Greetings SPSSI Graduate Student Members!

We are delighted to bring you another edition of our student newsletter. We encourage you to participate in the events being held at the 2003 APA convention, take advantage of the funding opportunities available to SPSSI graduate students, and utilize our new listserv to share thoughts and/or concerns about social issues.

**Highlights of this Issue**

- The 2002-2003 Graduate Student Committee (GSC) has been hard at work putting together the student program during the 2003 APA convention. We have several roundtable discussions planned and are co-hosting the SPSSI Social Hour (see inside for details). These roundtable discussions have been put together specifically for you so we hope that you will find them enlightening and enjoyable.

- Anthony Lemieux (see Spotlight on Student Research) discusses his research on HIV and music and the importance of field research.

- Congratulations newly elected committee members! Your 2003-2004 Graduate Student Committee members are as follows: Wendy R. Williams, Chair; Lori A. J. Scott-Sheldon, Chair-Elect; Demis E. Glasford, Antoinette H. Semenya and, Pamela Valera, Members-At-Large; and Jamie L. Franco, Newsletter/Web Editor. See back page of the newsletter for contact information.

**Join the SPSSI Student LISTSERV**

In March, the SPSSI GSC launched its own listserv so graduate students would receive the most up-to-date information on job postings, funding opportunities, and other information pertinent to graduate students. The committee chose to use Yahoo! Groups, a Web site and E-mail group that not only allows for students to post and view messages but also provides a place for students to link to various files, chat with other graduate students, cast votes, and view upcoming events on a calendar (http://help.yahoo.com/help/groups/). We hope that you will find the information useful and will use the Web site functions to communicate research ideas, policy issues, or any other general concerns.

To subscribe to the list only, send a blank email to: spssigsc-subscribe@yahooogroups.com. You will receive a confirmation message. Just reply to this message and your subscription will be complete. This group is moderated so you will not receive any SPAM!!

For full access to all Yahoo! Group features (messages, chat, links, polls, calendar) go to http://groups.yahoo.com/ and in the search for groups box, type in spssi. Click on the Join this Group button. If you do not have a Yahoo! account, you will need to create one (see Sign up now on Yahoo! Web site).

**Become Involved: Why Should Graduate Students Become Involved in SPSSI?**

Antoinette Semenya & Pamela Valera

SPSSI has great opportunities for students who want to become involved in an important national organization. As you become more involved in SPSSI, you will meet numerous students, faculty, and professionals who will help to broaden your intellectual and social network. SPSSI is an organization of enthusiastic individuals all interested in the betterment of our society. One of the truly unique aspects of SPSSI is its commitment to the dissemination of valuable research to policy makers, community organizations, and members of the public. Become involved in SPSSI, and you can help put research into action.

Why SPSSI? SPSSI is a great opportunity for graduate students to come together, form information networks, and develop relationships beyond our social science specializations. In addition, SPSSI is a forum that allows us to exchange ideas, garner academic support, and obtain funding opportunities. As PhD students, we know how important it is for us to find linkages with others to help further our academic scholarship. Thus, SPSSI not only provides us with these linkages, but the organization becomes a life-long community network.
SPSSI Student Activities

2003 APA Convention

Doing It Differently: Women in Academia
Saturday, August 9, 11:00 am

Hosted by Chair-Elect Lori A. J. Scott-Sheldon,
University of Connecticut

Discussants: Mary Crawford, University of Connecticut
Rhoda Unger, Brandeis University

How can women successfully negotiate an academic career when established goals may conflict with the values they hold? Has the academic climate changed to include women’s values? Are women’s values being rewarded or ignored? Please join the SPSSI Student Committee in a roundtable discussion of how women are doing it differently in academic settings.

SPSSI Members and Public Policy:
Becoming Involved in Policy Issues and Debate
Saturday, August 9, 12:00 pm

Hosted by Member-At-Large Pamela Valera,
University of South Carolina

Discussants: Faye Crosby, University of California, Santa Cruz
Diane Elmore, SPSSI James Marshall Scholar,
Public Policy Office, APA
Shari Miles, SPSSI Executive Director

We are pleased to bring three outstanding leaders in a roundtable discussion on public policy issues. These women will talk about their experiences, how they got involved, and how we as SPSSI members can influence public policy.

Jobs Outside of Academia:
A Focus on Social Issues
Saturday, August 10, 12:00 pm

Hosted by Member-At-Large Antoinette H. Semenya,
University of Western Ontario

Discussants: Geoffrey M Maruyama, University of Minnesota

Is there life outside of academia? This is a very common question among graduate students. The answer to that question is “yes!” There are many opportunities outside of the academic world where you can apply your degree and do work that you love. Please join the SPSSI Student Committee in a roundtable discussion of these opportunities!

SPSSI Social Hour
The Social Hour will be co-hosted with Division 8 (Society for Personality and Social Psychology) and Division 48 (Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict, and Violence). This is your opportunity to meet faculty, researchers, and other students. Please join us!

Travel Awards to the 2003 APA Convention

We are pleased to announce the winners of the SPSSI student travel awards for the APA Conference in Toronto, Canada. All winners received $150 to help defray the costs of attending the convention. Congratulations!

Monica Hodges
Hale Boratav
Amy Isaia
Michael MacKenzie
Lydia Bernard

Ute Zimmerman
Irina Morales Waugh
Jennifer K. Dean
Slavenka Sedlar
Fadia Narchet

Spotlight on Student Research:
Anthony Lemieux

Anthony Lemieux is a graduate student in Social Psychology at the University of Connecticut and a recipient of a National Research Science Award (NRSA) grant from NIMH and a SPSSI Applied Social Internship Award.

Could you briefly describe your current line of research?

My primary research has been on the development and evaluation of music-based HIV prevention interventions for urban adolescents. It involves recruiting musically talented opinion leaders and engaging them in the process of writing, recording, and promotion of HIV prevention themed music. This is the topic of my dissertation.

How did you become interested in this topic?

I started to work as an RA for Jeff Fisher one summer. We started talking about the potential to apply music in various types of interventions. Around the same time, or maybe even just prior to that, my advisor Felicia Pratto said to me – and I’ll never forget – figure out what you are uniquely capable of doing, something that will be YOUR area.

So, in addition to being a social psychologist, I’m a musician, recording engineer, and producer and have built up a recording studio over a number of years. This gave me the musical background and skills necessary to create interventions that involved music, and I could have a hands-on approach throughout the process – something that is really important to me.

And of course, there is a certain social, political, and economic consciousness that I’ve always had. When there is inequality, I want to know why. And I want to make
contributions in addressing and developing solutions and to contribute to the dialogue too. Additionally, I have a long-standing interest in intergroup relations, so I’ve recently researched and written about global poverty.

**Any advice you would like to give other graduate students interested in this type of research?**

Pay attention to relationships – that’s probably the most important part of field research. Without collaborative networks, advocates, and getting the right information at the right time, the research can’t and won’t go anywhere. Once you get a foot in the door, give more than you take. Give real value in exchange for participants and data.

This has been a really difficult line of work not only to get involved in, but to sustain. First, I had to build and nurture so many relationships along the way – in the community, at schools – among students, staff, and faculty. This takes a huge amount of work. Jeff Fisher basically introduced me to a few people and I took it from there.

Also in terms of funding: It was only after about 5 or 6 attempts at getting my research funded that I had some success. It took a lot of convincing to get the ideas across; I finally received a number of grants and fellowships including an NRSA from NIMH and a SPSSI Applied Social Internship Award. This ultimately allowed the project to continue. It isn’t cheap to write, record, produce, and promote thousands of CDs.

So the take-home message: Persevere.

On a more practical note – and advice that I would have benefited from by taking for myself – is to start publishing earlier rather than later in your career. This will provide you with more and better options ultimately.

**What implication do you see your research having for psychology and social issues more generally?**

I think that there is a tremendous responsibility for psychologists to address issues in the public interest. HIV prevention, and using music in that process, is one that I have focused on over the past few years. Finding ways to use our unique combinations of talents, training, experience, while working toward application of theory and research, are goals I think are important in the continued relevance of psychology.

As psychologists, we need to identify opportunities to demonstrate the relevance and application of our work. I hope that in some way I am contributing to that process. I think that we need to reexamine the use and abuse of convenience samples of college undergraduates that fill our most cited and prestigious journals. In this research of mine, you won’t see the words “college undergraduates participated in partial fulfillment of a course requirement.” Maybe that can catch on too.

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**Call for Nominations**

〜 Graduate Student Position on the Editorial Board of Journal of Social Issues

The editor of the *Journal of Social Issues* (JSI) reserves one or two positions on the Editorial Board for interested and qualified graduate students. The SPSSI GSC is currently seeking nominations for this position. Because *JSI* is a thematic journal, Editorial Board members review and evaluate proposals for new *JSI* issues. Although Editorial Board members have expertise in their own area of research and scholarship, it is essential that they are able to adopt a broad perspective in evaluating the overall relevance and merit of the proposals to the study of social issues.

The ideal candidate is open-minded and familiar with a range of social issues. She must be willing to invest time in order to arrive at an informed judgment on proposals, especially concerning novel or controversial topics. Previous experience with the publication process is required. Since editorial work takes time and energy, and because we want to give as many students as possible the chance to share in this opportunity, the graduate student member position is a one-year term (September 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004). In some cases this term may be extended.

If you are interested in this position, are enrolled in a doctoral program in psychology or a related field, and are a member of SPSSI, please submit a current vita and personal statement highlighting your interest and qualifications. Send the materials as an E-mail attachment or via snail mail to:

Pamela Valera
Member at Large, SPSSI Student Committee
University of South Carolina
College of Social Work
Columbia, SC 29208
E-mail: valera@gwm.sc.edu

Deadline for nominations is August 1, 2003. Self-nominations are welcome. Note that email access is imperative for this position. If you have any questions concerning the position, please contact a former graduate student member of the *JSI* Editorial Board: Melanie A. Morrison, University of Ottawa (Melanie.psychology@hotmail.com)

〜 Graduate Student Position, Editorial Board of Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy (ASAP)

The SPSSI GSC is currently seeking nominations for the position of student editor of *Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy* (ASAP). ASAP is an electronic journal sponsored by SPSSI. The journal is an outlet for timely and innovative psychological and related social science scholarship with explicit implications for social action and policy. (To learn more about the journal see http://www.asap-spssi.org and either Pamela Valera or Rhoda Unger, ASAP Editor, for the current password).

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Call for Nominations, continued from page 3

ASAP board members should be committed to considering overt connections between scholarly work and public policy and will be expected to review manuscripts in their areas of expertise. As much as possible, all reviewing will take place electronically. The ideal candidate for this position is open-minded and familiar with a range of social issues. She should be willing to invest time in order to arrive at an informed judgment on manuscripts and proposals, especially when those concern novel or controversial topics. It is important that she have the ability to explain complex social science research in language suitable for educated consumers who are not necessarily psychologists. Further, the ideal candidate must have reliable Internet access and be a competent Web user. Previous experience with Web publication is desirable (although not required). Since editorial work takes time and energy, and because we want to give as many students as possible the chance to share in this opportunity, the graduate student member position will be limited to one year (January 1, 2004-December 31, 2004).

If you are interested in this position and are enrolled in a doctoral program in psychology or a related field, please submit an E-mail attachment or via snail mail your current vita and a personal statement highlighting your interest and qualifications to:

Pamela Valera
Member at Large, SPSSI Student Committee
University of South Carolina
College of Social Work
Columbia, SC 29208
E-mail: valera@gwm.sc.edu

Deadline for nominations is August 15, 2003. Self-nominations are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Chair of the Student Editor Appointment Committee, Jameson K. Hirsch, University of Wyoming (jameson@uwyo.edu).

SPSSI Student Funding Opportunities

In support of student research, SPSSI offers several funding opportunities for graduate students:

- Clara Mayo Grants are given in support of master’s theses and pre-dissertation research on sexism, racism, and prejudice. For more information, see: http://www.spssi.org/Mayoflyer.pdf

- Graduate students are eligible for the Grant-In-Aid Program in support of research on social problems related to the goals of SPSSI. For more information, see: http://www.spssi.org/GIAflyer.pdf

- The Applied Social Issues Internship Program funds research conducted in cooperation with private and public organizations. For more information, see: http://www.spssi.org/ASHIflyer.pdf

- Social Issues Dissertation Award. For more information, see: http://www.spssi.org/Dissertationflyer.pdf

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