colleagues have identified a particular pattern of low-power attributions in which adults attribute bad outcomes to factors that the child can control but are uncontrollable by the parent. This attributional style, in turn, is associated with high autonomic reactivity, including elevated cortisol levels, in response to particular child behavior patterns such as whining, or ignoring influence attempts. Parents with this low-power attributional pattern are significantly more likely to abuse their children than other parents, an outcome that Dr. Bugental’s research has traced to chronically accessible cognitive schemas that are automatically activated in dominance-related interactions. Consistent with this conceptualization, Professor Bugental’s research has also demonstrated that certain types of children are at more risk for abuse from low-power parents than are other children. Children who display unusual or ambiguous nonverbal behavior are particularly likely to elicit verbal derogation or aggression from low-power parents. Further, Dr. Bugental’s most recent work has shown that premature birth (or an Apgar score at birth below 9) can be used to predict the probability of harsh parenting and physical abuse.

Professor Bugental’s theory of the factors underlying child abuse has been tested in a systematic program of sophisticated laboratory experiments with high- and low-power parents interacting with real and/or computer-simulated children. From experiments combining social cognition, social development, and social neuroscience concepts and methodologies, Professor Bugental has developed an integrative theory of the organization of distinctive domains of social life, presented in a brilliant review article entitled “ Acquisition of the algorithms of social life: A domain-based approach,” published in Psychological Bulletin (2000). As one implication of this theory, she postulates that dysfunctional relationships are fostered when processes relevant to one domain (e.g., power-based relationships) are inappropriately transferred to another domain (e.g., protective caregiving).

Not content with contributions to social psychological theory alone, Dr. Bugental has been consistently concerned with pursuing the applied implications of her research findings toward improving parent-child relationships and preventing child abuse. Starting from the attributional schema aspects of her theory, she created a cognitive appraisal training intervention that could be delivered as part of a home visitation parent education program. The program aims to empower parents by fostering their ability to view problems as controllable, solvable challenges. In an initial field test of the effectiveness of this intervention, at-risk parents were identified in late pregnancy and assigned to one of three follow-up programs during a one-year period after birth of their child: a control condition (information about community services with no home visitations), a standard home visitation program, and home visitation enriched with the cognitive appraisal training technique. Remarkably, the results of this field test revealed dramatic effects of the cognitive appraisal prevention program. Reported prevalence of physically abusive behaviors to infants (e.g., hitting with fist, beating, kicking, shaking) was 26% among parents in the control condition, almost the same (23%) in the “home visitation only condition,” but dropped to 4% in the cognitive appraisal condition. Further, assessment of child health at the end of the first year was also highest in the appraisal condition.

In short, the achievements of Dr. Bugental’s research career have simultaneously contributed to fundamental theory of human social behavior and to the understanding and amelioration...
SPSSI is in Good Hands with Executive Director Dr. Shari Miles

By James M. Jones  
President-Elect

and Louis A. Penner  
President

At the January Council meeting it was decided to appoint Dr. Shari Miles as SPSSI’s first full-time Executive Director. Dr. Miles joined SPSSI in August 2001 as the Scientist in the Public Interest. Although her duties were quickly overtaken by the demands of managing the purchase, and renovation, of the new Eye Street property, she still managed to organize a Congressional Briefing on Hate Crimes in the fall of 2002, as well as initiate several other projects that will further SPSSI’s operations in Washington.

Dr. Miles has been the glue that has held us together through the move to Washington. SPSSI is indeed fortunate to have a person with such good judgment, passion for SPSSI, a network of important contacts in the Washington policy world, and the willingness to do what it takes to get the job done, no matter how large or small.

Before SPSSI


For more than two decades, Dr. Miles has worked to improve the lives of women and their families. Prior to coming to SPSSI, she served as director of The Union Institute’s Center for Women. The Center for Women was established in 1990 in Washington, DC by female faculty at The Union Institute, and then president Robert Connelly, as a demonstration of the institute’s commitment to socially responsible research and action. The Center for Women is the first university-based women’s center devoted to social change for women and girls via coalitions between scholars and community activists.

Prior to this position, Dr. Miles served as the interim director of the African American Women’s Institute at Howard University (AAWI), a Research One Level university-based center focused squarely on highlighting and encouraging research for and about African American women and communities of African American people. While at Howard University, Dr. Miles organized the conference, “Black Women in the Academy II: Service and Leadership”, which brought Black female academics and activists from across the African Diaspora together in a collaborative, interdisciplinary environment to present cutting-edge research and examine current issues through the prism of race, sex, and class.

Dr. Miles also served as executive director of the Women’s Research & Education Institute (WREI), a national public policy research and education center whose mission is to provide members of Congress, other public policy makers, the media and educators, information on the status of women. At WREI, Dr. Miles was responsible for the development and implementation of national and international projects that promoted the interface between research and policy related to women’s issues.

As a community activist she directed a crisis intervention service for women and assisted homeless women in the transition to independent living. In 1989, she served as a WREI Fellow in the office of U.S. Representative Ronald V. Dellums, where she conducted legislative research on women’s issues, healthcare, and education. Since then, she has maintained her commitment to leadership development by serving as a mentor to girls and women from various cultural, academic, and professional backgrounds. She is a member of the boards of the National Council for Research on Women, the African American Women’s Resource Center, and USWomenConnect. In addition, she has served on the Society for the Psychology of Women’s Executive Committee, and is a member of the Section on Black Women and the Society for Ethnic Minority and Cultural Psychology and the APA.

What’s Ahead for SPSSI?

We asked Dr. Miles to share some of her thoughts about her role as SPSSI Executive Director. Her goals are to further SPSSI’s mission, to increase the effectiveness and visibility for SPSSI and its members, and to increase our organizational efficiency; all of which will lead to greater member satisfaction. She expects these broad objectives to be addressed by efforts to draft and disseminate public policy issue briefs, host congressional briefings, educate members of Congress and other policymakers, work in coalition with other organizations, further our international mission by working in conjunction with our UN Representatives and our international membership, and inform the membership about how they can get more involved.

It now appears that SPSSI can actually begin to direct its attention toward the goals and objectives that brought us to Washington in the first place. The future is bright for SPSSI and Dr. Miles is one major reason why this is so.
Getting SPSSI’s Work in the Hands of Decision Makers

By Shari E. Miles
Executive Director

I was on holiday visiting my parents in Denver when I learned that the U.S. Supreme Court was going to hear oral arguments regarding the use of affirmative action in the University of Michigan undergraduate and law school admissions. I started making phone calls—NAACP-LDF, the Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights, NOWLDEF, MALDEF, NAPALC, etc. I wasn’t sure if SPSSI would want to draft its own brief, but I knew we had members whose work was relevant to this case. Most of the folks were still on holiday but by the time I returned to Washington, I was able to talk with Jonathan R. Alger, Assistant General Counsel at the University of Michigan. Jonathan and I spoke about SPSSI’s history, our commitment to rigorous research, the sort of partnership SPSSI members had with the attorneys during the Brown years, our long affiliation with the University of Michigan, and about our members’ expertise. I asked how SPSSI might get involved. Jonathan was very helpful; he gave me a quick overview of where he thought the cases were going, and suggested I read some items on the university website for background. www.umich.edu/~vpgc/Affirmative_Action.htm. He also mentioned organizations that were working on briefs and suggested I call Patricia Martin at the Harvard University Civil Rights Project, Sally Hillsman at the American Sociological Association, and Lindsay Childress-Beatty at APA.

Patricia and her colleagues at the Project were not familiar with SPSSI, so they were thrilled to learn about us and the wealth of expertise presented by our membership. In conversations with her and the folks and ASA and APA, we laid the groundwork for SPSSI members to get involved in drafting the briefs. From that point, Lou, the Executive Committee and the Council took the ball and ran with it, leading up to SPSSI signing on to the APA brief (see the President’s column on page 1).

Second congressional briefing is a success

On March 27th, we hosted “Affirmative Action: Dead or Alive?” a congressional briefing designed to share with congressional staff what we know about affirmative action and what the future holds for these programs. The discussion included a historical exploration of the evolution of affirmative action programs, how the programs operate in the education and business arenas, and what the hidden and apparent costs and benefits are. Our speakers were Dr. Marc Bendick, Bendick & Egan Economic Consultants, Inc., Washington, DC; Dr. Myrtle Bell, Associate Professor, Department of Management, University of Texas at Arlington; Dr. Faye Crosby, Professor, Department of Psychology, University of California at Santa Cruz, who moderated the panel; Dr. Jack Dovidio, Provost and Dean of the Faculty, Colgate University, who flew in from Germany to participate in this briefing, and Dr. Patricia Gurin, Professor Emerita, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan, who made a second trip to Washington in the same week to speak at SPSSI’s briefing. I also want to express my thanks to Senator Patrick Leahy (VT), our congressional host, and two of his staffers, Linda DeMaine and Erica Chabot for their kind assistance. You can find more information about the briefing on the SPSSI website (www.spssi.org).

SPSSI meets with Congresswoman Donna Christian-Christensen

Faye Crosby, Diana Zuckerman (former SPSSI Council member and President of the National Center for Policy Research for Women and Families-CPR), and I met with Congresswoman Donna Christian-Christensen, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Brain Trust, and Dr. Erika Goodwin, who serves as the Congresswoman’s Health Policy Fellow, to discuss the fact that the FDA does not require that people of color be included in clinical trials for medical devices. The Congresswoman was pleased we brought this issue to her attention and she was interested in talking with the Congressional Women’s Caucus, Hispanic Caucus and Asian Pacific Islander Caucus to find out how they might work together to address this problem. For SPSSI it was a win-win situation. First, the issue fits squarely within SPSSI’s natural priorities because it is a health disparity issue. Second, by meeting with the con-

L-R: Faye Crosby, Diana Zuckerman, Congresswoman Donna Christian-Christensen, and Shari Miles

See SPSSI’S WORK, page 20
By Diane Elmore

It is an honor to be serving as the SPSSI James Marshall Public Policy Scholar and I am excited by this opportunity to combine my passion for psychology and public policy. I would like to use this first newsletter article to introduce myself and to report my experiences to date in the Public Policy Office at APA.

I arrived in Washington, D.C., in September 2002, following the completion of my clinical internship at the Honolulu VA Medical Center/National Center for PTSD, Pacific Islands Division. I received my Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Houston and my masters and bachelors degrees in psychology from Pepperdine University. My interests and major research endeavors are in the areas of psychological trauma, resilience, intergenerational transmission of trauma and resilience, violence, program evaluation, and prevention. My clinical work has focused on survivors of domestic violence, sexual abuse, child abuse, military sexual trauma, prisoners of war, parents and children in violent/high risk communities, parents with PTSD, refugees, and indigenous populations. In addition, I remain active in my area of specialty as a member of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS), and as co-chair of the ISTSS Special Interest Group on Intergenerational Transmission of Trauma and Resilience.

As the James Marshall Scholar, my portfolio of issues continues to emerge. Currently I am engaged in policy activities in the areas of aging, hate crime, and trauma and abuse.

Aging and Mental Health

The President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health: On April 29, 2002, President Bush announced the establishment of the President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health. The Commission was created to study the American mental health service delivery system, including both the private and public sector. Upon completion of this task, the commission will advise the President on methods to improve the system so that adults with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbances can live, work, learn, and participate fully in their communities. This Commission is the first comprehensive study of the nation’s public and private mental health service delivery systems in nearly 25 years.

Since my arrival to Washington, I have been attending the meetings of the Commission and tracking their efforts. During the Commission’s fifth meeting, which was held from October 2-4, 2002, issues related to the mental health of older adults were highlighted. Several individuals were invited to testify, including geropsychiatrists, a state mental health program director, and older adult consumers. In advance of this meeting, I worked closely with APA’s Office on Aging to write testimony that was presented during the public comment portion of the Commission meeting. This testimony highlighted the unmet mental health needs of older adults, the effectiveness of psychological services with older adults, and the need to ensure that psychological services are more widely accessible to this community.

In addition to our public comment, we provided the Commission with a copy of the APA publication, “What Practitioners Should Know About Working With Older Adults.” As a follow-up to our testimony, I worked with APA’s Office on Aging to compile psychological research, publications, and resources that represented a broad range of issues related to the mental health concerns of older adults, which were sent to the Commission’s Subcommittee on Aging. The co-chairs of this subcommittee responded positively to our materials with notes of appreciation.

On November 1, 2002, the Commission released its interim report. Following a review of this report, we realized that several issues were neglected, including the contributions of psychology, the needs of culturally diverse populations, and the impact of abuse and neglect on older adults. With the assistance of APA’s Office on Aging and Committee on Aging, I prepared a written response to the Commission’s Subcommittee on Aging in which we applauded the Commission for its efforts, highlighted important areas that were overlooked or needed additional consideration, and included policy recommendations for improving the care and quality of life of older adults.

On January 8, 2003, the Commission’s Subcommittee on Aging released a draft report representing the work of their subcommittee. The draft began with an overarching policy recommendation that called for the development of a national leadership partnership to improve the mental health service delivery system for older adults. Three additional priorities were identified to improve mental health
Primary:

What is Affirmative Action?

By Faye Crosby
Council Member, Liaison to the Executive Committee

Affirmative action confuses a lot of people. Although the policy affects millions of Americans—applying to one out of four American workers and to millions of college students—many people acknowledge that they do not really understand how the policy operates. However, a lack of knowledge has not impeded the formation of strong opinions. Passions are running high as the Supreme Court decides two landmark cases: Gratz v Bollinger and Grutter v Bollinger on April 1, 2003. When the Court renders its decision, it may or may not uphold the famous Bakke decision of 1978, the last time the Court ruled on affirmative action in education. Indeed, it is possible that the Court may forbid the state from noticing characteristics acquired at birth (gender and ethnicity).

What is affirmative action?
Affirmative action has a general definition. Affirmative action occurs whenever an organization bestirs itself to make sure that it is treating people equitably, regardless of their gender or ethnic group membership. Although they share the goal of equalizing opportunities among people, affirmative action and equal opportunity differ from each other in notable ways. First, affirmative action does not assume that the playing field is currently level. Nor does it rest responsibility for correcting inequalities on those who might be harmed by the inequalities. Finally, affirmative action does not presume close correspondence between righteous attitudes and good behavior.

In employment, the classic form of affirmative action was ushered into existence by Lyndon Johnson when he signed Executive Order (E.O.) 11246 in 1965. E.O. 11246, as amended, requires government contractors with more than 50 employees who do more than $50,000 in business with the federal government to have an affirmative action plan. Any organization that feels it would be overly burdened by the policy has the option of not seeking a government contract. Affirmative action employers must keep records of their hirings and promotions. They must monitor themselves to see that talented people from the designated categories are hired and promoted in proportion to their availability. When the incumbency rates are significantly lower than one would expect on the basis of availability, the organization is required to articulate a plan to ameliorate the situation. The organization needs to be able to argue that it is making a good faith effort to meet its own hiring and promotion targets.

Why is affirmative action needed?

Everyone knows that ours is a litigious society. The courts are clogged with suits. So, why not just wait until someone notices that something is wrong and brings suit? Such a system would get the government and other entities out of the business of noticing ethnicity and gender.

The problems with such a reactive system are numerous. First, it puts the burden on those with the fewest resources to fight for fairness—the victimized. It is hard to fight for the job you didn’t get. Proving ethnic or gender discrimination in initial hiring is very tricky. Second, such a reactive system assumes that people will know when they are being discriminated against. But a massive amount of research indicates that people have a diminished understanding of their own personal disadvantage. Numerous researchers have shown that people imagine themselves to be less victimized personally than other members of their social group.

Is affirmative action fair?

Studies by researchers like Myrtle Bell show that about 20% of students think of affirmative action as reverse discrimination. At first glance the criticism may seem very apt. How, after all, can it be fair to hire a woman when a man has better credentials? How can it be just to admit an ethnic minority student to a university and reject White applicants with higher scores? What is fair about a system that awards 20 points out of 150 simply for being an ethnic minority or poor (White or minority)?

The criticism of unfairness would be devastating if we could have confidence in the reliability, validity, and fairness of the criteria used for hiring or admissions decisions. If we knew that the tests were perfect predictors of future behavior, then it would be quite unfair to allow people of one social grouping to gain admissions or to be hired with lower scores than people of another social grouping.

Oceans of ink have been spilled on the question of tests and their predictive power. A thumb nail synopsis of the debates tends to emphasize their limitations. Most tests of cognitive functioning are reliable in the sense of yielding the same scores on repeated occasions. Many tests are also somewhat valid in the sense of predicting the variables that they purport to represent. But many tests, especially in educational situations, predict only a tiny portion of the variance in relevant behaviors. For example, the SAT I is a widely used, but was found to have virtually no predictive power when it came to grades obtained by students at the University of California.

Added to the problem of small predictive power is the problem of selection bias. What if you created an intelligence test on which Jews did much better than Gentiles? Given present day stereotypes, you would probably throw such a test out the window. But in the 1920s in America, you would have taken such a finding as normal because the stereotype at that time was that Jews were less intelligent than other people. Why is it acceptable to the testing industry to create instruments on which African Americans typically perform worse than White Americans?
The University of Michigan Cases

On April 1, 2003 the Supreme Court will hear two historic cases. Gratz v Bollinger involves a challenge to the undergraduate admissions policies of the University of Michigan by two White applicants, Jennifer Gratz and Patrick Hamacher who were denied admission to the University of Michigan. In 1997, they filed suit. Three years later Federal District Judge Patrick Duggan ruled that while the admissions policy in place from 1995 to 1998 was unconstitutional, the university’s current system for undergraduate education was constitutional. He reasoned that the state had a compelling interest in obtaining a diversified undergraduate student body, that the admissions policy was in fact narrowly tailored to suit the need, and that the university was not under obligation to consider a race-neutral alternative to the system they used (in which applicants received bonus points for minority status). In March, 2001, District Judge Bernard Friedman handed down a ruling in the case of Grutter v. Bollinger, a case that involved the Law School. Judge Friedman found that the university had violated the both constitutional and the statutory rights of Barbara Grutter. Diversity, according to Friedman, was not a compelling state interest, and even if it were, the Law School’s admissions program was not so narrowly tailored as to pass constitutional muster.

Both Gratz v Bollinger and Grutter v Bollinger were appealed. The full panel of judges for the Sixth Circuit Court heard arguments about both cases in December 2001, but rendered a decision only in the Grutter case. With a sharply divided court, the slim majority overturned Judge Friedman’s decision and ruled in favor of the Law School. With backing of wealthy right-wing institutes, Grutter was appealed in December 2002; the Supreme Court announced that it would hear both Grutter v. Bollinger and Gratz v. Bollinger.

These cases are unusual in many ways. First, the Court refused to hear appeals in other recent cases involving affirmative action. In 1996, the 5th Circuit ruled against the University of Texas. That ruling claimed that Justice Powell’s doctrine of permitting race or ethnicity to be considered as a plus factor in admissions to institutions of higher education did not have the force of law. Defenders of affirmative action sought to have the ruling overturned, but the Supreme Court felt that the case did not warrant consideration. Another unusual aspect of the present situation concerns the linkage of two cases, only one of which has been decided. It is highly unusual for the Supreme Court to hear a case that has not yet been decided by the Appellate Court.

During January 2003, the American Psychological Association worked closely with several members of Division 9 and other divisions to craft an amicus brief. APA’s brief centered around three points. First, it outlined the persistence of ethnic prejudice and discrimination, noting that inter-group contact had at least some beneficial effect on prejudice and discrimination. Second, the brief argued for the scientific credibility of the research of Professor Patricia Gurin of the University of Michigan. Gurin’s work shows that White students benefit from being educated in multi-ethnic settings, and has been central to the case put forward by the university. As might be expected, the research drew savage attacks from those opposed to race-conscious policies. By explaining to the court how the attacks were flawed, the APA brief performs a great service. Finally, the APA brief argues that cultural competence is needed by all professional workers, especially psychologists and that diversity in education is crucial for obtaining cultural competence.

APA gives explicit credit to two divisions: Division 45 and Division 9. We have helped with the brief in two major ways. First, we worked long and hard with APA’s legal team to help craft a brief of which everyone could feel proud. Second, we have over the years conducted much of the research that provided the basis for the brief.

For more information about affirmative action, see the article in the February issue of the American Psychologist by Faye Crosby, Aarti Iyer, Sue Clayton, and Roberta Downing. For in depth information, see Crosby and van de Veer’s edited book, Sex, race and merit (University of Michigan Press, 2000).

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By Irma Serrano-García
Representative to APA Council

In the midst of the presage of war, and the worst snow storm that has hit Washington, D.C. in decades, I attended my first APA Council meeting. I am not a newcomer to APA. I have worked in APA governance for many years, but Council is truly a distinctive experience.

This was the first time in APA Council history that all provinces and territories were represented, the first time ethnic minority slates were instituted, and the first time APAGS (American Psychological Association of Graduate Students) had a voting seat on Council. These developments gave the meeting a stronger sense of diversity than others have previously experienced.

At the meeting, however, a pro-diversity agenda obtained mixed results. Foreexample, Council approved the inclusion of $83,800 in the 2003 Final Budget to fund special projects for membership recruitment and retention in 2003. However, a motion presented by our other COR representative, Bernice Lott, to give special attention to minority recruitment was voted down. Another decision which impacts minorities negatively was the sunsetting of the Committee on Urban Initiatives (CUI). Although a one-year task force was created to conclude CUI’s work, and multiple mentions were made about the ways in which urban issues would be included in all public interest efforts, Dr. Lott and I were not convinced and spoke against sunsetting CUI at the caucus and Council meetings. We felt strongly about this issue, because minority and poverty stricken groups are those most affected by urban issues nationwide.

On the other hand, various Council decisions supported diversity in its myriad forms. Council approved six pro-diversity motions. First, we reaffirmed APA’s commitment to the designation of health service psychologists as primary health care providers in relevant federal, state, and local regulations, and in federal funding programs designated for primary care practitioners. Second, we supported a Resolution on the Maltreatment of Children with Disabilities. Third, we allocated funds to support a Children and Adolescents Task Force of the Ad Hoc Committee on End-of-Life Issues that will produce a report on practice, research, training, and policy issues for psychologists involved with children and families dealing with the end of life. Fourth, we authorized funding to support the production of a book on women of color who have been leaders in psychology. Fifth, we endorsed a Task Force to study the implementation of a structure to promote and support an APA Center for Pro Bono Services. Finally, we approved funding to support grant writing efforts for a conference entitled, Psychology, Public Policy, and Communities of Color in the United States and Throughout the World: Critical Issues, Knowledge, and Skills. Council also received a report from its Affirmative Action Officer which, overall, was very positive.

One of the issues that was discussed both in caucuses and break-out groups was the possibility of proposing a motion to create an ethnic diversity seat on the Board of Directors. In APA’s history, only two ethnic minority persons have been elected to the Board. The pros and cons of this issue were bandied about until the ethnic minority caucus decided to add it on as a new business item for the August Council meeting. We will keep SPSSI members abreast of the progress of this proposal.

One other issue of interest to SPSSI is that the Education Directorate is reportedly collecting information from graduate programs (to distribute) about what prospective students and faculty may be asked to attest to about themselves, and whether persons with particular religious affiliations, sexual orientations, and other characteristics may not be welcome. This was mentioned in the Public Interest Caucus and needs follow-up.

Finally, and significantly, Council approved a resolution which failed to pass at the last meeting and which SPSSI actively lobbied for, endorsing the creation of a Task Force on the Psychological Effects of Efforts to Prevent Terrorism. It will consider psychological processes that provoke terrorism; will assess current strategies in terms of the tensions and fears caused by these processes with the goal of assisting both potential perpetrators and victims of terrorism; and will examine programs in restorative justice, non-violence, mediation and citizen diplomacy to generate new strategies based on the latest scientific and clinical information.

**Reminder!**

SPSSI’s newest booklet is available on the web at: www.spssi.org/ ppsc.html

Those who do not have access to the internet may request a copy from SPSSI Central Office at (202) 675-6956. Booklets are $2.00 each. Allow 2 weeks for delivery.
Deborah South Richardson  
2003 Division 9 APA Program Chair

The SPSSI program at the upcoming APA Convention in Toronto will represent SPSSI's values well by incorporating a diversity of topics and involving presenters of varying backgrounds — from students to Ph.D.’s, from outside and inside North America, and from almost every area of psychology. Our number of assigned hours is relatively small; however, thanks to the outstanding proposals we received, we will be able to make good use of our time. SPSSI programming will take place throughout the four days of the convention, from Thursday, August 7 through Sunday, August 10.

The program consists of two addresses, 5 symposia, one workshop, a poster session, a social hour (co-sponsored with Divisions 8 and 48), our annual business meeting, and three roundtable discussions organized by the SPSSI student organization.

The two special addresses deal with issues close to the hearts of SPSSI members. Daphne Bugental, as the winner of the Kurt Lewin Memorial Award, will speak on “Thriving in the face of early diversity.” Lou Penner, in his Presidential Address, will talk about “Volunteerism and social problems: Making things better or worse?”

The symposia also deal with a variety of issues of interest to SPSSI members. An invited symposium, organized by Irene Frieze, will address the important issue of “Relationship violence: Exploring new theoretical approaches.” Tim Brock has organized a promising session on “Models and mechanisms of narrative persuasion,” which will consider how public narratives, such as stories from the news media, books, films and others, affect attitudes. Chalmer Thompson will chair a symposium that addresses racism in psychotherapy research. Three sessions deal with issues relevant to current world events: a symposium on “Psycho-social reactions to the events of September 11th,” a symposium on “New theories of acculturation,” and a workshop on “Opening windows: The role of implicit culture.”

The presentations in our poster session at the 2003 APA convention address a wide variety of social issues. In addition to the 27 posters submitted to Division 9, the session will include 8 posters from Division 48 (the Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict, and Violence). Roundtable discussions, organized by our SPSSI student group will consider important topics for professional development. They include “Women in academia,” “SPSSI members and public policy,” and “Jobs outside of academia.”

I offer special thanks to the efficient and responsive people who took time from their busy schedules to contribute to SPSSI’s program at APA by reviewing proposals.

By Bernice Lott  
Representative to DSJ

Representatives of the nine APA divisions that comprise the DSJ coalition met at the 3rd Multicultural Summit in Hollywood, CA in January, 2003. These nine divisions are: 9 (SPSSI), 17 (Counseling), 27, (Community), 35 (Women), 39 (Families), 44 (Gay and Lesbian Concerns), 45 (Ethnic Minority Issues), 48 (Peace), and 51 (Men). Following discussion of the continued interest of Division 39 (Psychoanalysis) in taking part in DSJ, members voted to extend an invitation.

Considerable discussion was devoted to issues of the “structure” of DSJ, and officers were elected: Chair 2003-4 Judith Glassgold (Div. 44); Chair Elect 2004-5 Bob Geffner (Div. 39); Secretary 2003-4 Bernice Lott (Div. 9). Division will be asked to assure DSJ that their representatives will serve for a term of 2-3 years.

Members agreed to undertake a number of tasks. These include: examining previously adopted APA policies/resolutions to assess what social justice issues have and have not been addressed, as well as how these policies/resolutions have been implemented; writing a brief history of DSJ that outlines its goals, to be distributed to DSJ members and friends via email; and preparing a list of social justice related programs that will take place at the APA 2003 Toronto program, to be distributed via email and, possibly, made available at the Public Interest Directorate booth.

There was also discussion of a proposal the Division of Military Psychology planned to bring to the February meeting of APA’s Council of Representatives suggesting that APA rescind its ban on military advertising in APA publications. The clear consensus of those in attendance was that this proposal should be defeated. Those with information relevant to the current “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell Policy” and related issues were urged to distribute it to their COR representatives and other interested persons.

The DSJ group will meet again at the Toronto APA convention in August.

By Bernice Lott  
Representative to DSJ

2003 KURT LEWIN AWARD ........ from page 4

of a significant social problem. Such accomplishments are the hallmark of what the Lewin award is intended to recognize and honor.

The members of this year’s selection committee for the Lewin award were Marilynn Brewer, Ohio State University, Claude Steele, Stanford University, and Chris Crandall, University of Kansas.
Upcoming JSI issues

We have several issues that are in the final stages of development and should be published in 2003:

- Terry Hartig and Roderick Lawrence’s issue on “The Residential Context of Health” will be out this spring.
- Stephen Margulis’ issue on “Privacy: Conceptual, applied and Social Issues Perspectives” will be out this fall.
- Joan Ostrove and Elizabeth Cole’s issue on “Social Class and Education” is nearing completion.

A number of other exciting issues are also in development. Further information can be found on the JSI website at http://www.spssi.org/jsi_newiss.html.

International Involvement for JSI

One of the goals of my editorship has been to enhance the international involvement of JSI. We continue to work on this and will have more international involvement in the future. I feel I have already been successful in doing this in several ways:

- Our Editorial Board includes Daniel Perlman from Canada and Zbigniew Zaleski from Poland. One of our previous student members was Melanie Morrison from Canada.
- Reviewers: In addition to Editorial Board reviews, we have had reviewers from Canada and India.
- Issue editors. These include Vicki Esses and Kenneth Dion from Canada, Robert Boeckmann and Arthur Stukas from Australia, and Terry Hartig from Sweden.
- Individual papers. First authors have come from Canada, Australia, Great Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Israel, Japan, China, South Africa, Spain, and Nigeria.

What Does the JSI Editor Do?

There are a great many tasks involved with editing JSI. My term will end with the publication of our four issues in 2005. We are now beginning the search for the new editor to begin publishing in 2006. Since issues often take two or more years to be completed, the new editor will need to start in 2003 or early in 2004. This list of tasks may be helpful to anyone interested in taking over this position.

- Maintaining the editorial office.
- Maintaining the JSI webpages. Answering telephone calls, e-mails and mail.
- Preparing reports for SPSSI Council and writing this column in the SPSSI newsletter.
- Working with Blackwell, our publisher, on various issues.
- Working with the student committee to select student members of the Editorial Board.
- Soliciting Presidential addresses and Lewin address papers for publication in JSI and working with these authors to finalize their papers.
- Working with potential issue editors to develop their concepts.
- Reviewing and providing feedback on formal issue proposals. The Editorial Board assists with this.
- Reviewing and providing feedback on completed manuscripts.
- Preparing materials for final publication submission to Blackwell.
- Reviewing page proofs for completed issues before publication.

I would be happy to provide more information to anyone thinking of applying to be the new Editor.

Qualitative Research in JSI

Thanks for all those who replied to my request for feedback on the publication of qualitative research in the Journal of Social Issues. I am working on compiling the responses now.

Lifetime Membership

This newly established membership category is available to all current and new members. For a one time dues payment of $1,000.00, members will receive all benefits and voting rights and enjoy exemption from paying dues for the duration of their membership.

Sign up now and become a lifetime member!
ASAP Report, Spring 2003

By Rhoda Unger
ASAP Editor

ASAP seems to be a healthy three-year-old. By now, you should have all received your reprint edition of Volume 2 which includes our special feature on terrorism. We also continue to receive and publish articles in a wide variety of content areas. In addition to the fifteen articles in the special feature on terrorism, Volume 2 of ASAP included two articles on hatred and prejudice, two on the environment, and one each on homelessness, abortion, and issues involved in books on raising boys. Volume 3 is already available on our web site. Articles in this volume include a point/counter-point article on authoritarianism and political behavior; an article on rural women’s satisfaction with health care, a critique of the way post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) diagnoses are used, and a content analysis of the web sites of hate groups. We received a number of counterpoint articles on RWA and the positive and negative aspects of simulation techniques. Some of these are also up on the web site, and more are forthcoming.

Other forthcoming articles are on the connection between abortion and youth homicides, car sharing, the gender wage gap, class discrimination in food pricing and affirmative action. As you can see, we publish a very diverse collection of articles relevant to public policy!

Blackwell supplies us with information on the current use of the ASAP web site. Information about monthly use for January through August 2002 is currently available. During these eight months the ASAP web site had 155,929 total hits; 8,436 unique visitors; and 17,911 page views. During this period, 4,029 articles were downloaded. As expected, most of these downloads (3,201) were of articles in the special feature on terrorism; however, there were 522 downloads of “regular” articles from Volume 2, and 306 downloads of articles from Volume 1. One would expect downloads to drop sharply once the print edition of ASAP is available, but there are not yet enough yearly data to determine if this is true. In any case, the data suggest that ASAP is being read. Moreover, monthly fluctuations suggest that ASAP articles are being used as course readings.

Why am I telling you all this? I want to continue to encourage SPSSI members to contribute to the journal by sending us articles and volunteering to do reviews. We also welcome suggestions about new books to review (especially those by SPSSI members) and offers to do such reviews. I am also very interested in hearing from anyone who has further suggestions about how we can make innovative use of our electronic format.

You can reach me at asap@spssi.org. As you might expect, I spend a lot of time on my computer and am usually able to offer a quick response. There are a lot of major policy issues currently “out there” and your involvement is critical if we are to have a relevant and responsive on-line journal.

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JSI Editor, 2006-2009

By Victoria Esses
Publications Committee Chair

Nominations are now being accepted for the next editor of the Journal of Social Issues (JSI). Given JSI’s thematic nature and the need to assemble an entire issue at one time, the Editor-elect will have approximately 2 years to solicit manuscripts, with the first issue of her/his term to be published early in 2006. He/she will serve as editor for the JSI volumes published in 2006-2009.

JSI is the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues’ (SPSSI’s) flagship publication. As such, it is a key outlet for the scholarly work of SPSSI members and contributes greatly to the Society’s well-being. The editor will need strong scientific, editorial, interpersonal, and organizational abilities. He or she will advise potential issue editors on the development of issues and will have proposals as well as full manuscripts reviewed. The Editor will also work with JSI’s publisher, Blackwell, to ensure the timely publication of issues, attend SPSSI Council meetings, and prepare various editorial reports. For information about the current JSI operations, read Irene Frieze’s newsletter item and/or see http://www.spssi.org/jsi.html

First review of the nominations will begin June 30, 2003. Those candidates agreeing to stand for consideration are asked to submit a copy of their resume, an indication of their previous editorial experience, and a statement of their views on the direction and operation of the journal. Please direct nominations and materials for the Editor-elect position to the SPSSI Central Office, 208 I Street N.E., Washington D.C., 20002; 202-675-6956 (phone), 202-675-6902 (fax), spssi@spssi.org. Self-nominations are welcome. The Search Committee consists of John Dovidio, Irene Hanson Frieze, Jonathan Iuzzini, Daniel Perlman, Marybeth Shinn, and Victoria Esses, Committee Chair. Questions about this position may be addressed to the Committee Chair at Department of Psychology, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada, 519-661-2111 ext. 84650, vesses@uwo.ca.

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SPSSI –NY Regional Activities
By Harold Takooshian
NY Regional Group Chair

In Fall of 2002, our SPSSI New York regional group offered six activities for SPSSI members and their guests, covering diverse topics such as workplace behavior, careers, faith, psychometrics, and traumatic brain injury. This wide range of topics reflected the interdisciplinary SPSSI-NY Committee that organized and chaired these activities: Dennis P. Carmody, Anie Kalayjian, Charles Lewis, David S. Malcolm, Beverly Ann Musgrave, and Rolland S. Parker.

The largest Fall activity was SPSSI-NY’s 14th Greater New York Conference on Behavioral Research. It was held on November 22, 2002 and drew 95 student and professional participants from five states to Fordham’s Manhattan campus. This full day of activities included 29 presentations by researchers from 12 institutions, and ended with a gala reception saluting three distinguished Guests of Honor — Professors Lynn H. Collins of LaSalle University, Michael Lewis of UMDNJ, and Anie Kalayjian of the United Nations.

In Spring 2003, SPSSI-NY again offers several opportunities for local members. On March 13, a town meeting on “Car security in New York City” featured an interdisciplinary panel discussing behavioral research on crime, noise, urban quality-of-life, and public policy.

Based on last year’s success, all SPSSI members doing applied research are again invited to submit their findings for presentation to students on May 3, at the 31st Hunter Psychology Convention (theconsciouscollective@yahoo.com). Also, undergraduate student researchers are most welcome to participate in the Third Annual Lehman Conference on April 30 (psych@lehman.cuny.edu), and the 11th Pace Conference on May 10 (rvelayo@pace.edu).

In 2002, the SPSSI-NY group welcomed a total of 37 new members into SPSSI. For more details, or information on how to become actively involved in SPSSI-NY, phone Harold Takooshian at 212-636-6393.
Sport for Development and Peace: The 1st International Conference on Sport and Development

By Astrid Stuckelberger
Representative to the United Nations in Geneva and Program Manager of the Sport and Development Conference

More than 300 high-ranking representatives and experts from different domains in the world of sports gathered for the first international conference on sport and development February 16-18 in Magglingen, Switzerland. United Nations representatives, international and national leaders, individuals from non-governmental organizations, athletes and representatives from international and national sport federations came to discuss and exchange ideas about how sport and development can join forces to improve the state of the world.

The aim of the conference was to mobilize and engage key partners of different sectors in an important area of international cooperation: sport for development and peace. Its goal was to build a set of recommendations to be presented in 2003 to the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals, http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/index.html. Furthermore, the recommendations that emerged from the conference and the Magglingen Declaration on Sport and Development, http://www.uiaa.ch/news/newsitem.asp?news=320, will be presented to international and national leaders in the public and private sectors and to sport federations all over the world.

"Right To Play" a model of NGO working in the field of development

Opportunities for sport and play are scarce for children affected by disease and poverty, and for those who are marginalized. Sport and play give children the opportunity to be children. Sport develops resilience, provides positive connections to adults and can bring regularity, safety and security to a child's life. Sport also teaches the critical skills of communication, teamwork, discipline, respect and fair play, and offers children joy and hope. Each of these is critical to the development of a healthy child with a healthy future.

President and CEO of Olympic Aid, Johann Olav Koss, announced the launch of Right To Play, the new name of the formerly known NGO “Olympic Aid” at the conference. Right To Play is an athlete driven humanitarian organization using sport and play to enhance child development and build community capacity in some of the most disadvantaged circumstances around in the world. Currently, Right To Play has Coach Volunteers working with communities in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. “Over the last two years, Olympic Aid has evolved as an organization and is now focusing on the development and delivery of sustainable child and community development programs that use sport and play as a delivery vehicle,” said Koss. “The new name is a reflection of that work and of our growth.” “Right To Play’s vision is to enhance child development and be a catalyst for improving community capacity by harnessing the full humanitarian potential of sport.” For further information about Right To Play contact: Kathleen Doheny, Manager, Communications, Right To Play, +1 416 498-1922x 204, kdoheny@righttoplay.com.

The concept of the Olympic Truce initiative or “Ekecheiria” finds its roots in ancient Greece, where from the seventh day prior to the opening of the Games to the seventh day following their closing, conflicts ceased, allowing athletes, artists and spectators to travel to Olympia, participate in the Olympic Games and return to their homelands in safety. Leaders of the international sports, health and development community expressed their personal support for the Olympic Truce initiative, strengthening this universal call for utilizing sport initiatives and the Olympic ideals to promote peace and understanding.

At a special signing ceremony during the conference, key participants signed the “Statement of World Personalities, in their Individual Capacities, in Support of the Olympic Truce”. The Olympic Truce Statement has powerful symbolic appeal. The International Olympic Truce Centre and the International Olympic Committee (IOC), in close cooperation with Greece, host country of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, are promoting it. It applies to all future Games, regardless of where or when they are held. As of today, over 200 personalities have signed it, including Heads of State and Government, Speakers of Parliaments, Foreign Ministers, Religious Leaders, Heads of International Organizations, Olympic Movement officials, personalities from the letters and the arts, and other dignitaries and senior officials from around the world.

The International Olympic Truce Centre was established by the IOC, in cooperation with Greece, to promote a culture of peace through a combination of global and local initiatives: mobilization of leaders, athletes and the youth of the world behind the cause of sport and peace, and to promotion of the Olympic Truce. For more information contact: Stavros Lambrinidis, Director, International Olympic Truce Centre, +30 210 331 61 36 and 37, +30 6932401682.

Just the beginning - follow-up conference in 2005

The conference certainly reached its goals, not only in raising awareness about the important role that sports can play in development and peace promotion, but also bringing together important high-level actors from various sectors of society to develop concrete recommendations for the UN and national and international sports organizations.

See SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT, page 20
“Towards Reconciliation through Dialogue”

By Joseph A. De Meyer
UN/NGO Representative

On November 14, 2002, the United Nations International Day for Tolerance, SPSSI, with the NGO Committee on Mental Health (NY), co-sponsored a conference titled “Towards Reconciliation through Dialogue.” SPSSI UN Representative Joseph De Meyer moderated the sessions, with additional input from SPSSI Representative Nora Pharaon. Both are members of the Working Group on Refugees, Migrants and Other Survivors of Trauma – a subgroup of the Committee on Mental Health.

The full-day program focused on issues related to trauma, conflict resolution and mental health. The presenters were experts and ordinary citizens affected by personal experiences of displacement and resettlement under traumatic circumstances. They are making grass-roots efforts in the New York area to organize regular meetings and support groups, as well as engage in dialogues with one another and with those they perceive to be the perpetrators of their traumatic experiences.

Morning Dialogue Sessions

The first dialogue session, led by Dr. Anie Kalajian, President of the American-Armenian Society for Studies on Stress and Genocide, and Dr. Yunus Tuncel of the New School University, focused on the “The Genocide of the Armenians: Challenges in the Armenian-Turkish Reconciliation” from a Turkish point of view. They talked about their efforts to organize regular dialogue meetings between Armenian-American and Turkish-American citizens in order to address mutual misconceptions and misunderstandings, which often prevent resolution of their traumatic psychic wounds and emotional pains. Drs. Kalajian and Tuncel discussed their difficulties in overcoming the resistance of survivors and both Armenian and Turkish-American descendants to meet and engage in meaningful dialogue. Nevertheless, they gave numerous examples of the positive effects of the dialogue meetings, particularly for younger individuals experiencing the inter-generational transmission of trauma.

The second presentation discussed a unique effort to bring opposing ethnic groups together. “The Dialogue Project: A New York based Grass-Roots Organization,” began two years ago in a Brooklyn synagogue. It unites, in an intense, sustained dialogue, Palestinians, Jews/Israelis and interested others from New York neighborhoods in a neutral, safe environment. The purpose is to learn about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict from each other’s perspective. Marcia Kannny, founder of the Dialogue Project, gave a demonstration of their work wherein twelve participants, Israeli-Americans and Palestinian-Americans, openly discussed their thoughts and feelings about the recent events in Israel and the territories, and how these events affected their personal, family and business lives. The lengthy interaction, which eventually culminated in active participation by many of the other conference attendees, illustrated how a group dialogue, led by experienced leaders and within the confines of mutually agreed upon parameters, can contribute to catharsis and resulting conflict resolution.

Afternoon Sessions

The Reconciliation and Culture Cooperative Network (RACCOON), the only organization in the U.S. working with all Balkan Communities, made the third presentation. Formed in 1997 by expatriates interested in reconciliation and cultural exchange, RACCOON first created an influential cyber-space community with a web site, chat room, and informational resources on the war and the people of the Balkans. In 2000, they opened RACCOON Space, a community and resource center in Queens, New York that provides programs, workshops and counseling intended to facilitate the healing process necessary for Balkan emigres to integrate in their new society. During the session, the RACCOON’s presented a multi-media program called, “Laughterbeyond Tears: Reconciliation and Culture Cooperative Network,” demonstrating that, through community and cooperative activities, using inter-group conflict resolution methods and emphasizing collaboration between ethnic groups, feelings of powerlessness, intimidation, polarization and division can be overcome.

RACCOON founder Indira Kajosevic and her staff presented a drama-theater approach to reconciliation in which dialogue, personal story telling, music and re-enactments become a means through which the horrors of war and the trauma of displacement can be approached. Seemingly simple scenes of life during and after the war become poignant reminders of the underlying experiences of violence, rape, and killings, committed by what once were neighbors, acquaintances, or even friends, who, after immigration to the U.S., turn out to be living “just around the block.”

A dialogue among session presenters concluded the conference. In the question and answer period, several representatives from the United Nations expressed interest in following up on these grass-roots initiatives, with an eye to implementing them in their own efforts toward conflict resolution in various affected societies.

Anyone interested in more information about the organizing groups can contact them on the internet at: ngomentalth@yahoo.com; www.thedialogueproject.com; www.balkansnet.org/raccoon or contact Joseph A. De Meyer at josephdemeyer@hotmail.com.
A project funded by the SAGES Program
February 2003

“Issues of Importance to Low-Income Adults and Readiness for Social Action”

By Bernice Lott
Department of Psychology, University of Rhode Island
Assisted by Bill Flynn
The George Wiley Center and South County Chapter of the Campaign to Eliminate Childhood Poverty
and by Jerah Coviello and Megan Minervino

This project, carried out with cooperation from a community organization dedicated to social action for economic justice, had three related objectives. The first was to gather correct information about services/resources available to low-income adults in a community in Rhode Island. Such information is not easily available because of a serious lack of communication among the various agencies that offer resources and between these agencies and the persons most in need of such information.

A second objective was to find out, from low-income adults, which issues are of most immediate personal concern. Organizations advocating for low-income adults often make choices for action based on assumptions rather than on accurate information gained by listening carefully to members of their constituency. In addition, since low-income people typically have little time and energy to press for their interests, we wanted to gain some insight into the action steps they might be willing to take.

A sample of 100 low-income adults (60 women and 40 men) were surveyed by personal interview at eight different sites in South County, Rhode Island. Three women served as interviewers - two research assistants and the project investigator.

Respondents were approached and asked if they would be willing to speak with an interviewer for about 15 minutes about issues of concern to low-income adults. In exchange for their willingness to answer questions, respondents were given a copy of a resource booklet Help is Here for South County, prepared by project staff, that provides current information on public agencies offering assistance to low-income adults with food, clothing, jobs, etc. Those willing to be interviewed were asked to share the resource booklet with family, friends, and neighbors.

The interviewees ranged in age from 20 to 80, with a mean age of 43.5. They came from 14 different home locations in South County, RI, and included 18% people of color.

Respondents were asked to rate each of the following eleven issues as very important to them personally, somewhat important, or not at all important: food stamps; minimum wage; affordable housing; public schools; medical care; welfare benefits; utility shutoffs; neighborhood jobs; police protection; public transportation; and child care. The most important issue for 94% of all respondents, 92% of women, and 98% of men, was found to be affordable housing. The next three most important issues, which ranked 2, 3, and 4, respectively, were raising the minimum wage, convenient public transportation, and affordable/accessible health care. Each of these issues was considered very important personally by more than 50% of women, men, and the total group of respondents.

For each issue that respondents rated as very important to them personally, they were asked to indicate which of the following potential actions they might take to make their concerns known to public officials: talk to friends and neighbors; write a letter; go to a meeting; go to a local or state office; and join an activist group. The largest number of respondents indicated that they might take any of these actions to show their concern about lack of affordable housing.

As a favor to the Rhode Island South County Community Action Program, 18 respondents interviewed in one site were asked additional questions about issues of importance to them. Among these informants, 61% said that community involvement was very important to them personally, and 50% said that domestic violence and recreational facilities were very important concerns. When asked to indicate which among a list of 19 community resources/services they or family members utilized: 94% said food closets; 72% public libraries; and 59% said recreational facilities.

The information obtained from respondents is proving useful to the Wiley Center as it continues to lobby agencies and statewide media to develop and implement more effective out-reach strategies and informational materials. It is also proving helpful to the Center in short-term and long-term planning and in pressing for legislative and policy action by state representatives and officials. One immediate outcome was a decision by the South County group to launch a campaign directed toward increasing affordable housing and to work in coordination with others toward this objective.

We are grateful for the support given this project by the SAGES program. Copies of some materials and tables of results can be obtained from the project investigator (blott@uri.edu).
returning SPSSI’s Central Office to efficient, smooth functioning. Council voted to extend Dr. Miles’ contract as Executive Director until December 31, 2003 and to fold her Scientist in the Public Interest (SPI) role into her Executive Director responsibilities. In terms of other staff personnel, Administrative Associate Brenda Stanard left SPSSI in January and is being replaced. Database Coordinator Sougata Roy is temporarily working full (rather than half) time until the August Council meeting. Data updated by Sougata shows that SPSSI membership is currently approximately 2500.

For the first 6-months of Fiscal Year 2002-2003 the Society’s operating income was $248,401 while expenses in the same time period were $329,731. For the first time in many years, SPSSI will undoubtedly end this fiscal year with a deficit. Part of the reason for the 6-month $81,330 shortfall is due to the costs of renovating the property we acquired last year. But also the Society’s basic expenditures over the past 5 years, especially since the move to Washington, have been growing while our revenues have seesawed up and down. For our most recent fiscal year (2001-2002) revenues were actually less than they were in 1997-98. In the 1990s reliable, continuing sources of revenue consistently exceeded the Society’s routine expenditures. SPSSI’s governance officers can no longer count on this being the case. Instead, for the foreseeable future SPSSI appears to be facing the challenge of increasing revenues, cutting costs, and/or having to dip into accumulated assets. Both the Strategic Planning Task Force and the Program Review Task Force (PRTF), which is evaluating the success of SPSSI programs, should provide information that informs our deliberations about SPSSI fiscal future.

Publications
The biggest single source of SPSSI’s revenue is its contract with Blackwell, who publishes the Society’s two journals, JSI and ASAP. Under the leadership of Vicki Esses, SPSSI has been negotiating a renewal of this agreement. The basic terms of the current agreement will continue but Blackwell has agreed to more guaranteed income, more complimentary copies of the journal and more financial support to defray the Journals’ editorial costs.

On other publication matters, Rhoda Unger’s term as Editor of ASAP was extended for until the end of 2005. A Search Committee chaired by Vicki Esses has been set up to seek a successor for JSI’s Editor, Irene Frieze, whose term ends at the end of 2005. SPSSI has agreed with pleasure to sponsor Daphne Bugenthal forthcoming book on children with disability, Thriving in the Face of Childhood Adversity (Taylor and Francis).
Motions

A number of motions were passed during the Council meeting. These included:

• A decision to switch from so-called cash to accrual accounting (meaning that transactions such as conference hotel expenses will be entered into SPSSI’s books when they occur rather than when money is paid/received, which can often be at a later time),

• Appoint Dan Perlman as Secretary-Treasurer for three years beyond the end of his current term (i.e., until the summer Council meeting of 2006),

• The Director of the APA Public Policy Office to sit on the James Marshall oversight committee,

• As long as they submit an abstract in English, authors of dissertations written in another language can have their theses considered for SPSSI’s dissertation award,

• One cannot simultaneously serve on a SPSSI committee and apply for an award from it.

• Council instructed President Penner to send a memo to APA CEO, Norman Anderson, specifying that Division 9 would like to take part in discussions of issues of healthcare and to be part of any APA taskforce on healthcare policy.

• Division 9 encourages Division 48 to bring to the APA Council of Representatives a resolution that APA establish a taskforce on the prevention of terrorism and that Division 9 join Division 48 in helping such a taskforce to be formed.

Visitors and Celebrations

As the Council meeting ended, Council welcomed Bill Parham, co-chair of 2005 National Multicultural Conference and Summit, and Norman Anderson, new CEO of the American Psychological Association. Birthday cake was presented to Irma Serrano Garcia and to Lou Penner, whose birthdays coincided with the Council meeting. We also celebrated the birth of Council Member Michele Alexander’s first child.
At the closing news conference, Adolf Ogi, Under-Secretary-General, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, and Former President of Switzerland, gave a positive assessment of the three-day event, saying, “In Magglingen we have created a solid, common basis for using the huge potential of sports to further development and peace building.” Besides the Magglingen Declaration, a comprehensive list of recommendations developed in workshop sessions was presented as a way to implement the declaration. The topics include “Sport and Peace Building and Conflict Prevention”, “Sport and Human Development”, and “Sport and Socio-economic Development”. Under-Secretary-General Ogi will hand both documents over to the Secretary-General Kofi Annan in March, 2003.

“The Magglingen Conference is just the beginning,” said Ogi. “Now we have to build a global network for sport and development and translate the spirit of Magglingen into concrete projects. We will also play an active role in the future.” The follow-up conference is already set for 2005. An information platform for sport and development is also to be created. Between now and 2005, Mr. Ogi is also planning a conference on “Sport and Peace.” More information is available at www.sportdevconf.org.
treatment for older adults. The first option suggested improving access and continuity of care through: support for outreach, integrated and coordinated services; reviewing the current Medicare reimbursement policies; addressing stigma and cultural sensitivity; providing screening; and focusing on prevention. The second policy option related to improving quality by implementing evidence-based practices, supporting mental health and aging research, and promoting wellness and recovery. Finally, the third policy option called for supporting initiatives to promote a specialized workforce in geriatrics and to enhance caregiver and peer support programs.

The Commission is scheduled to release their final report to the President in April 2003. This report is expected to address current issues and suggestions for the future in a variety of areas including aging and mental health.

American Psychological Association’s Committee on Aging (CONA): The goal of CONA is to advance psychology as a science and profession and as a means of promoting human welfare by ensuring that older adults, especially the growing numbers of older women and minorities, receive attention. I met with CONA in February 2003 at their annual 3-day meeting to discuss ways in which to develop and expand the representation and inclusion of older adults in the policy arena. I will be working with CONA on a variety of endeavors including the development of a general policy document related to mental and behavioral health and older adults, a research project regarding trauma and aging, and a project related to international aging issues.

Hate Crime

107th Congress Legislative Overview (2001-2002): S.625 - The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act was introduced by Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) in March 2001. It was a bill intended to provide federal assistance to states and local jurisdictions to prosecute hate crimes. This legislation was not passed during the 107th Congress.

108th Congress Legislative Status Report (2003-2004): Hate Crime Coalition: I have joined the national hate crime coalition as a representative of SPSSI and APA, following in the footsteps of former SPSSI scholars. The coalition has most recently been working with its member organizations to develop a strategy with which to proceed in the 108th Congress. The focus of this group will be to continue to make efforts to educate individuals, groups, and communities about the impact of prejudice and the importance of stronger federal legislation to protect those who may be at risk. The coalition has also been developing additional advocacy goals, including training, outreach, the improvement of the Federal Bureau of Investigation/Hate Crime Statistics Act, and support of anti-bullying statutes.

Trauma and Abuse

107th Congress Legislative Overview (2001-2002): Several pieces of legislation related to trauma and abuse were introduced during the 107th Congress. Unfortunately, none of these bills was passed.

Trauma Legislation: Two bills were introduced in the Senate in 2002 by Senator John Edwards (D-NC):

- S.2204 - Women in Trauma Act of 2002 (introduced April 2002): To amend the Public Health Service Act to improve treatment for the mental health and substance abuse needs of women with histories of trauma, including domestic and sexual violence.

Abuse Legislation: A bill focusing on elder abuse was introduced in the Senate in September 2002 by Senator John Breaux (D-LA):

- S.2933 - Elder Justice Act: To promote elder justice and for other purposes.

This bill attempts to put the abuse of older adults on par with child abuse and violence against women.


Trauma Legislation: Members of APA’s public policy staff have met with staff from the office of Senator John Edwards (D-NC) to encourage the reintroduction of his bills addressing the treatment needs and importance of research focused on women experiencing trauma.

Abuse Legislation: On February 10, 2003, Senator John Breaux (D-LA) reintroduced his elder abuse legislation, now referred to as S.333 - Elder Justice Act of 2003. This bill was introduced with the support of 17 bipartisan co-sponsors in the Senate.

Elder Justice Coalition: Early in 2003, I joined the newly formed Elder Justice Coalition, which was established as a national grassroots advocacy group to advance federal legislation to promote elder justice. The coalition currently has over 100 members representing groups from a variety of disciplines who are concerned with issues of elder abuse. During the 108th Congress, the coalition will continue to work to raise public awareness and support legislation that promotes elder justice.

Trauma Advocacy Network: I have been developing an advocacy network of trauma specialists who are interested in social issues and public policy. These individuals are from a variety of health care disciplines (including psychology, psychiatry, social work, and nursing). I hope to develop a listserv that will keep these individuals up-to-date on policy issues in this area, in hopes that they can be called on to support advocacy efforts in the future.

As the SPSSI James Marshall Public Policy Scholar, I look forward to representing the membership of SPSSI and will work to keep you informed of my efforts here in Washington. I welcome your comments and suggestions and encourage you to contact me at Delmore@apa.org.
Fulbright Scholar Program Offers Grants in 140 Countries for Faculty and Professionals. The Fulbright Scholar Program is offering lecturing/research awards worldwide for the 2004-2005 academic year. Opportunities are available not only for college and university faculty and administrators, but also for professionals from business and government as well as journalists, lawyers, scientists, artists, independent scholars and others. Traditional Fulbright awards are available from two months to an academic year or longer. A new short-term grants program—the Fulbright Senior Specialists Program—offers two-to six week grants in a variety of disciplines and fields. Application deadlines for 2004-2005 awards are: August 1, 2003 for Fulbright traditional lecturing and research grants worldwide. Rolling deadline for Fulbright Senior Specialists Program. For more information, contact the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) at 3007 Tilden St., NW, Suite 5L, Washington, DC 20008-3009. Appreq@cies.iie.org. The online application is available at www.cies.org

The Association for Women in Psychology announces the Annual Lesbian Psychologies Unpublished Manuscript Award. Unpublished manuscripts focusing on any topic relevant to the psychology of lesbians are invited. Both sole and jointly authored papers are eligible. Manuscripts must be no more than 50 pages. The winner will be announced at the APA convention in August 2003. The award recipient will be invited to present the manuscript at the AWP conference in 2004, and will receive up to $250 in transportation expenses. Deadline: entries must be postmarked by May 31, 2003. Please send applications to: Julie Konik, M.A., Psychology Dept., University of Michigan, 3268 East Hall, Ann Arbor, MI 48109 jkonik@umich.edu

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, Ph.D., who donates the royalties from her book, “Half the Human Experience,” to this fund. Winners will be announced at the APA convention during Division 35 Social Hour. The names of the winners may also be posted in Division 35 newsletter as well as on Division 35 web page and listserv. Deadline: proposals should be postmarked by either March 15th or September 15th. Proposals (5 copies) should be submitted to the committee chair: Silvia Sara Canetto, Ph.D., 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.

UnderstandingPrejudice.org With funding from the National Science Foundation and McGraw-Hill Higher Education, Social Psychology Network is pleased to announce the debut of a major new partner site on the topic of prejudice. The new site, www.UnderstandingPrejudice.org, has hundreds of links and other resources related to the psychology of prejudice, including interactive demonstrations, streaming video clips, teaching materials, a reading room, searchable databases, and more. Although the site was designed in part to supplement a new McGraw-Hill anthology entitled Understanding Prejudice and Discrimination, all pages and activities are freely available and can be used with other texts or on their own.

Join SPSSI in South Africa January 17-27, 2004

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 (departing from and returning to New York). This includes round-trip air fare form the convening city, 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

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## SPSSI MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

| Date: __________________________ |
| Name: __________________________ |
| Address: ________________________ |
| Education: _____________________ |
| Present Position: _______________ |
| Institution: ____________________ |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please check appropriate category (See back for descriptions):</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affiliate member: $24.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student member: $10.00 per year (full member privileges)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Member: $12.00 initial dues (after first year a graduated dues structure is suggested, ranging from $20-$75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifetime Member: $1,000.00 (one-time fee)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift Membership: $10.00 each, $5.00 each for more than five memberships given at one time. (Please include a form for each gift membership. Form may be copied.)</td>
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- Enclosed is my check, made payable to SPSSI
- Please charge my MasterCard or Visa Account Number
  - MasterCard
  - Visa
- Expiration Date: ________________
- Signature: _____________________________________________

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### Demographic Information

| Gender: ❑ Female ❑ Male |
| Race/Ethnicity (check all that apply): ❑ American Indian or Alaskan Native ❑ Asian or Pacific Islander ❑ Black or African American ❑ Hispanic or Latino ❑ White |
| Date of Birth: ______/_______/_______ |
| APA Member: ❑ Yes ❑ No |
| APS Member: ❑ Yes ❑ No |

Please complete and return this form with your check or credit card payment information to: SPSSI Central Office, 208 Eye 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 are a great way to bring in new members. If you know people who would be interested in SPSSI, give them a gift membership. Once they are introduced to SPSSI, they may continue and become an active member. 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 Eye Street, NE
Washington DC 20002; Fax (202) 675-6902.
Applications are also available on the web: [www.spssi.org](http://www.spssi.org)
To all SPSSI members:

Please keep Central Office informed of any change of address or other contact details!