I am pleased to be writing this column for the SPSSI newsletter as your President. I am honored and excited to have taken over the Presidency on September 1 from our wonderful past President, James Jackson. James has set a positive and spirited tone for SPSSI during this past year and led us so well through our 75th Anniversary celebration in Washington earlier in August. Many thanks to James, to our spectacular historian, Alex Rutherford, to Michelle Fine, the 75th Anniversary Chair, and her amazing committee who put together a commemoration and celebration worthy of SPSSI’s storied past and promising future.

I have several major activities I will be focusing on over the next year, and I am eager and open for your feedback, your participation, your ideas, and your energy. Substantial attention will go to SPSSI’s hosting of TWO conferences next summer – the 2012 SPSSI Biennial Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina; and, the SPSSI/Division 9 program at the American Psychological Association convention in Orlando, Florida. Brief announcements about both of those programs are below.

I am also interested in working with our Teaching and Mentoring Committee and others to reimagine and expand SPSSI’s attention to pedagogy, particularly to the challenges we all face in integrating social justice concerns into our teaching. This work also needs to focus on our recently expanded role in overseeing the James Marshall Fellowship program, which now brings a post-doctoral fellow to SPSSI Central Office for 1-2 years, to gain experience in and exposure to the policy-making world in D.C.

Finally, I plan to capitalize on SPSSI’s enhanced policy activities with our in-house, full-time Policy Coordinator, Alex Ingrams, and to work with Alex and the Policy Committee to think about next steps in the development of SPSSI’s policy program.

In the meanwhile, I look forward to working closely with Susan Dudley and our incredible Central Office staff, and to have as much contact as possible with SPSSI members. I have spoken to dozens of you recently in my efforts to identify program co-chairs and fill other committee openings, and have been so impressed with our members’ commitment to this organization. I intend for the communication to continue throughout the year. My email is: moconnor@jjay.cuny.edu, so please reach out.

SPSSI 2012 Biennial Convention Co-Chairs:

Long-time SPSSI members, Professors David Livert and Demis Glasford, have agreed to Co-Chair the 2012 SPSSI Biennial Convention to be held in Charlotte, North Carolina, so PLEASE HOLD THE DATE: June 22-24, 2012.

David Livert, a current member of SPSSI’s governing Council and Executive Committee, is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Penn State University’s Lehigh Valley campus. He received his undergraduate and master’s degrees in psychology from Vanderbilt University and his Ph.D. in social psychology from the City University of New York Graduate Center. His research focuses on intergroup contexts, ranging from individual level (social contact) to the meso level (the effects of team diversity on performance). David currently chairs SPSSI’s web oversight committee and played a major role in the SPSSI interactive timeline that was launched by our historian, Alex Rutherford, at SPSSI’s 75th Anniversary Gala. He also serves on the SPSSI membership committee.

... continued on page 2
Demis Glasford, a former SPSSI Dalmas Taylor Fellow, is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. His research interests are in the areas of intergroup relations, political behavior, and prejudice-reduction. His work is interdisciplinary, such that he uses social psychology, political psychology, and government/public policy studies to inform the investigation of individual and group behavior. Demis serves currently on SPSSI’s membership committee.

I had an opportunity to visit the conference hotel (the Omni Charlotte) a few months ago. It has just been renovated and is both lovely and perfectly situated in downtown Charlotte. I also had tours of the downtown and the brilliant art and history museums that dot the downtown area, and I came away so excited about the location for the conference. We are already working with a number of the local universities in the area, and are looking for community engagement projects as well.

In addition, since we are launching into SPSSI’s final quarter century of its first 100 years, we thought we would expand upon the traditional SPSSI focus on the three P’s (peace, prejudice, and poverty), to create some themed programming at the convention on the three E’s (Education, Environment, and Equity).

A number of dedicated SPSSI leaders have agreed to chair or co-chair these mini-themes within the larger conference, including Michelle Fine and Valerie Futch (Education Co-Chairs), Janet Swim and Susan Clayton (Environment Co-Chairs), and Yolanda Niemann (Equity Chair).

We will be sending more detailed information and the Call for Papers in the fall, but for now – PLEASE mark your calendars!

SPSSI/APA Division 9 Program Co-Chairs

APAs Annual Convention will be in Orlando, Florida next summer, so PLEASE HOLD THE DATE: August 2 - 5, 2012. We are pleased to report that Drs. Sean Massey and Justin Hackett have agreed to Co-Chair the SPSSI/Division 9 program at the 2012 APA Convention.

Sean Massey is a Research Associate Professor in Women’s Studies at SUNY -Binghamton. His academic background is in social personality psychology and psychometrics, and his research focuses on the study of sexuality and gender, with a special interest in the study of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender lives.

Justin Hackett is as Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Houston-Downtown, whose work focuses on personal values and behavioral decisions, civic engagement and social action, social identity, and political psychology.

They have exciting ideas for the SPSSI program at APA, so please take a look at the announcement elsewhere in the newsletter and be on the lookout for the Call for Papers, which should arrive soon.
It is our pleasure to bring you the Summer 2011 issue of the SPSSI Newsletter. Although summer is officially over, this issue of the *Forward* provides you with a ‘look back’ on some important happenings taking place with SPSSI.

SPSSI President-Elect, Maureen O’Connor of John Jay College and the Graduate Center at CUNY, provides a glimpse into the SPSSI priorities for the upcoming year. Additionally, Maureen provides some important announcements about the 2012 SPSSI Biennial Convention in Charlotte, NC, SPSSI programming at the Annual APA Conference in Orlando, FL.

This year SPSSI celebrates its 75th Anniversary. If you have not had the opportunity to visit the SPSSI online interactive historical timeline, please make sure you do so! It is located at the bottom of the front page of the SPSSI website. We also want to encourage our members to help us commemorate this very important anniversary by contributing information to the Fall newsletter.

As promised in the last newsletter, we continue to feature reports from Angel Colón Rivera, SPSSI’s James Marshall Public Policy Scholar; and from Alex Ingrams, SPSSI’s Policy Coordinator. We also have wonderful contributions from two award winners: 1) Peony Fhagen-Smith of Wheaton College, SPSSI’s 2011 Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching and Mentoring Award winner; and 2) Caroline Bennett AbuAyyash, the 2011 APA Dalmas A. Taylor Public Policy Intern.

Included in this issue are several other important features:

- Reports from the Editors of each of SPSSI’s journals: JSI, ASAP, and SIPR.
- A report from Wendy Williams, SPSSI representative to the APA Council of Representatives
- A report by Anila Balkissoon acknowledging recent Clara Mayo and Grants-In-Aid Award winners

We wish to thank everyone who contributed to this issue of the newsletter. We hope that you enjoy reading it, and we encourage you to send us any comments or suggestions at spssinews@gmail.com
SPSSI’s Central Office is located in the north Capitol Hill section of Washington, in an area that has been undergoing significant growth and renewal in the past few years. The two-story rowhouse was originally built in 1900 as a residence, and was purchased by SPSSI in 2002 to house our offices. The tax-assessed value of the property has more than doubled since SPSSI Council decided to make that investment.

Our professional staff has remained stable over the past five years, developing administrative processes and systems and applying their ever-growing institutional memories to assist our Council and volunteer leaders meet their commitments. In my capacity as Executive Director, I couldn’t wish for a more capable and conscientious group of colleagues with whom to work. SPSSI is indeed lucky to have each of them!

Anila Balkissoon, our Administrative Coordinator, manages grant and award administration, member relations and retention, and executive-level program and governance support. She has been an invaluable member of the SPSSI team since 2006, and the success of her work is felt quite directly by our members every day.

When Christopher Woodside, who served for two years as our first Policy Coordinator, was recruited away late last summer, his job was “filled from within”, by Alex Ingrams who had previously spent 18 months with SPSSI in the role of Administrative Assistant. In the nine months he’s been in his new position, Alex has done a remarkable job of advancing SPSSI’s policy objectives on Capital Hill and beyond.

Our newest staff member, Brad Sickels, has been our Administrative Assistant for over a year already. His is normally the first voice you hear when you call the office, and his many skills and talents contribute to virtually every aspect of the work we do. This summer Brad has helped to upload the content of SPSSI’s new interactive history timeline (www.spssitimeline.org) in preparation for its official launch on August 3.

Training opportunities at the SPSSI office include fellowships and internships. Over the last year we’ve funded and provided a part-time home for Angel Colon, SPSSI’s 2010-2012 James Marshall Public Policy Scholar, who reports regularly in this newsletter on his activities at SPSSI and the US Helsinki Commission, where SPSSI supports his work as a Policy Advisor. [Link here to Angel’s column]. This summer, Caroline Bennett-AbuAyyash also joins us as the 2011 Dalmas Taylor Summer Minority Policy Intern. She divides her time between SPSSI and the APA Public Interest Office.

We were sad to lose our long-term building tenant, Psychologists for Social Responsibility, last September when they decided to close their Washington office. However, the space is now leased to the Washington Intern Housing Network, which contracts short-term living space for DC interns in the Capitol Hill area.

SPSSI Membership continues to hold fairly steady between 2500 and 3000. Approximately 32% of our members are graduate students, and 47% of our members are also members of APA. Over the past year, Christie Achebe, Faye Crosby, Roger Levesque, Kerth O’Brien, and Bettina Spencer joined 21 of their colleagues in our Sustaining Membership category. And as part of our 75th Anniversary observance, SPSSI members, looking forward to ensuring the success of our next 75 years, presented gift memberships to our 75 newest members.

We’re always happy to meet and talk with SPSSI members. Please visit the SPSSI office next time you’re in DC, or email us anytime. I can be reached at sdudley@spssi.org, and I look forward to hearing from you!
It’s been a hot summer in Washington in more ways than one. As I write this, the U.S. Senate debates a budget that will cut as much as $1.5 trillion from the federal deficit over the next ten years. The sums involved are extremely daunting in size, but even more daunting is to think of how they will fall on public spending including funding for science.

In partnership with other science associations, I have been taking part in framing our arguments and advocacy efforts on scientific integrity and its corollary of maintaining funding streams for scientific research. There is a wide range of exciting news to share in this update and I particularly want to share news about efforts on National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding. They have frequently summoned urgent and timely action from the SPSSI Policy and Executive Committees, and will be a continued priority of the next 12 months.

In the year of SPSSI’s 75th anniversary, it is very apt that SPSSI is standing shoulder to shoulder with other organizations promoting the science-based policy that have become its hallmark. As in 1936, SPSSI is playing a continued role in communicating the importance of science for the flourishing and development of society and individuals.

As part of our work with the Coalition to Promote Research (CPR), the SPSSI Policy Committee wrote a statement on the importance of peer review, and, more recently, the SPSSI Executive Committee signed-off on an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) letter defending vital funding for the NIH in the face of cuts proposed in Congress as a result of budget pressures. It has been particularly challenging working in an environment where some of the political leaders in the United States have taken negative and factually misleading stances on the efficacy of federal science funding agencies.

While the debate on science funding has been going on, I have been privileged to observe SPSSI members carrying out their research and applying the results to a broad spectrum of social issues. One of the most exciting parts of my work as Policy Coordinator has been to see the outcome of all kinds of research - federally funded, SPSSI funded, and funded by many other sources - for new policy initiatives based on psychological knowledge.

Currently the SPSSI Special Grants Initiative recipients, Meg Bond, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Marta Elliot, University of Nevada Reno and Rebecca Stotzer, University of Hawaii are seeing their first results come through and I am collaborating with them to maximize the policy impact of those results. Starting in July, all recipients of SPSSI research grants now receive a Policy Development Form from Central Office so that it can facilitate and resource the delivery of psychology-based policy initiatives from an early stage.

Please reach out to me if you have any queries about SPSSI policy work and my projects in Central Office. The fortnightly Policy News Update can be subscribed to be emailing me at aingrams@spssi.org. My weekly blog for news summaries, and current affairs and behavioral science discussion is available at www.spssi.org/policynewsfeed, and also on our Member Forum at www.spssi.org/memberforum. Our Facebook and Twitter pages are packed with a wealth of news items and announcements.

Stay Connected to SPSSI!
A Year in Review: My Experience as the James Marshall Post-Doctoral Scholar

Much has happened in the last year as the James Marshall Post-Doctoral Public Policy Fellow. I have organized a Congressional Hearing on Trafficking for Labor Exploitation; taken two international trips to High-Level meetings at the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) headquarters in Vienna; represented SPSSI at the American Academy for the Advancement of Science, Science and Human Rights Coalition meetings; and contributed to several initiatives that may shape policy on human trafficking both on the national and international scale. This year has not only transformed my views on the issues that I’ve worked on, I’m confident it has reshaped my path towards my future.

On May 23, I organized a Congressional Hearing titled Labor Trafficking in Troubled Economic Times: Protecting American Jobs and Migrant Human Rights. The hearing was fully conceptualized and executed based on my research and meetings with representatives from the Obama Administration, Multilateral Organizations and a variety of Non-Governmental Organizations, helping to save the lives of thousands of enslaved persons around the world. The hearings aim was to draw Congress’ attention on the often overlooked form of human trafficking, trafficking for labor exploitation. Ironically, this form of trafficking-in-persons is the most prevalent both in the United States and internationally, and disproportionately affects migrants targeted by unscrupulous traffickers working independently and organized. The witness list included an illustrious panel of experts on the subject, including the Ambassador-at-Large Luis C. DeBaca, the Department of State’s highest authority on combating Trafficking-in-Persons (TIP). The hearing room was filled to capacity and was attended by four United States Representatives and one Senator. But more importantly, the hearing accentuated the need to alter the soon to be debated Trafficking Victims Protection Act by including provisions that will give additional protections to vulnerable migrant workers and requiring more rigorous reporting standards from the Department of Labor. Similarly, it spawned a Resolution introduced at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Belgrade, Serbia to encourage increased corporate accountability and eliminate slave labor from supply chains.

This year, I have also attended two high-level diplomatic meetings at the OSCE Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. The first was the OSCE Special Thematic Event on Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees. This event was attended by representatives from many of the 56 countries in the OSCE region, including Ambassadors, senior-level representatives from multilateral organizations like the United Nations and Non-Governmental Organizations.

The events objectives were to examine the current state of refugees and internally displaced persons within the OSCE region and identify current gaps in the protections established for these groups. At this meeting I was able to contribute to the official United States delegation statement delivered on the floor of the OSCE. The second event I attended was the 11th Annual High Level Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Human Beings. This meeting not only furthered my knowledge on innovative ways the international community is adopting to combat trafficking in persons, it also exposed me to some of the leading minds on the issue and the opportunity to meet them and exchange ideas. Last but certainly not least, I’ve had the chance to represent SPSSI at the American Academy for the Advancement of Science, Science and Human Rights Coalition. This coalition of scientific and engineering organizations promises to be an excellent venue for the exchange of ideas on the benefits and challenges that scientist face in the service to human rights. Being part of this coalition allows SPSSI to be at the center of these discussions, essentially promoting our science for social justice agenda.

These few paragraphs can only hold some of the achievements and life altering experiences I’ve had in just under a year. As my second year begins in September, I can only imagine what more is to come!

Report from the 2011 Dalmas Taylor Fellow

As philosopher Khalil Gibran put it: “A little knowledge that acts is worth infinitely more than much knowledge that is idle” and my dedication to enacting change through the dissemination of knowledge was the reason I applied for the Dalmas A. Taylor Fellowship. My time away from Canada (I hail from the Great White North) and the “Ivory Tower” (home to all graduate students such as myself) has fundamentally changed my understanding of politics, research, and policy, and given me a deep respect for the nameless individuals who tirelessly advocate on behalf of our field.

This fellowship has enabled me to see the strength that can be drawn from connections and collaborations with multiple stakeholders, whether they are researchers, practitioners, or policy makers. The universal relevance of the issues that psychologists pursue puts us in the position of being an attractive advocacy partner for a wide array of groups, so despite the fact that SPSSI and APA are based in the field of psychology, they have been welcoming to all others who seek to advocate for human welfare, social justice, and the promotion of equality. As a result, my time here in Washington has allowed me to witness, and be a part of, collaborations with civil rights activists, nurses, teachers, army personnel, and police officers. My work has also included the translation of our...continued on page 7
field’s research into fact sheets that policy makers and the public are given access to, on topics ranging from social and emotional learning in children to the effects of immigrant detention on families. Writing is only part of the work; I have also attended congressional hearings and coalition meetings on issues such as veteran care, diversity training in policing, health care reform, school bullying, and suicide prevention.

In addition to being included in on-going projects, this fellowship provided me with the opportunity to pursue my personal research goals. One such opportunity was an invitation by SPSSI’s current James Marshall Public Policy Scholar to get involved in the development of a position statement on human trafficking, a topic that is closely aligned with my strong commitment to social justice issues. I take great pride in being a psychologist because our field pursues difficult questions that are fundamental to the betterment of society, and this fellowship has afforded me the privilege of giving that research a voice. If anyone can harness the power of our knowledge, it is the people I have met at SPSSI and APA. They are relentless in their pursuit of equality, improvement of mental health, civil rights, social justice, and a list of issues that are too long to mention. As the end of my time with SPSSI and APA on Capital Hill draws near, I am confident that my trip back home is only the start of something equally exciting on the other “Hill,” Canada’s Parliament Hill. I’ve picked up the advocacy bug and plan to take it with me wherever I go!

SPSSI 2011 Award Announcements, By Anila Balkissoon

The Clara Mayo Grant program was set up to support masters’ theses or pre-dissertation research on aspects of sexism, racism, or prejudice. The Spring 2011 Selection Committee consisted of Drs. Phillip Hammack (Chair), University of California at Santa Cruz, Sara McClelland, University of Michigan, David Frost, San Francisco State University, and Kristin Lane, Bard College. Congratulations to the following scholars selected for this funding:

- Carlos Garrido for his proposal Bystander sexism: The Effect of Witnessing Sexism in Creating Ego Depletion and Intergroup Emotions
- Courtney Hooker for her proposal I Feel Your Pain: Vicarious Experiences of Prejudice
- Sahana Mukherjee for her proposal What Does It Mean to Be a ‘True’ American? National Identity and Immigration Policy
- Amy Williams for her proposal Closing the Pay Gap: Effective Negotiating Strategies for Women in Organizational Settings
- Jenny Y. Xiao for her proposal A Perpetual Model of Intergroup Threat: Exploring the Mechanism Underlying the Relationship between Intergroup Threat and Discrimination

SPSSI’s competitive Grants-in-Aid (GIA) program supports scientific research in social problem areas related to the basic interests and goals of SPSSI and particularly those that are not likely to receive support from traditional sources. The Spring 2011 Selection Committee consisted of Drs. Markus Kemmelmeier (Chair), University of Nevada; Anne Galletta, Cleveland State University; Rachel Annunziato, Fordham University; and Michelle Tichy, St. Norbert College. Congratulations to the following scholars, who were awarded funding in 2011:

- Sarah Bailey for her proposal The Glass Cliff: Why Decision-makers Choose Women for Difficult Leadership Positions
- Robin Edelstein; Neuroendocrine and Psychological Changes in Heterosexual and Lesbian Couples During the Transition to Parenthood
- Guadalupe Espinoza; Cyberbullying Experiences Among Urban, Latino Adolescents: A Daily Diary Approach
- Rob Foels; Assessing the Normative Belief that Racism is Over and Those Who Reject That Norm
- Michael Gill; Yours Is to Reason Why: Social Explanatory Style as a Contributor to Compassionate Responding
- Erik Girvan; Habits of Meaning: When Does Learning to Categorize Situations Attenuate Bias in Social Judgments?
- Diala Hawi; Multiple Group Relations: Maintaining Balance through Third-Party Effects
- Eric Hehman; Discrimination and Loss of Control
- Bronwyn Hunter; Men in Recovery from Substance Use: Stigma and Stigma Management
- Drika Makariev; The Role of Race on the Development of Children’s Prosocial Reasoning
- Shane Moulton; Group-based Shaping of Humor Perceptions and Reactions: The Case of Ageism
- Lindsay Phillips; Coping with Reentry: Mixed Methods Analysis of Successful Transitions from Prison to Society
- Mariana Preciado; An Experimental Study of the Impact of Stigma and Support on Self-Perceived Sexuality among Gay Men, Lesbians, and Heterosexuals
- Ciara Smalls; Development of the Caregiver Racial Socialization in Context Questionnaire
- Matthew Trujillo; The Effect of Status on Targets’ Reactions to Ethnic Miscategorization
- Anna Woodcock; When can Positive Counterstereotypes be Threatening?
About the Conference:

The theme of this conference is inspired by a correspondence between Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud. In 1932 Einstein wrote to Freud and posed the question, Is war inevitable? (or more precisely “Is there any way of delivering mankind from the menace of war?”). Freud’s response to Einstein was published under the title, “Why War?” His answer was consistent with what was known at that time about human motivation and aggression. Our examination of this topic continues to be as vital to address today as it was then. Einstein’s choice to invite Freud to think about war reflects the underlying hope and potential of psychology to offer ways to improve society. With that spirit in mind, this one-day conference will explore contemporary psychoanalytic and social psychological ideas about the problem of war. What have we learned in the last 80 years, since the Einstein/Freud correspondence, that we can, and must, highlight as advancement in our knowledge about “Why War?” This conference brings together a diverse group of thinkers that include leading researchers, clinicians, theorists, and a journalist to offer a contemporary perspective on this most enduring problem in society.

There will be ample opportunity for the audience to participate with questions and impressions.

REGISTRATION

Professionals: $100 before December 31, 2011
$125 from January 1, 2012 to February 20, 2012
$145 after February 20, 2012

Students: $50 before December 31, 2011
Institute: $55 from January 1, 2012 to February 20, 2012
Candidates: $60 after February 20, 2012

*financial aid scholarships are available to students if needed.
Please contact Ron Aviram, Ph.D. at 212-439-8070.

To Register Online: www.paypal.com
Use email: warconference@gmail.com
Please include Name, Affiliation, and Email in Note section
Or send a check made out to War Conference to:
Ron Aviram, Ph.D.
War Conference
135 Central Park West, Suite 1B
New York, NY 10023
Please include Name, Affiliation, and Email

PROGRAM

9:00 - 9:30 Registration and Coffee

9:30 - 9:50 Welcome and Introduction

9:50 - 11:15 Panel 1: 80 Years Later: What Can We Add?

Sheldon Solomon. “Why War? Fear is the Mother of Violence”
Henri Parens. “The Problem with Freud’s Answer to Einstein’s ‘Why War?’ It Was Wrong”
Chair/Moderator: Sandra Buechler

11:15 - 12:35 Panel 2: What Can We Change?

Adrienne Harris. “Forgetting/Disavowal. The fate of retaining the experiences of war in individual and collective memory”
Donald Moss. “The erotic force of war stories”
Steve Botticelli. “Casual ties, acceptable losses: War making as the failure of identification”
Chair/Moderator: Neil Altman

12:35 – 1:30 LUNCH BREAK

1:30 – 2:45 Panel 3: What Can We Expect?

Ron Aviram. “Surviving and Killing”
Chair/Moderator: Thanassis Cambanis

2:45 – 3:30 Discussion: All Panelists and Audience
Chair/Moderator: Thanassis Cambanis

END OF CONFERENCE

For a list of Conference Speakers, please visit:
www.spssi.org/_data/n_0001/resources/live/Is%20War%20Inevitable.pdf

~Announcement~

Division member Andrew W. Kane, Ph.D., Milwaukee, has just co-authored a book for psychologists and attorneys on child custody evaluations: Ackerman, M.J. & Kane, A.W. (2011). Psychological experts in divorce actions, 5th edition. New York: Aspen Law & Business. The book addresses requirements for expert witnesses, ethical issues, the nature of an appropriate evaluation, the affect of divorce on families, children as witnesses, psychological testing, domestic violence, sexual abuse, and the affect of mental disorders, alcohol and other drug abuse, and criminal histories. There is a newly revised table of the requirements for the temporary practice of psychology in every jurisdiction in the U.S. and Canada. The appendixes include several codes of ethics, contact information for relevant organizations, and other information. Most chapters have extensive case law citations and lists of questions that an attorney might ask in cross examination. Drs. Kane and Ackerman are clinical and forensic psychologists with decades of experience with child custody evaluations, as well as extensive experience with individual and couple psychotherapy in their private practices. Both are professors at the Wisconsin School of Professional Psychology. Further information on the book is available at http://www.aspenpublishers.com/Product.asp?catalog_name=Aspen&product_id=0735510326
Update on the Journal of Social Issues

By Sheri Levy
Editor, JSI

It has been a very busy summer at JSI. The flow of high-quality submissions to JSI has been high and continues to reflect the wide range of social issues of interest to JSI readers. Our international Editorial Board has been hard at work, and I am very thankful for their expert advice. I am pleased to have three new Editorial Board Members: Manuela Barreto (Professor, Centre for Social Research and Intervention, CIS, Portugal, soon to be at University of Exeter, UK), Allan B.I. Bernardo (Professor, College of Education, De La Salle University, Philippines), and Ying-yi Hong (Professor, Nanyang Business School of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore). Please view our editorial board at http://www.spssi.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewpage&pageid=687

We have many exciting issues recently in print and at the publishers. Our Issue Editors are working closely with the Wiley Team and Alex Ingram (SPSSI’s Policy Coordinator) to publicize JSI issues. I hope you had a chance to read the second issue of 2011 (Anti-Gay Ballot Initiatives: The Social, Psychological, and Policy Implications, Issue Editors: Adam Fingerhut, Ellen Riggle, & Sherry Rostosky). Keep an eye out for the third issue of 2011 (Scaling the Higher Education Pyramid: Research Addressing Academic and Career Success of Minorities and Women in Science and Engineering, Issue Editors: Moin Syed & Martin Chemers) and the fourth issue of 2011 (Towards a Social Psychology of Globalization, Issue Editors: Chi-yue Chiu, Peter Cries, Carlos Torelli, & Shirley Cheng). The 2012 issues are also taking shape and will include Systems of Privilege: Intersections, Awareness, & Applications by Issue Editors, Kim Case & Jon Iuzzini. Please take note of our upcoming lineup of outstanding issues on our webpages (http://www.spssi.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewpage&pageid=884)

JSI issues continue to include addresses by SPSSI’s Presidents and Lewin Award Winners. Please see Susan Opotow’s Presidential Address (Issue 1, 2011; Introduction by Past-President Dan Perlman) and Eugene Borgida’s Presidential Address (Issue 4, 2011, Introduction by Past-President Susan Opotow) as well as Lewin Address by Beatrice Wright which was prepared by by Past-President and Past-Lewin Award Winner Kay Deaux as well as Henry McCarthy, and Sheryl Lee Wurl (Issue 2, 2011) and Mark Zanna’s Lewin Address (Issue 3, 2011; Introduction by Past-President and Past-Lewin Award Winner Faye Crosby).

Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy

By Kevin Lanning
Editor, ASAP

As you read this, the collection of papers on Social Psychology and Contemporary Immigration Policy should be available as a virtual issue on the ASAP/Wiley website (http://tinyurl.com/ASAPwiley). The collection includes an Introduction, 11 papers, and 5 comments. The website also includes links to several recent Journal of Social Issues publications on immigration, and will provide scholars, students, and policy makers with a rich set of scholarly perspectives on contemporary immigration policy.

Commentary invited. In addition to providing the ASAP readership with competing or balanced dialogue, comments provide authors the opportunity to share informed, scholarly perspectives using a medium which, while peer-reviewed, is typically less daunting than a regular manuscript. Please consider submitting a comment in response to one of the three papers described below, each of which is available in the Early View section of the ASAP/Wiley website:

The first of these, How Much Is Enough? Examining the Public’s Beliefs About Consumption (Markowitz and Bowerman), reports on survey data concerning the consumption of material goods, and the implications of this for reducing greenhouse gases. The period for commentary has been extended to September 30, 2011.

In the second paper inviting commentary, Who Helps Natural-Disaster Victims? Assessment of Trait and Situational Predictors, the authors (Marjanovic, Struthers, and Greenglass) demonstrate that willingness to help is complexly determined, but depends in part on the perception of the origins of the event—that is, the extent to which it is truly a ‘natural’ disaster, as opposed to one in which the consequences were driven by negligence on the part of governments or the citizens themselves. Comments will be accepted for review through January 31, 2012.

In the third paper inviting commentary, Testing Theories of Radicalization in Polls of U.S. Muslims, Clark McCauley examines the structure of opinions in polling data collected from samples of Muslim Americans. McCauley’s paper points to the heterogeneity of American Muslims and suggests that a multiplicity of messages is needed to combat potential sympathy and support for jihadist terrorism. For this paper, too, comments will be accepted for review through January 31, 2012 Editorial board changes. With the 2012 Volume, ASAP will expand its editorial board to include two Associate Editors. An Associate Editor for Historical Perspectives will be responsible for shepherding manuscripts explicitly framed by historical content as well as person-centered pieces such as SPSSI-relevant autobiographies, obituaries, and biographies. SPSSI Historian Alexandra Rutherford of York University has agreed to serve in this capacity. An Associate Editor for Commentary will assist with the flow of target papers and commentary.

Contact JSI

I hope you will contact me by email (Journal_of_Social_Issues@notes.cc.sunysb.edu) about your ideas for issues for JSI. Please check out the JSI website (http://www.spssi.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewpage&pageid=786) for recent updates. I want to thank Susan Dudley and Alex Ingrams for their tremendous assistance.

SpSSI FORWARD Summer 2011
Dear SPSSI members and friends,

As incoming co-editors of one of SPSSI’s peer reviewed journals, Social Issues and Policy Review (for 2012-2014), we are constantly looking authors for future articles. At this time we ask that you take a moment to think about a favorite, relatively seasoned scholar whose research involves an important social issue (broadly defined). This person could be invited to prepare a broad and balanced review that includes a heavy dose of their own work (which should be fairly extensive) and then discuss policy recommendations that flow from the reviewed research.

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If someone comes to mind (perhaps a colleague, a mentor, guest speaker, or yourself), would you please contact us and include the person’s name, specific topic of his or her research and any contact information you may have available for this person. If you have more than one suggestion, we would be happy to consider them all. Please let us contact these people, so that we can more thoroughly describe to them the two-step process of manuscript submission.

Thank you very much.

Sam Gaertner, Rupert Brown

Report on the Task Force on Two-Tiered Academic Labor

Contingent faculty are college and university faculty who are hired off the tenure track-----lecturers, adjuncts, post docs and graduate students. Their contracts may be full time or part time, but all contracts are contingent. The contingencies include course enrollment, budget, and others. For instance, a contingent faculty member (CFM) who has been hired for a course may end up NOT teaching the course if the course enrollment is too low by some point in the quarter or semester during which the course is offered. Therefore, even if the faculty member was hired a year before the course was to be taught, the course could be cancelled, and the faculty member not paid, if enrollment did not “make.”

At many colleges and universities, a CFM’s course(s) could (all) meet minimum enrollment, but the CFM loses a course (and therefore is not paid for it) if a tenured or tenure-track faculty member’s course does not meet minimum enrollment. That is, the tenured/tenure-track faculty member may “bump” the CFM. Another common contingency is budget. If a university’s budget changes either gradually or very suddenly, a CFM’s course(s) may be cancelled (and the CFM not paid) at the discretion of an administrator who argues that the university’s budget does not support the course(s). CFMs may work in an academic department as their primary, perhaps sole, job, or their university teaching may serve as an adjunct to their work in private industry. CFMs may possess Master’s degrees, Ph.D. degrees, or other higher education degrees. The qualifications and work duties of some CFMs are completely indistinguishable from the qualifications and work duties of their tenure-track_tenured colleagues. Many CFMs possess the terminal degrees (e.g., PhDs.) that their tenured/tenure-track colleagues possess, do research and present and/or publish, and provide service to their universities. However, the working conditions (including salary and job security) of the two groups of faculty are worlds apart. Today, most faculty in higher education are hired into contingent positions.

In my newsletter article of November 2011 I wrote about a large-scale survey of contingent faculty conducted by the Coalition on the Academic Workforce (CAW), a coalition of higher education organizations, faculty organizations, and disciplinary organizations devoted to reporting on the effects that the decline of faculty working conditions has on students, faculty, and society in general. The survey, involving more than 20,000 participants, was conducted in the fall and winter months of 2010. At this point, the CAW is continuing to tabulate the results. I hope to be able to present their results in an upcoming newsletter.

The CAW, which can be found at www.academicworkforce.org, continues to be an excellent resource for those interested in the plight of contingent faculty and the plight of higher education in general. In addition to making information available, the CAW has other stated goals which include: 1) discovering and promoting plans/approaches for addressing the problems that arise from exploiting and misusing people on contingent appointments, and 2) identifying and supporting conditions by which all faculty members can improve their teaching and scholarship, provide excellent service to their students, and nurture their professional careers. The website provides policy statements written by higher education organizations, statistics on contingent faculty, and other information.

Please contact me at gretchen.reevy@csueastbay.edu if you would like to discuss any issue regarding contingent faculty.

Gretchen Reevy
Task Force on Two-Tiered Academic Labor
Once again in Spring of 2011, thanks to the new website orchestrated by Brad Sickels, www.spssi.org/ny, the 400 members of New York SPSSI (SPSSI-NY) were notified of several free and timely activities arranged in concert with other groups, and kindly hosted by local institutions—Fordham, Hunter, Marymount, Touro. To mark 75 years of SPSSI, SPSSI-NY also created a new 30-minute DVD on “Writing a departmental history: Why and how,” which is now available on request to any psychology program interested to document its own history.

• On Feb 4, 8 students visited a law-psychology tour of Bronx Supreme Court, with Officer Tina Perez.
• On Feb 8 at Fordham, 45 people heard a forum on “Healthy cities in the 21st Century, featuring Harold Takooshian, PhD (Fordham), Peter R. Walker, PhD (urban planner), Arline L. Bronzaft, PhD (GrowNY), Rick Sanford (Qualivida), Bruce Berg, PhD (Fordham), Bryan C. Ardouny, JD (Armenian Assembly), Rev. Moses Williams (New Brunswick NJ).
• On Feb 11, 50 students heard a forum on “New Directions in Forensic Psychology, featuring Harold Takooshian, PhD (chair), Robert Emmons, JD (Fordham & Nassau County Courts). Thomas A. Caffrey, PhD (past-President, NYSPA Forensic Division), Eric Neblung, PhD (President, NYSPA Forensic Division), Gabrielle Stutman, PhD, Founder, NYSPA Forensic Division), Rafael Art Javier, PhD, Saint John’s University), Nicholas Tolchin, PhD (Central New York Psychiatric Center), Chriscelyn Tussey, PsyD (Director of Assessment, Bellevue Hospital Center), Lauren E. Kois (NYU & AP-LS).
• On Feb 13, 170 NYC students and professionals visited Touro College for a free screening of the Hollywood film “Defiance,” where Rivka Meir and Zvi Bielski discussed why and how the Bielsky brothers in Poland successfully defied Nazi terror.
• On March 22 at Marymount Manhattan, 30 people heard a lecture on “Russian social psychology today with Alex Voronov, PhD (Moscow), Henry Solomon, PhD (Marymount), Daniela Grafman (Fordham).
• On April 10 at CUNY, SPSSI-NY hosted several 75th anniversary activities with the 300 participants at the 39th Hunter Psychology Conference, including three panels and a “SPSSI@75” birthday cake to cap the day-long activities.
• On May 14 at Pace, over 150 participated in the 19th Pace Undergraduate Psychology Conference.

Thanks to this year’s SPSSI Grant-in-Aid, SPSSI-NY was able to produce a new 40-minute DVD on “Writing your department history: Why and How” to circulate among some of the 92 local departments interested to prepare their own department history. This benefitted from a team of local historians, as well as historians Ludy T. Benjamin (Texas) and David Baker (Ohio).

Looking ahead to fall of 2011, SPSSI-NY plans more historical and other activities, in concert with other local groups. These include the 23rd NY SPSSI conference in November, and the launch of a few panels on “History of Psychology in New York City” starting at St. Francis College on September 22.

The SPSSI-NY Planning Committee for spring of 2011: Sarah J. Benoit (Fordham), Florence L. Denmark (Pace), Dominick Fortugno (Touro), Daniela Grafman (Fordham), Edwin P. Hollander (CUNY), Lauren E. Kois (NYU), Mark E. Mattson (Fordham), Mercedes A. McCormick (Pace), Rivka B. Meir (CUNY), Viany Orozco (Demos.org), Louis Primavera (Touro), Matthew Schottenfeld (Fordham), Henry Solomon (Marymount), Michael Vigorito (Seton Hall), Alexander Y. Voronov (Moscow), Peter R. Walker (CT), Jason R. Young (Hunter).
Updates from SPSSI/Division 9 Representative to APA Council of Representatives

By Wendy Williams
SPSSI/Division 9 Representative to APA Council of Representatives

The APA Council of Representatives (APA COR) is a large, diverse legislative body that has authority to set policy and oversee the APA budget. It is composed of elected members from state/provincial/territorial psychological associations, APA divisions, and the APA Board of Directors. SPSSI, Division 9 of the APA, currently has two elected representatives (out of roughly 160 members) on APA COR. In this article, we provide a brief update of some of APA COR’s recent work, with particular focus on issues and decisions likely to be of greatest interest to SPSSI members.

Budget and Dues. The APA is in sound financial shape and expects to close 2011 with a small operating surplus for the year. The APA’s real estate holdings -- two large buildings in Washington, DC -- and its publications provide significant revenue for the Association. With brighter financial prospects this year, APA COR restored funding for several programs and budget items that had been previously cut. Among the restored funds were monies for APA’s interdivisional grant program and also for CEMRAT grants that are targeted at enhancing ethnic minority recruitment, retention, and training in psychology.

Beginning in 2012, APA full member dues will be DECREASED $40. At the same time, however, previous discounts for dual memberships in other societies or associations will be discontinued. Early career members will still have reduced dues for their first 8 years, but with a few minor modifications to the reduction schedule.

Resolutions and Policies. During the past year, APA COR adopted a Resolution on Affirming Psychologists’ Role in Addressing Global Climate Change, a Resolution on Family Caregivers, and a Resolution on Advocacy for Psychology as a STEM Discipline. It also adopted an updated Resolution on Marriage Equality for Same-Sex Couples. All of these resolutions can be found on the APA homepage. These resolutions are important because they are explicit and public statements about APA priorities and policies, and they also guide the work of APA staff and governance groups.

At its August 2011 meeting and working from its newly adopted strategic plan, APA COR also approved 7 strategic initiatives and allocated $2.1 million in net assets for 2012 to fund them in their first year. Among the initiatives are three likely to be of interest to SPSSI members: 1) expanding the APA public education campaign to include the entire discipline of psychology, 2) promoting opportunities for graduate and professional development to advance psychology in health, including interdisciplinary training, and 3) increasing support for research, training, public education, and interventions that reduce health disparities among underserved/marginalized populations.

Convention Issues. The annual APA convention provides many challenges for the Association, including redundancy in programming which leads to some poorly attended sessions, and a large number of sessions that require meeting rooms that consequently limit the number of cities that can host the convention. In an effort to address these and other concerns, APA COR adopted several changes for the convention beginning in 2014. There will be more funds for high profile speakers and for enhancing poster sessions, a larger and more centralized programming group will be formed to oversee more of the program, and cross-division collaborative programming will increased and incentivized. These changes will be carefully evaluated over a 3-year timeframe.

At the same time, the August 2011 convention in Washington, DC, was very well attended. Midway through the meetings, registration had exceeded 13,000 whereas other recent conventions (in San Diego, Toronto, and also Washington, DC) had topped out in the 8,000 – 11,000 range.

Some readers also will remember problems that emerged at the 2010 convention regarding the use of a hotel whose namesake owner had made a substantial donation supporting a statewide initiative against same-sex marriage (which was legal at the time). As one follow up to this event, we are pleased to report that, working with APA General Counsel, APA governance groups and offices, and representatives from other divisions, SPSSI’s COR representative Allen Omoto and former SPSSI representative Maureen O’Connor helped craft a letter that APA is now sending to the hotels with which it contracts to do business for its annual convention that explicitly articulates APA’s mission and core values. The hope is that this letter will provide a clearer context for raising issues that could come up in the future while also providing advance notice of APA’s expectations for the environments in which it holds meetings. Transitions. Finally, at the end of 2011, Allen Omoto will conclude his second term as one of SPSSI’s representatives to APA COR; he will have served as a representative for 6 years. SPSSI members who are also APA members will be electing a new representative this fall, with this new representative starting in January 2012. Now with a full year of service under her belt, Wendy Williams will continue as a SPSSI representative to APA COR. Importantly, she recently was elected to serve a two-year term as secretary of the influential Public Interest Caucus of APA COR. Wendy will also be assuming duties previously handled by Allen as SPSSI’s representative to the Divisions for Social Justice, a network of divisions that work collaboratively to voice and advance social justice concerns within APA.

If you have questions about the work of APA COR, or have suggestions for initiatives that you would like SPSSI to take on in conjunction with the APA, please contact either Wendy Williams at wendy_williams@berea.edu or Allen Omoto at allen.omoto@cgu.edu.
On behalf of the SPSSI Teaching and Mentoring Committee, congratulations to Peony Fhagen-Smith, the 2011 Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching and Mentoring Award Winner. And congratulations to Mark Pilisuk, at The Saybrook Graduate School and Research Center, for receiving the SPSSI 2011 Outstanding Graduate Teaching and Mentoring Award. For more information about the teaching committee or if you are interested in writing a teaching column for the newsletter, please feel free to contact the chair, Kim Case, at caseki@uhcl.edu.


By Peony Fhagen-Smith, Wheaton College

This essay was written at the end of the first day of classes. Therefore, I am keenly reminded of why I love to teach. The first day of classes always gives me butterflies in my stomach because first days are full of anticipation for me and many students in my courses. The first day is when I have the opportunity to talk about my teaching philosophy and provide an overview of the course. My syllabi include the following teaching philosophy statement:

“You can lead a student to knowledge, but you can’t make him or her learn”. I believe it is important for students to take ownership and build their own knowledge. While I do have expertise in two subareas of psychology, developmental and multicultural, I do not see my role as being the expert. Rather I see myself as a guide, your guide, for building knowledge in _______________ psychology.

I have included this idea in my syllabi for about 6 or 7 years. At the heart of my teaching philosophy are characteristics of accessibility for students and being humble as a professor. I always joke with my students that after about 30 minutes I get tired of hearing my own voice in class and am ready to hear their voices—hear them actively engaging in learning.

On the first day of classes I believe it is important to hook students into the course even before they have read any course material such as the “introductory” chapters of their textbooks. Beyond “hooking” them into the course, I also want these opening exercises to allow as many students as possible to “talk” at the very beginning of the course. Giving students the space to voice their perspective in the first class sends the clear message that my courses will provide them with ample opportunities to practice expressing ideas and engaging in intellectual discussions, and building skills in listening to others. Today in my “Multicultural Psychology” course I asked students to answer the question “Who am I?” ten times. That is, to list 10 characteristics to describe themselves. I then ask each student to read aloud the 10 characteristics they jotted down to answer the exercise question after I call their name when I assess course enrollment. Inevitably about 1/3 of the class includes descriptors based on race, ethnicity, religion, disability, etc. Most of the students who list an aspect of culture as one of their characteristics are students of color. I ask students to think about other patterns they heard in what students had stated about themselves. I take the opportunity to point out that noticing patterns is an important skill for conducting research on psychological phenomena. One student noticed that among his classmates, if culture was mentioned as a characteristic, it usually was mentioned as one of the top three or four characteristics listed. This exercise provides a natural transition to a brief presentation of the Census2010 form in terms of questions related to race and ethnicity. I end the class pointing out that defining ourselves personally must be distinguished from how our society defines us based on preexisting labels such as the labels established on Census2010 by the federal government for political reasons.

Being accessible and humble for me also entails revealing dimensions of my life to students when appropriate. For example, in “Developmental Psychology” I ask students to briefly describe a childhood memory. To begin this activity I describe several memories from my own childhood such as the time I was bitten by a dog at age 5 or swinging on a homemade hammock fastened between two trees and taking long afternoon naps in my hammock during the lazy days of summer. Being able to discuss my own experiences in a comfortable manner helps the many first-years in the course become comfortable with sharing with the class. Many memories entail injuries, misbehavior, or humorous statements made during particular family situations. Much is revealed about child development through these simple childhood memory stories such as the role of emotions in processing and retaining information, the type of activities common to children of a variety of ages, child rearing beliefs, etc. 

...continued on page 14
Finally, creating a space for students to participate on the first day of class gives me an opportunity to understand students’ perspective on a topic and perhaps point out misconceptions. For example in “Adolescent Development” I asked students to tell me the first thing they think of when they think of teenagers. After 10 minutes of many students participating the class has come up with approximately 20 characteristics which I write on the blackboard. I ask students which of the characterizations listed might be stereotypes or generalizations that are inaccurate about adolescence. These include thinking your invincible and engaging in risky behavior. This then leads to a discussion about the characterization of the characterizations; that is, students notice that the descriptors listed on the board are all negative.

One student pointed out that we think of adolescence negatively because it is an age period that involves change and immaturity with much growth needed to reach adulthood. I took this opportunity to point out that childhood could be described in the same way—great change and immaturity—yet if the class did the same exercise, but were asked to name the first thing they think of when they think of childhood, most of the characterizations would be positive. In the last fifteen minutes of class I showed a documentary on adolescence that follows teens over 2 or 3 years documenting their growth through major pubertal changes (for girls 11-13 years and for boys 13-15 years). The documentary is part of a film series with two films, each 50 minutes long: one highlighting development of teenage girls and the other on teenage boys. This film helps students begin to view adolescence more objectively and begin to have a more nuanced understanding of this age period. Seeing these films and conducting the “stereotype” exercise on the first day guides students to the way I want them to be thinking about adolescent development throughout the course.

Being an expert is what I am when I conduct research, speak at conferences, or write journal articles, book chapters, reviews, etc. ; the classroom is where I prefer to free myself of my expert role and become a guide for students’ discovery of new ways of thinking about human development and human behavior. By freeing myself of the expert role in the classroom, I open myself up to learning as much from my students as they learn from me and my courses.
In this respect, recent work by the APA will be helpful to us. In 2009, SPSSI took part in a survey of 56 APA Division Presidents that was funded by an APA Interdivisional Grant program. The survey was intended to collect data that would facilitate the implementation of results from the 2005 Task Force on Enhancing Diversity created by former APA President, Ronald Levant. It was undertaken by five APA Divisions (20, 35, 44, 45, and 48) and SPSSI (Division 9) was one of the XX respondents. A fuller conversation between Task Force Co-Chairs Yolanda Garcia and Julie Levitt about “Diversity – what is it and what does it mean?” is available at http://www.apa.org/about/division/officers/dialogue/2011/03/diversity.aspx as well as a link to the survey. SPSSI’s Diversity Committee will be sifting through the results and (re)examining our own processes in light of the findings. A few strategies for increasing minority representation are quoted from the report, along with percentage of respondents reporting: “bringing minorities into leadership roles (74%), establishing committees made up of minority members and division leadership (37%)”, and “member-initiated changes” influencing “structural change” (55.6%).

In terms of defining diversity, I think it will be very productive for us to think about the intersections and overlaps among identities and the importance of appealing to the multiplicity of identities among current new members. I see this also as a way of building solidarity (or what Cornel West called “principled alliances”) on social issues of common concern. We will be holding the biennial SPSSI conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, in June, 2012 and I will be working on programming with the Diversity Committee to think about intersectionality. My touchstone article by a psychologist on intersectionality is by SPSSI member, Stephanie Shields (Sex Roles, 2008, 59, pp. 301-311/DOI: 10.1007/s11199-008-9501-8). Her lead article in the special issue on intersectionality is situated in the context of feminist theory, however, the range of articles is relevant to other theoretical perspectives as well.

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