A SPSSI Journey

All of my columns as SPSSI President have had action titles: SPSSI on the Move, SPSSI Goes to South Africa, and now A SPSSI Journey from Desegregation to Diversity. This is a reflection of the fact that the action accompanying change and evolution has been the hallmark of SPSSI during my presidency. To paraphrase the inventor and architect Buckminster Fuller, SPSSI seems to be a verb. Our recently concluded and highly successful Fifth Biennial Convention illustrates this dynamism. When I decided that From Desegregation to Diversity would be the convention theme, I wanted to capture the dynamic changes from 1954 to 2004 in SPSSI as an organization, the social and legal policies of the United States, and social science as an excavator of social justice.

SPSSI Goes to the Hill

The Brown v. Board of Education decision of 1954 offers an outstanding example of the SPSSI belief that social science can and should effectively inform social policy. The Social Science Statement entered into evidence and cited in Footnote 11 of the Brown decision was cited as modern authority by the Court and trumped the illegitimate authority of bigoted self-serving racism that rationalized racial segregation in Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896. It is interesting to note that the half-life of major legal decisions about race seems to be roughly half a century (1847 Dred Scott; 1896 Plessy; 1954 Brown; 2003 Michigan). Perhaps we are looking at 2050 for the next big decision on race and diversity.

Continuing the tradition of uniting social science and social policy, SPSSI members and convention goers fanned out to the offices of their senators to let them know about the commitment, availability, and expertise of SPSSI members. The day was organized by the SPSSI Central Office and the APA Public Policy Office and especially highlighted the rationale for moving SPSSI headquarters to Washington. This day was an important first step toward better meeting the SPSSI mission.

We also hosted a reception to honor ourselves and our own in the Rayburn Office Building Foyer. We paid tribute to our past contributors to the creation of racially desegregated society by giving Presidential Citations to Kenneth B. Clark and M. Brewster Smith, both signatories to the Social Science Statement. We also honored our present contributors to making and defending the case for diversity as a compelling interest in higher education by giving citations to Nancy Cantor, who was Provost at the University Michigan during the Gratz and Grutter Supreme Court affirmative action cases, and Pat Gurin, a University of Michigan professor whose research demonstrated to Justice Sandra Day O’Connor’s satisfaction that diversity on campus in classrooms helped to produce better citizens in a multiracial democracy.

Beyond SPSSI, we also recognized the Xerox Corporation and Lucent Technologies for their support of the University of Michigan in an amicus curiae brief, and for their longstanding incorporation of diversity in their business model and corporate philosophy. In addition, we paid tribute to Congressman John Lewis for an outstanding life as an advocate for social justice. He provided decades of civil rights advocacy and leadership as an organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, a cofounder and chair of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), a public servant in Atlanta, Georgia, and now a member of the United States House of Representatives. Although a victim of the brutality of racial apartheid in the South and a product of its segregated schools, much like Nelson Mandela, Congressman Lewis voiced his passionate dedication to social justice in his vision for the Beloved Community. In his brief comments when accepting the citation, he inspired
Diversity Writ Large

Diversity is not only a compelling interest of the state and higher education; it is an essential feature of the human condition. Human diversity is a plus factor for the evolutionary success of the species. It is also, as the convention amply illustrated, an important element of the application of psychological knowledge to social issues. Diversity was a theme not only in the legal journey from Brown to Grutter, but also in the participation of speakers, and the conceptual, empirical, and interventionist approaches reflected in the rich and varied convention program. SPSSI as an organization has carried this banner for nearly 70 years!

One point I made in my presidential address is that problems of social justice are not reducible to a single element or a binary choice. The Jigsaw classroom is a model of the diversity hypothesis; we are stronger by combining perspectives, experiences, and approaches than by going it alone (sounds like advice not heeded by our political leaders). The era that spawned the desegregation movement was a simpler time when racism came calling in the day in the form of the mayor or police chief. We now know that racism calls but leaves no card, rather, more often, only a subtle trace of animus detected only by the specially trained eye or ear. Those blind to its visage or deaf to its sound presume it is not there and declare it is not a problem. If it is not a problem, they conclude, it needs no remedy and thus any efforts to remedy racism are misguided and opposed.

Diversity demands that we understand the multiple levels at which racism operates, and the ways in which it is perpetuated and can be effectively attacked. Methodological, theoretical, and analytical diversity are needed, and the convention illustrated these varied approaches. Tom Pettigrew showed at macro levels how racial progress has been made since Brown, but the racial gap has not narrowed as much as we might think when we examine intragroup progress. One explanation for this slow narrowing of the gap is the persistent and subtle racial bias that Jack Dovidio and Sam Gaertner chronicle in their analysis of aversive racism. To some extent the success of the civil rights movement advanced opportunity just enough to make the role of race somewhat vaguer now than it was 50 years ago, as noted above. This is the spawning ground for aversive racists because they thrive on ambiguity. On the other hand, the targets of aversive racism face identity threats, as Claude Steele’s theory of diverse settings contends. Identity is not only a belief about who you are and its social merits, but a set of contingencies afforded by a given setting from which a multiplicity of possibilities can be derived. Diversity is dynamic over time and space, between actors and observers, and perpetrators and targets. Bringing these levels into consideration as a triangulation strategy is a goal for a diversity analysis.

The SPSSI convention amply reflected diversity in age, sex, country, race and ethnicity, discipline, geographical region, and professional status. But there was also diversity in approaches, venues, and opportunities for exchange. Speak outs, videos, symposia, addresses, roundtables, and mentoring lunches combined to offer a rich palette of possibilities. Michele Wittig and Shari Miles did an incredible job of defining the programs, encouraging submissions consistent with the theme, and conceiving multiple ways to bring issues forward for discussion and exchange. As I have heard from more than one credible source, “This was one of the best conventions ever.”

Exit Stage Left

This is my last column as SPSSI President. Themes of action, change, and progress marked the past year. It has been a wonderful opportunity for me to help organize the activities and events that have occurred during my presidency, and to see up close and
Secretary/Treasurer’s Report

By Daniel Perlman
Secretary/Treasurer

As Secretary-Treasurer, my main responsibilities include membership, budget, and oversight of the Central Office. In this column I will highlight those aspects of SPSSI’s operation as well as the recent Council discussions.

Membership, Budget, and Central Office

As of June 2004, SPSSI had 2,938 members, down slightly from 3,040 at the same time in 2003. In the past few years, membership has fluctuated between 2,700 and 3,000, so I consider the current membership count to be a solid number.

With the fiscal year (July 1, 2003, to June 30, 2004) nearly complete as I prepare this column, my best estimate is that SPSSI will end the year with approximately a $60,000 operating deficit. Assuming this forecast (or something close to it) holds, this will be the first deficit year SPSSI has encountered in at least a decade. Why has this happened and what does it mean for the future?

One might say that SPSSI faced unusual circumstances in 2003–2004. We still experienced a few residual expenses from the renovation of SPSSI’s Central Office building during 2003–2004 and even-ending fiscal years (e.g., 2001–2002, 2003–2004) have traditionally been more expensive for SPSSI than odd-ending years (e.g., 2002–2003) since we have three Council meetings and a convention in even-ending years versus only one Council meeting in odd-ending fiscal years. In contrast to previous stand-alone SPSSI conventions, the 2004 convention lost money. On the revenue side, interest rates are low and we lost some journal income due to the bankruptcy of the company, Rowe.com, that formerly collected journal subscription fees.

On the other hand, in the four years I have been SPSSI’s Secretary-Treasurer, expenses have increased more rapidly than revenues. So the possibility of a deficit has been looming on the horizon for the past couple of years. Fortunately, SPSSI has accumulated resources to readily handle this year’s projected shortfall, but in the longer run it is important that SPSSI have enough ongoing income to cover its ongoing expenses. While keeping an eye on expenditures, SPSSI Council is looking for ways of increasing revenues. For example, this year SPSSI established a Special Initiatives Fund to which several former SPSSI presidents have generously each pledged $5,000.

Under Shari Miles’ dedicated leadership, we have now resolved numerous challenges that the Central Office initially faced after SPSSI’s move to Washington. This spring, Faye Crosby, Shari, and I formed a task force to consider the staffing needs of the SPSSI office. The crux of our proposal, which has been endorsed by SPSSI Council, is to staff the following positions: Executive Director, Administrative Assistant, Database Clerk, Accountant (.2 position), and unpaid Intern, as well as the following services: temporary help and computer consulting as needed and a copyeditor and layout person for the newsletter. In developing this proposal, the task force wanted to ensure that the duties assigned to SPSSI staff can reasonably be achieved within their normal working hours. We hope that this structure will achieve that, bringing stability and an adequate capacity to meet the Society’s demands for the foreseeable future at a cost SPSSI can afford.

Council Meeting Highlights

The Council’s agenda included 52 items, starting with a presentation by SPSSI’s lawyer on the responsibilities and duties of governance officers. Several reports (e.g., from the Courtwatch Committee, the New York Regional Group, several award Committees) were reviewed without further action being taken and thanks were expressed to those responsible for the excellent work being done on SPSSI’s behalf.

Council Governance. One core concern of the Council meeting was SPSSI governance and administration. Council is discussing the way Council itself operates. Over the past few years, the SPSSI Executive Committee has been making more decisions. The present discussion about Council’s operation, which will be continued at the mid-winter meeting, is focused on ways to increase the role of Council members.

Bylaws and Administrative Handbook. Lou Penner is updating the SPSSI bylaws and administrative handbook. Members with suggestions should contact Lou at pennerl@karmanos.org.

Web. On the administrative front, Council voted to establish a Web Master position to help SPSSI manage and enhance the Society’s increasingly important Web site (see the call for candidates in this Newsletter). This past year, 15% of SPSSI members renewed their membership via the web, 40% voted on line, 50% of new members used the Web site to join SPSSI, and 75% of attendees at the Convention registered via the Web. SPSSI believes that using the Web for these functions is efficient and convenient. Keep in mind how easy it will be in the fall to renew your membership that way. Also, keeping SPSSI up-to-date on your e-mail address allows the organization to achieve faster, less expensive means of communication. You can update your e-mail address or member profile information by going to the SPSSI Web page and proceeding to the member login page, http://www.spssi.net/passwordinput.asp. Unless you have changed it, your password is spssimem.

Finances. SPSSI decided to align its fiscal year with the calendar year rather than having a July 1 to June 30 year. This will make expenses more equal in even and odd years, whereas in the past, as noted above, SPSSI had more activities in even-ending years than in odd-ending years. Expecting that the deficit will not actually be that much, Council adopted a budget with $53,000 more approved expense than expected revenue. Funding for theme conferences and research workshops were suspended pending a review of those activities.

Dues. Subject to discussion with members attending the annual SPSSI Business Meeting and final approval, via mailed ballot, of SPSSI officers, Council proposed a dues increase. Despite the new activities in which SPSSI is engaged in Washington, SPSSI has not raised dues in several years. A survey of other...
Out of the Journals and into the Courtroom:  
Practical Theory and Theory in Practice

By Susan T. Fiske  
SPSSI Fellow

So You Want to Be an Expert Witness?
Why would you want to do it? Lots of reasons: You can make research useful, inform the court, right terrible wrongs, and maybe even get rich (temporarily, a little). On the other hand, there are lots of reasons not to do it: It’s incredibly time-consuming, with everything due yesterday, in a truly awful adversarial process.

My own expert-witnessing history includes all of these experiences. In the early 1980s, women’s law attorney Sarah Burns (Stanford social psychology MA, Yale JD) contacted me suggesting the first use of social science in a gender discrimination case. Although we prepared like mad, the case settled the night before trial, so it did not become a formal precedent. But it became an informal precedent, and soon Doug Huron, a committed employment litigator, contacted me for a similar purpose, in Hopkins v. Price Waterhouse, the first case to use gender stereotyping research, and one that went all the way to the Supreme Court and back before the client finally won. Ann Hopkins had broken records for productivity as a partner candidate, but even her supporters found her insufficiently feminine. The judges were not amused and at every level ruled in her favor. This case was followed by Robinson v. Jacksonville Shipyards (workplace pornography creating a hostile environment for women), Gantcher et al. v. United Airlines (experienced flight attendants penalized for their aging appearance), Butler et al. & Frank et al. v. Home Depot (where all the women were cashiers and all the men were in sales), Rapier et al. v Ford (egregious sexual harassment on the assembly line), Cremin et al. v. Merrill Lynch and McCrann et al. v. Smith Barney (egregious sexual harassment in the financial line). These cases each intrigued, challenged, exhausted, and ultimately satisfied me. I recommend the experience, but know what to expect.

How to Get Involved
First, establish expertise. Rely on yourself as a researcher: relevant content knowledge; research articles and reviews; methods background; professional training, research, and reviewing; teaching experience; editorial positions; and professional recognition.

Next, network. Let relevant people know you might be available. Tell other expert witnesses (e.g., Eugene Borgida, Kay Deaux, Louise Fitzgerald, Sam Gaertner, Peter Glick, Barbara Gutek, John Pryor, Theresa Vescio, me, and others). Tell relevant advocacy groups (e.g., American Association of University Women, NOW Legal Defense Fund, Mexican-American LDF). Tell relevant law firms (e.g., Heller & Huron, DC; Outten & Golden, NY; Meites, Mulder, Burger & Mollica, IL; Goldstein, Demchak, Baller, Borgen & Dardarian, CA).

Then, if a case comes your way, decide. You are most likely to be contacted by the plaintiff’s side, the party complaining of discrimination. Choosing cases carefully is critical. Talk to the attorneys, not the plaintiffs; they are too involved to be objective. Verify a reasonable prima facie case, from a lay perspective: Do you believe this person suffered clear-cut discrimination? Check the attorneys’ experience and expertise; how often have they done this before? Ask about the judge’s leanings; does the case have a realistic chance? Consider the timing with regard to your own other obligations. Assess the relevance of the needed expertise to what you actually know. You will be destroyed by the opposition if you try to operate outside your own domain. Above all, take your time; don’t say yes on the phone.

How Does It Work?
If you take the case, be clear about the type of evidence you provide. If you are not a clinician, you cannot provide individual diagnoses. If you are not undertaking to survey the organization (complicated with a lawsuit already underway), you cannot pretend to provide new contract research data. Most often, you would provide social framework analysis (Fiske & Borgida, 1999). Social framework analyses inform fact-finders (judges, juries) by relying on general conclusions from tested, reliable, peer-reviewed data. They assess general (not specific) causation (e.g., pornography generally primes women as sex objects, not as colleagues), and illustrate with examples from the case (pin-ups in the office, incessant sexual harassment).

You will be required to outline known principles: Define terms, cite established findings, describe the nature of relevant biases (e.g., content, subtypes, ambivalence), describe common processes of bias (e.g., denial; subtlety; category use; outgroup homogeneity; biased attributions, attention, memory, evaluations), and describe known moderators of bias (e.g., norms, power, goals, pressure). Then, outline cures for bias, such as accurate, job-relevant information; observer motivation; constructive social context (egalitarian norms, values, accountability, interdependence, accuracy emphasis); and conducive organizational structure (contact conditions, critical mass, pipeline, mentors, incentives, climate).

Next, review the evidence. In a class action suit this can take over your life and your dining room table for months. Review depositions, the oral examination of intended witnesses for both sides. Depositions are transcripts numbering several hundred pages each, an enormously inefficient way to convey information. They may include employee reports of alleged discrimination that will make your academic hair curl: unfair practices, biased patterns, and harmful epithets; hostile climates; bad employer behavior; and arbitrary decision-making processes. Employers will report fair practices, unbiased patterns, and harmless endeavours; hospitable climates; good employer behavior; and congruous decision-making processes; and mitigating factors. Your job is to make sense of all this. You will also have to examine written assessments of applicants and ... continued on page 5
employees; these will be more familiar to research psychologists. We are trained in reliability and validity, examining performance dimensions’ potential bias, predictive validity, and rater samples. Possible telltale signs of bias are appraisal discrepancies for a single employee by different raters, or between otherwise comparable employees of different genders, ages, or ethnicities. All of these can raise potential warning flags. Based on an assessment of the evidence, decide whether, in your expert opinion, it is more likely than not that the plaintiff(s) were objects of discrimination. If not, now is the time to bow out. If so, then document your opinion.

The Report
In writing your report, discuss your expert purview, compose independently of the attorneys, write simply and clearly, minimize academic-speak, give detailed citations, and illustrate from case evidence. When the draft is finished, you can get feedback on style and clarity, but not on the substance of your opinion, or else you are vulnerable to charges of allowing the retaining attorneys to bias you. Your report’s conclusion is your expert opinion. Here’s a sample opinion:

1. Gender stereotyping plays a major role in sex discrimination at XYZ Co.
2. Much of the stereotyping is automatic and not fully conscious at the individual level,
3. but it is socially convenient for individual employees, so they do not examine it.
4. Organizations can control individual stereotyping through proper information and motivation,
5. and organizations can reduce bias by how they structure themselves, but XYZ does not take adequate steps to control these biased individual practices.

The Deposition
Opposing attorneys will read your report with an adversarial lens, of course, and their detailed cross-examination will have hostile intent. Their job is to discover or imply any plausible weaknesses or bias. They will often be vicious and unpleasant, seeking to provoke you. They will impugn your integrity on every possible dimension. They will have their own experts who will advise them how best to undermine you. Although your retaining attorney can object, no judge is present to make the retaining attorneys to bias you. Your report’s conclusion is your expert opinion. Here’s a sample opinion:

1. Gender stereotyping plays a major role in sex discrimination at XYZ Co.
2. Much of the stereotyping is automatic and not fully conscious at the individual level,
3. but it is socially convenient for individual employees, so they do not examine it.
4. Organizations can control individual stereotyping through proper information and motivation,
5. and organizations can reduce bias by how they structure themselves, but XYZ does not take adequate steps to control these biased individual practices.

The opposing experts prepare rebuttal reports. Typical substantive criticisms claim that (a) the lab doesn’t generalize to the real world or (b) individuating information cures all stereotypes, whose effects are allegedly trivial anyway. Typical methodological objections are that the retaining attorneys fed you biased evidence or even your concluding opinion, that you are simply a hired gun who would say anything for a buck, or that you have an ideological ax to grind. They may also confuse social framework analysis with clinical diagnosis or contract research, neither of which you claimed to be doing. The defense (i.e., opposing) experts’ typical evidence is usually comprised of organizational behavior research showing small effects of gender, race, and age on performance appraisals. Sometimes they will have surveyed the organizations’ employees, and sometimes they will simply trot out happy employees of the protected class to show that the plaintiffs’ experience is a personal problem.

Several responses are available. For example, effect sizes are often stronger in the real world than in the lab, according to meta-analyses. Moderator variables change small effects to larger ones. And even small effects can accumulate, with devastating impact. As for attacks on the expert’s opinion itself, one’s proof of independence matters. And social framework analysis has been accepted in many courtrooms.

Trial Testimony
This stage rarely happens; most cases settle. And if the case does get to trial, the attorneys mostly rehash issues raised at deposition. If you survived that, you can survive this. Moreover, at trial, the retaining attorney gets a chance to resurrect you. With luck and skill, your client will win.

Your Compensation
I started by asking why anyone would do this. Only one reason is compensation. Settle that up front, in writing, whether and how much you will be paid. One handy rule is to go pro-bono if the attorneys are pro-bono and paid if the attorneys are pro-bono. For guidance, feel free to ask one of the veterans. We’re happy to share our experiences.

Regardless of pay, you get to learn more about the real-world contexts of your research interests. And you can contribute to your client’s well-being, to legal precedent, to your own research ideas, and of course to the psychological study of social issues.

REFERENCES
A version of this article was presented as a talk in a panel at the meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, January 2004.
Making Inroads on Capitol Hill

Representative Miller's letter read:

Dear Colleague:
I wanted to bring to your attention the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) and the current issue of the Journal of Social Issues, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision. This organization was instrumental in the 1954 Supreme Court decision and has continued to research the issues of diversity and integration in education, as well as other important social issues. The attached letter explains in further detail.

I hope you have the time to read this important research and come to the congressional reception honoring our colleague, Rep. John Lewis, on June 24, 2004.

Sincerely,
George Miller
Senior Democratic Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce

SPSSI Headquarters
Our neighborhood is changing drastically. The cover page of the Saturday, June 13, Washington Post focused on the neighborhood revitalization that is underway. The first two buildings of the Securities and Exchange Commission Complex (our neighbor to the south) are set to open in the fall. The Children's Museum and Charter School across the street from our office is moving and a developer has already signed on to convert the historic structure that is part of the museum into luxury condominiums. Plans are to raze the two newer wings of the museum and replace them with structures architecturally compatible with the historic building.

Outreach and Public Policy
In mid-May, we wrote to each senator on the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and each representative on the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce. Accompanying this letter were the most recent JSI, commemorating the Brown decision, and the 2004 Convention Preliminary Program. The letter contained a brief introduction to SPSSI, a brief description of the research in the JSI, and an invitation to the Social Justice Congressional Reception and our Biennial Convention. The letter was sent under a “Dear Colleague” letter from Representative George Miller (CA) endorsing the journal. We worked in conjunction with his staff in the Minority Office for the Committee on Education and the Workforce; therefore, I made several trips to the House office buildings.

We will continue to use JSI and ASAP to further our public policy agenda. I will follow up the dissemination of the Brown issue with meetings with congressional staff, and I will use a similar system of identifying a congressperson to endorse the current issue on “Arab-Jewish Co-existence Programs” and send it to members on the Senate Committee on International Relations and the House Committee on International Relations and Select Committee on Homeland Security.

I mentioned in a previous article that I have been in regular contact with the South African Health Minister Nobayeni Dladla. I called her to offer congratulations on the 10th anniversary of the end of apartheid and she inquired about the SPSSI delegation’s experience in her country. President Jones prepared a journal based on the dairies of delegation members that I was only too pleased to send to her. She found it very interesting, commenting specifically on the variety of connections we made while there (see Dr. Jones’ article in the April 2004 newsletter) and the different perspectives integrated in the report. I also mentioned that we would be holding a symposium on “From Apartheid to Diversity” during the biennial convention after we’d had a chance to process our experiences and would probably generate recommendations about future directions and activities. She expressed great interest in the symposium and would like to host a meeting to discuss next steps with SPSSI reps/delegation members and Ambassador Barbara Masekela in September or October. I look forward to sharing in this column the outcome of that meeting.
The SPSSI Scholar Experience: Using Psychological Research to Inform Social Policy

By Diane L. Elmore
James Marshall Public Policy Scholar

As I write my final newsletter article as the SPSSI James Marshall Public Policy Scholar, I look back upon my experience with a great deal of satisfaction and gratitude. I have always believed in the extraordinary contributions that our discipline has to offer in the public policy arena, yet had no training or experience in this area. Through the fellowship I learned the skills necessary to translate psychological research and clinical knowledge into information useful for policymakers. I am extremely grateful to SPSSI for supporting this extraordinary opportunity that has significantly enhanced my identity as a psychologist.

Over the past two years I have worked on a variety of exciting policy endeavors. A summary of some of the highlights of my experience is presented below.

Contributions to Legislation
Among the most rewarding activities of my fellowship has been the opportunity to use psychological research to directly impact legislation. Below are some examples of the legislation that I worked on during my tenure.

- **The Positive Aging Act** was originally introduced in 2003 by Representative Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) and Senator John Breaux (D-LA). Following the announcement of Senator Breaux’s retirement, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) received the bill and introduced an updated version with cosponsor Patrick Kennedy in June 2004. This legislation would enhance access to vital mental health services for older Americans through mental health outreach to primary care and community-based settings. I have worked closely with the congressional cosponsors, as well as with members of the National Mental Health and Aging Coalition, to ensure that the contributions of psychological research and practice are recognized in this legislation.

- **The Elder Justice Act** was introduced in 2003 by Senator Breaux and Representative Rahm Emanuel (D-IL). This legislation would ensure that critical attention is devoted to addressing elder abuse, comparable to that for other forms of abuse, such as violence against women and child abuse. I have worked individually and as a member of the Elder Justice Coalition to support this legislation and ensure that psychologists are eligible for the grants allocated by the Act.

- **The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, The Hate Crime Bill** was introduced in May 2003 by Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) and in April 2004 by Representative John Conyers (D-MI). This legislation would add to the current law protections for crime victims who are targeted based on sexual orientation, disability, and gender. I have been working in support of this legislation individually and as a member of the National Hate Crime Coalition by disseminating important psychological research related to hate crime.

- **The Expanding Research for Women in Trauma Act of 2003** was introduced by Senator John Edwards (D-NC) in October 2003. This legislation would increase research related to psychological causes of violence against women and the socioeconomic and sociocultural correlates of violence, and would develop quantifiable measures to evaluate treatment programs for survivors and perpetrators. I have supported this legislation by contributing to the original legislative language and sharing relevant psychological research.

Congressional Briefing

- **Never Too Late To Heal: Positive Aging and the Aftermath of Trauma.** In June 2004, I hosted a joint SPSSI/APA briefing on older adults and trauma. This event highlighted the research of a distinguished group of scientists, including Dr. Martha Crowther (University of Alabama, Birmingham), who discussed the normative aging process; Dr. Mary Armsworth (University of Houston), who focused on the long-term consequences of child abuse on survivors as they age; and Dr. Joan Cook (University of Pennsylvania/Philadelphia VA), who discussed the psychological impact of war on... continued on page 15
Pride and Prejudice: Gay Marriage

By Linda Garnets, Ph.D.
Past SPSSI Council Member

The lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) rights movement has stimulated a sea change in the United States. The decision by the Hawaii Supreme Court in 1993 that laws banning same-sex marriages are a manifestation of gender discrimination, the enactment by Vermont of a “civil union” that is equal to heterosexual marriage, the legalization of civil marriage in Massachusetts, and the emergence of gay and lesbian parenthood as a mainstream phenomenon have potentially altered the relationship of same-gender couples with the broader institutions of society. As a result, a major national policy change is taking place that will have a long-lasting effect on ending second-class status, stigma, and discrimination against LGBs.

According to the General Accounting Office, civil marriage carries more than 1,049 automatic federal and additional state protections, benefits, and responsibilities. It endows couples and their children with both real and symbolic citizenship rights at the highest level. A recent study of same-sex couples in Massachusetts (Ash, et al., 2004) found that allowing same-sex couples to marry would improve the economic stability and well-being of thousands of families and more than 8,000 children in the Commonwealth.

In response to these gains, a campaign has been mounted on the state and national levels aimed at enacting laws to maintain the status quo of marriage as an exclusive right of heterosexual couples (Hull, 2001). Thirty-eight states have passed legislation or constitutional amendments restricting marriage to heterosexual couples. In 1996, the U.S. Congress passed the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), designed to prevent any marriage in this country as being between one man and one woman. Depending on the final wording, the amendment might also put a stop not solely to gay marriage but to all diversification of partnership and household recognition.

On February 24, 2004, President Bush announced his support for a constitutional amendment to protect marriage. The Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA) would amend the U.S. Constitution to permanently define marriage in this country as being between one man and one woman. Depending on the final wording, the amendment might also put a stop not solely to gay marriage but to all diversification of partnership and household recognition.

Nothing prepared me for the power and beauty of my own personal gay marriage moment last March in San Francisco. My partner and I have been together for 24 years. When Mayor Gavin Newsome started issuing marriage licenses in San Francisco, we connected with our closest lesbian friendship circle – three other couples – and planned a group experience. State Senator Sheila Kuehl agreed to officiate. We chose International Women’s Day, March 8th. Two other couples joined in, friends from the Bay Area. Our group counted 106 combined years together in our 6 relationships. For most of us this was primarily a way to combine political protest and a personal statement. Each couple in turn recited its own vows, surrounded by family and friends. We faced each other and repeated those so-familiar phrases about “sickness and health, richer and poorer…” and Sheila ended with “I now pronounce you…MARRIED!” to roars of applause. Three days later, San Francisco was ordered to stop issuing licenses. Now, we wait in legal limbo, along with 4,000 other same-sex couples in California, for our state supreme court to decide if these marriages will be valid or voided.

REFERENCES
Russell, G. M. (2004) reviewed available research on the impact of same-sex marriage referenda on community and individual well-being. She found that anti-same-sex marriage referenda and legislation create sharp divisions in communities, including increases in prejudice, stereotypes, and hostile rhetoric. The psychological impact on some members of the LGB community included depression, anger, and anxiety. Putting such civil rights to a vote has tangible social and psychological costs.

On the other hand, research has found adverse psychological and social consequences for statewide efforts to ban marriage. Russell (2004) reviewed available research on the impact of same-sex marriage referenda on community and individual well-being. She found that anti-same-sex marriage referenda and legislation create sharp divisions in communities, including increases in prejudice, stereotypes, and hostile rhetoric. The psychological impact on some members of the LGB community included depression, anger, and anxiety. Putting such civil rights to a vote has tangible social and psychological costs.

Link to DOMA
Link to FMA
http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/C/108/R:temp=/r-108bG20MB
Nominations Invited for New SPSSI Web Master Position

SPSSI invites nominations, including self-nominations, for the newly approved position of the SPSSI Web Master. Nominations/applications should be submitted to Dan Perlman, d.Perlman@ubc.ca, on or before September 30, 2004. The Web Master will be the "go to" person in charge of the SPSSI Web site. The Web Master will maintain the site with assistance from SPSSI's database clerk and consultants as needed for specialized tasks. Not only does the SPSSI Web site provide visitors with information, but it also is increasingly central in SPSSI's administrative functioning (e.g., membership renewals, convention registration, grant processing, etc.). The Web Master will need skills in Web site operation, ideally including an interest in web design and web interfacing with databases. The Web Master's role can be performed from anywhere, so the Web Master need not be located in Washington, DC. He or she will be charged with making the site the best possible. This will involve ensuring that the site has an attractive, consistent look; that it is user-friendly; that changes can be made efficiently; and that the url comes up very early in SPSSI-relevant searches via such search engines as Google. Stimulating and wisely selecting new content and administrative functions is crucial to the site's success. Thus, part of the Web Master's task will be to bring on new materials, ensuring their integration into the site. She or he will also ensure that the existing content of the site is continually kept up-to-date. There may periodically be programming or design tasks beyond the scope of the Web Master's position. The Web Master should be able to liaise with SPSSI's Executive Director and/or governance group and have the capacity to play an important role in contracting out work. This might involve specifying what work needs to be done, getting cost estimates, seeing that work is properly done, etc. The Web Master will recommend to SPSSI Council enhancements of the Web site and provide information (e.g., usage data) to assist Council in assessing its success. Finally, the Web Master will be asked to form an advisory group and make semi-annual reports to SPSSI Council. It is hoped that this job can be performed within a few hours a week. SPSSI will provide a small honorarium ($4,000) for the Web Master, and modest operating costs ($2,500) for a work study assistant and/or software. Interested applicants should provide a résumé, names of references, and an indication of where samples of their Web work can be found. This position is open to students as well as professional members of SPSSI.
Journal of Social Issues is Number 1!

By Irene Hanson Frieze
Journal of Social Issues Editor, 2001-2005

Journal citations. An issue we all need to be concerned about is how other social scientists make use of our journals. One of the major rating systems is done by the Social Sciences Citation Index. It is based on how much others cite the articles published in a particular journal. See http://www.isinet.com/products/citation/ssci/index.html for more information on this. The Journal of Social Issues is now rated as #1 in the category of Social Issues. Scholars are making good use of the journal. In 2003, JSI articles received a total of 1940 citations, with an impact factor of 2.361. The cited “half life” was greater than 10 years. Our impact factor has been moving in a strong positive direction. In 1999, the impact factor was 0.667, a rise of over 300% in a few years.

For comparison purposes, I checked the SSCI listings of Social Psychology journals. Our impact rating is higher than nearly all of them. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology is higher at 3.862, but this is one of the very few social psychology journals with a higher impact factor in 2003. I am personally very proud of this tangible evidence of the importance of our journal.

Finishing up my term. My term as Editor extends through 2005. The new editor has been selected. He is Rick Hoyle from the Department of Psychology at Duke University. The new Editor will begin publishing in 2006. Rick is working now to appoint his Editorial Board so that he can begin to work with new proposals and take over on the issues that will be published during his term. Once he is ready to do this, we will announce this on the JSI website at http://www.spssi.org/hsi.html.

Status of JSI Issues

* Projected Issues for the remainder of 2004 and later.
  2. The maternal wall. Monica Biernat, Faye Crosby and Joan Williams.
  3. The implications of current reproductive technologies for women’s health and well-being. Linda Beckman and S. Marie Harvey.
  5. Religion as a meaning system. Israela Silberman.
  8. International perspectives on homelessness. Paul A. Toro

By Rhoda Unger
ASAP Editor

Some Good Summer Reading in ASAP

Summer is a good time to catch up on the professional reading you “don’t have to do.” What I mean by this is that there are a number of interesting articles in the current issue of ASAP (Volume 4) that are varied enough so that at least one will not be an area in which you do research. They are all, however, well written and you may find them useful for your own professional development or as potential sources for class assignments. Since ASAP is easily accessed electronically at most universities, one does not have to worry about course packs, copyright permissions, etc.

What are some of these articles? At present we have two point/counterpoint features running concurrently. Several counterpoints to the article on same-sex marriage have been published recently and there a few more in the works. We are beginning to receive counterpoint articles on the piece on racial equity in higher education, but there is still time to send us one of your own. These features are lively and particularly useful for introducing students to a variety of viewpoints on a particular topic.

We have also published or are about to publish a number of “regular” articles on a diverse set of issues involving public policy. The most recent articles are on the plight of low-wage single-mother families during this jobless economic recovery; the effect of alcohol-promotional clothing on the alcohol consumption of university students; psychological factors associated with opposition to the legitimacy of hate crime laws; and an examination of environmentally positive responses to watershed pollution. The issue also includes several reviews of books that should be of interest to SPSSI members.

Of course, you are welcome to look at the articles in the three earlier volumes of ASAP. APA has just begun to cite articles in ASAP as part of its Info-Seek database so you can look up interesting papers you may have missed. As usual, I welcome your feedback about point/counterpoint features as well as your volunteering to do reviews. As the journal has become well known, the need for reviewers has also become more urgent. Locating reviewers is particularly difficult because of the diverse content of articles in the journal. As usual, you can contact me at asap@spssi.org and I usually reply to e-mail promptly.
Greetings SPSSI Graduate Student Members!

We are delighted to bring you another edition of our student newsletter. We have just returned from the 2004 SPSSI Biennial Convention in Washington, DC, and are excited by the energy generated by graduate students during our many activities. We encourage you to continue your involvement in SPSSI by taking advantage of the funding opportunities available to graduate students and utilizing our new listserv to share thoughts and/or concerns about social issues.

SPSSI GSC Elections

With a very close race, the final results of the GSC elections are available. We thank those who participated in the election. Your new GSC members are as follows:

Chair-Elect: Jamie L. Franco
Jamie is a third year graduate student in social psychology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She has worked as an advocate for survivors of domestic violence and as a GLBTI youth educator.

Member-at-Large: Betsy Levy Paluck
Betsy is a fourth year doctoral candidate in social psychology at Yale University. She has worked on implementing anti-bias programs in the media, school, and at the community-level.

Member-at-Large: Teresa Robbins
Teresa is a fifth year doctoral candidate in the applied social psychology program at Claremont Graduate University. She has worked on research that examines the influence of ethnic identity development on coping and academic success.

If you would like to submit a brief report, comment, or have your research featured in our spotlight section, please e-mail Michelle Kaufman, newsletter editor at Michelle.Kaufman@uconn.edu.
SPSSI Graduate Student Preconference. This year’s student preconference took place on June 24th and consisted of three panels.

The first panel Balancing acts: How to be successful as a young academic consisted of Valerie Purdie, Department of Psychology, Yale University; Linda Tropp, Department of Psychology, Boston College; Rodolfo Mendoza-Denton, Department of Psychology, University of California, Berkeley; and Jack Glaser, Department of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley. All of the faculty are Assistant Professors, and they discussed the variety of balancing acts they engage in involving their work, mentoring students, and their social lives and family.

Three individuals working in D.C. made up the second panel Social science as a means of social activism: Public policy and applied research. Dr. Diane Elmore, the SPSSI James Marshall Public Policy Scholar in the office of Public Policy at the American Psychological Association, spoke about translating social science research into forms that policy makers can use to back public policy initiatives. Dr. Jonathan C. Miles, an Executive Branch Research Policy Fellow for the Society for Research in Child Development, spoke about how working on Head Start research at the Administration for Children and Families in the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation capitalizes on his research training. Finally, Margery Austin Turner, Director of the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Center at the Urban Institute, discussed how research conducted by social scientists at think tanks can help to change the terms of political debates.

The third panel, Working with(in) your community: Conducting Lewin full-cycle research as a graduate student, was composed of four PhD graduate students who discussed how and why they got involved doing research in their communities. Ann Rivera, a 4th year student in Community Psychology at NYU, discussed her research with community-based organizations and advocacy groups promoting youth development in New York City. Jamie L. Franco, a 3rd year student in Social Psychology at the University of California, Santa Cruz spoke about her ethnographic research as an advocate for women experiencing domestic violence. Yasser A. Payne, a 5th year student in the Social-Personality Psychology program at the City University of New York Graduate Center discussed his research on examining street life-oriented Black men’s attitudes toward their economic and educational opportunities using a participatory action research methodological frame. Wendy R. Williams, a 5th year student in Social Psychology at the University of California, Santa Cruz, discussed her consulting work with a community group of mental health consumers who are attempting to build a peer-supported low-income housing facility for adults with psychiatric disabilities.

The student committee would like to thank all of the panelists for their great insights and for taking the time to be a part of the SPSSI student preconference. We would also like to thank all of the students who attended the preconference and to encourage them to continue to be involved in SPSSI and the planning of the next student preconference at the SPSSI convention in 2006 in Long Beach, California.

We thank Wendy R. Williams, 2003-2004 GSC Chair, for organizing, recruiting speakers, and managing the student preconference.

Convention Volunteers (By Jamie L. Franco). For the 2004 convention, the GSC recruited twelve graduate students to volunteer their time in lieu of registration. What did we do? Volunteers were responsible for registering conference attendees, setting up sites, and running errands. While I must admit it was time consuming (8 hours), the benefits outweighed the costs. I feel fortunate to have met graduate students and professionals I might not have had the opportunity to meet throughout the conference, making the volunteer experience very worthwhile. So, my recommendation: sign up for the graduate student listserv and answer the call to volunteer during the next SPSSI conference!

Many thanks to the volunteers: Rebecca Anderson, Jamie Franco, Jeffrey Goodman, Wendy Limbert, Sarah Lust, Allecia Reid, Ann Rivera, Patricia Ruiz-Navarro, Michelle Tichy-Reese, Maggie Thomas and Katie Van Allen.

Congressional Hill Training. On June 24, approximately fifty SPSSI members took part in SPSSI’s Congressional Hill Training program. Graduate students and psychologists learned about the importance and practice of influencing the legislative process from enthusiastic and knowledgeable SPSSI/APA Washington staff and ended the day with a lobbying visit to their state senator. Diane Elmore, SPSSI’s James Marshall Public Policy Scholar, opened the training with a presentation discussing why and how researchers should bring their policy-relevant knowledge and empirical findings to the attention of lawmakers. Elmore described a multi-level grassroots approach, in which researchers can advocate for issues such as diversity policies and education reforms at the community, state, and federal level. Participants then prepared for advocacy at the federal level by discussing one of two issues that are currently on the SPSSI policy agenda: including behavioral sciences, in addition to medical sciences, in the allocation of monies in the Daschle-Kennedy bill to study the reduction of health disparities and the politics of the peer review of science.

To prepare for this visit, experienced lobbyist and APA staff member Lori Valencia-Greene reviewed the two topics, which are of current interest because of bills recently proposed in the Senate. Valencia-Greene recounted past instances in which individual researchers were able to make a difference by visiting their representatives with their concerns. These stories underlined the fact...
that researchers have power not only as topic experts but also as constituents. For this reason, trainees broke out into small groups according to their home state, in which they chose and prepared to discuss one issue with their own State representative.

Following these excellent preparations, the small groups made their way to the Senate offices, including the offices of Hillary Rodham Clinton, Dianne Feinstein, and Christopher Dodd. For an electronic copy of the advocacy training materials, please contact SPSSI’s central office at spssi@spssi.org. We would like to thank Shari Miles, Diane Elmore, Lori Valencia-Greene, and associated SPSSI staff for a rewarding and educational experience.

**Mentor Lunch.** Continuing the tradition of previous conferences, the 2004 SPSSI convention included a mentor lunch. The mentor lunch provided an opportunity for students and SPSSI scholars to discuss research and social issues. Students and faculty alike enjoyed the lunch, and it was a huge success. Special thanks to our mentors: Faye Crosby, Geoff Maruyama, Stacey Sinclair, Jack Glaser, Beth Shinn, Bernice Lott, Julie Christian, Marcus Kemmelmeier, Louis Penner, Lisa Brown, Sabrina Zirkel, Linda Tropp, Shana Levin, Ann Anderson, Pete Walker and Roger Anderson.

**Conference Reporters.** Four graduate students and four junior faculty were selected to serve as conference reporters. They were responsible for attending one of the conference threads (Peace, Poverty, Prejudice, International, Health, and Diversity). The reporters for each thread met with incoming SPSSI President Kay Deaux to collectively summarize the findings presented at the conference and presented those findings in the Synthesis Session on June 27.

Many thanks to the reporters: Marcella Boynton, Roberta Downing, Michael Giang, Jack Glaser, Sheri Levy, Rudy Mendoza-Denton, Betsy Paluck, and Tiffany Yip.

**Travel Awards**

We are pleased to announce the winners of the student travel awards for the 2004 SPSSI Biennial Convention in Washington, DC. Posters/symposia abstracts were blind reviewed by three graduate students then ranked. All winners received a $150 award. Congratulations!

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<td>Germine Awad</td>
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<td>Karen Chen</td>
<td>University of Michigan</td>
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<td>Omar Contreras</td>
<td>Claremont Graduate University</td>
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<td>Chris Coryn</td>
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<td>Shelagh Dunn</td>
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<td>I-Ching Lee</td>
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We thank Antoinette Semenya, Demis Glasford, and Michael Peng for reviewing the applications.

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**Spotlight on Student Research: Roberta A. Downing**

Roberta Downing graduated in June with her Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of California, Santa Cruz. As a recipient of the APA Congressional Fellowship, next year Roberta will be working on Capitol Hill.

**Could you briefly describe your current line of research?**

My research investigates racist and classist discrimination against poor women in health care. In particular, I’m interested in documenting how the stigma associated with poor women’s childbearing impacts the reproductive care they receive. I’m also interested in how attitudes towards the poor and perceptions of health disparities impact support for universal health care.

**How did you become interested in this topic?**

My interest in this topic stems from the four years I spent working in the AIDS community in Los Angeles County. Working in poor neighborhoods, I continually witnessed and heard about the negative treatment various coworkers, clients, and others experienced in the health care system and how this treatment impacted their health outcomes (especially when dealing with a deadly disease like HIV). Many of these negative experiences were rooted in the sexist, racist, classist, and homophobic attitudes of health professionals, as well as institutional inequality in the health care system. These experiences continue to drive my motivation to address inequality and make visible the lives of poor people.

**Any advice you would give to other graduate students interested in getting involved with this line of research or applied research in general?**

I would recommend that graduate students work at nonprofit organizations or volunteer. That’s one of the best ways to learn about social issues, by spending time in poor neighborhoods and learning about the lives of those who live there. If someone’s particularly interested in health disparities, I would suggest volunteering at a health-related organization (e.g., a free clinic or an AIDS organization).

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

I think my research can have important implications for psychology, policy, and social issues. Firstly, poverty is understudied in psychology. More of us need to dedicate ourselves to studying issues of poverty and social class. I think this research also has important implications for policy. Much research on health disparities these days focuses on ethnic disparities in health care. This is very important. However, we need to expand our analysis to address how intersections of gender, ethnicity, and social class differentially impact the care people receive. It’s also important to address the lives of poor women in particular, as they are subject to so many restrictive, punitive policies (e.g., welfare policy) that make their already difficult lives harder.

Hopefully, the more we make poverty visible by documenting the lives of the poor, the more our policies might address their needs more fully. I also think this research has important implications for the training of health care professionals.
SPSSI Diversity Task Force
During this year’s conference, the Diversity Task Force held an impromptu meeting with SPSSI members. While the meeting was structured more as a ‘meet and greet’ event, task force committee members requested that attendees formally share their ideas. The task force chairs, Allen Omoto and Pam Reid, gathered the names and contact information of attendees and requested that attendees submit their ideas to recruit diverse members and to enhance diversity within SPSSI. Please contact Allen Omoto (allen.omoto@cgwu.edu) or Pamela Reid (pamreid@umich.edu) for more information.

Join the SPSSI Student Listserv!
As a SPSSI graduate student member, we encourage you to join our electronic discussion list. Participants, both SPSSI members and non-members, generate discussion and debate about social issues, use the list as a resource for making connections or finding resources, and post announcements of opportunities and events.
To subscribe to the list only, send a blank email to: spssigsc-subscribe@yahoogroups.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!
To post, participants send a message to spssigsc@yahoogroups.com and the message will be distributed via e-mail to everyone on the list.
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).

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

Contact Information
2004-2005
SPSSI Graduate Student Committee

- **CHAIR:**
  Lori A. J. Scott-Sheldon
  Center for Health/HIV Intervention and Prevention University of Connecticut
  2006 Hillside Road, Unit 1248
  Storrs, CT 06269-1248
  lori.scott-sheldon@uconn.edu

- **CHAIR-ELECT:**
  Jamie L. Franco
  Department of Psychology
  Social Sciences II,
  University of California
  Santa Cruz, CA 95064
  jfranco@ucsc.edu

- **MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:**
  Demis E. Glasford
  University of Connecticut
  Department of Psychology
  406 Babbidge Road, Unit 1020
  Storrs CT, 06269-1248
  demisg@hotmail.com

  Betsy Levy Paluck
  Department of Psychology
  Yale University
  P.O. Box 208205
  New Haven, CT 06520
  elizabeth.paluck@yale.edu

  Teresa Robbins
  Claremont Graduate University
  School of Behavioral and Organizational Sciences
  123 E. Eighth Street
  Claremont, CA 91711
  teresa.robbins@cgwu.edu

- **NEWSLETTER/WEB EDITOR:**
  Michelle Kaufman
  Center for Health/HIV Intervention and Prevention, University of Connecticut
  2006 Hillside Road, Unit 1248
  Storrs, CT 06269-1248
  michelle.kaufman@uconn.edu

SPSSI Central Office
208 Eye Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4340
Phone: 202/675-6956; Fax: 202/675-6902
E-mail: spssi@spssi.org
Web: www.spssi.org
Rick Hoyle Selected as Editor-Elect of Journal of Social Issues

By Victoria Esses
Publication Committee Chair

We are pleased to announce that Rick Hoyle of Duke University has been selected as Editor-Elect of SPSSI’s flagship journal, Journal of Social Issues. He has begun soliciting and reviewing new proposals for issues, and his masthead will run from 2006 to 2009.

Dr. Hoyle received a Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1988, served on the faculty of the University of Kentucky for a number of years, and joined the Center for Child and Family Policy at Duke University as a Senior Research Scholar in 2003.

His previous editorial experience includes terms as Associate Editor of Journal of Personality and as Associate Editor of the Interpersonal Relations and Group Processes section of Journal of Personality and Social Psychology. Dr. Hoyle has also served on the editorial boards of Personality and Social Psychology Review, Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, and Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology.

Dr. Hoyle’s current research interests include the bases and functions of self-esteem, media-based anti-drug prevention interventions, and the statistical power of tests of mediated and moderated effects. He has written or edited four books, including the SPSSI-sponsored Research Methods in Social Relations (7th ed), with three additional books forthcoming. Dr. Hoyle is also the author of more than 50 journal articles and book chapters.

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Gift memberships are a great way to bring in new members. If you know someone who would be interested in SPSSI, give him or her a gift membership. Once new members are introduced to SPSSI, they may continue and become active members. This is a great investment in SPSSI’s future.

Students and qualified, interested people in other countries (particularly developing countries, and countries where the exchange rate makes subscriptions prohibitive) especially appreciate gift memberships. Each gift membership is $25. Five or more memberships given at one time are $20 each.

Contact Central Office for more information.

ASAP Editor, 2006-2009 Call for Nominations

By Victoria Esses
Publication Committee Chair

Nominations are now being accepted for the next Editor of Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy (ASAP). The Editor-Elect will begin his/her term in July 2005, with the first articles of his/her term to be published early in 2006.

ASAP is an electronic journal sponsored by SPSSI and published by Blackwell Publishers. It is an outlet for timely and innovative psychological and related social science scholarship with implications for social action and policy. By encouraging timely publication of well-written peer-reviewed work, it aims to facilitate communication between social science researchers and policymakers as well as with the public as a whole. Articles are published electronically as soon as they are accepted for publication and, at the end of each year, a print version is made available to all institutions that subscribe to SPSSI journals. For more information about the journal and its operations, please see www.asap-spssi.org/.

The Editor will need scientific, editorial, interpersonal, and organizational skills, and should have a broad range of interests in the area. He/she will work with authors, reviewers, and an editorial board to review submissions; work with SPSSI, Blackwell, and the media to ensure the visibility of the journal and articles; and attend some SPSSI Council meetings and prepare editorial reports.

Please direct nominations and materials for the Editor-Elect position to:

SPSSI
208 Eye Street, N.E.
Washington DC 20002-4340

spssi@spssi.org.
Self-nominations are welcome. First review of the nominations will begin November 1, 2004. Those candidates agreeing to stand for consideration will be asked to submit a copy of their vitae, an indication of their previous editorial experience, and a statement of their views on the direction and operation of the journal.
In spring of 2004, our SPSSI New York regional group offered six gatherings for SPSSI members and their guests.

1. On March 9, the press and broadcast media joined 100 people for the public forum "Remembering Kitty Genovese 40 years later," where 8 panelists discussed the 1964 tragedy and its aftermath: Darren Bedrosian (Fordham University), Jim Rasenberger (journalist), Charles E. Skoller, Esq., (Queens County DA's Office, ret.), Harold Takooshian (Fordham), John J. Cecero, SJ (Fordham), Joyce Stephen (Commander, NYPD Community Affairs), Andrew Karmen (John Jay College), Lynn Chancer (Fordham), and Curtis Sliwa (Founder, Guardian Angels). In addition, retired NY Times Editor A.M. Rosenthal spoke on why he authored his classic book, 38 witnesses (1965). A videotape of this public forum is now available; contact me for more information.

2. On March 22, 50 people attended the symposium on "Social distress today: Theory, research, practice," featuring 7 panelists: Joseph RoccoSalvo (Fordham) and Robert W. Rieber (journal editor) on social distress; Rafael Art. Javier (Saint John's), on psychotherapy; Meredith G. Hanson (Fordham) on social work; Harold Takooshian (Fordham) on social psychology; Anie Kalayjian (United Nations) on disaster/trauma; and Jeffrey Grunberg (Grand Central NSS Corp.) on homelessness.

3. On April 1, 120 students and colleagues attended a gala reception and symposium hosted by Pace University, where 22 UN representatives from SPSSI and 7 other groups spoke on "Psychologists @ the United Nations," chaired by Professors Herbert H. Krauss and Richard S. Velayo.

4. On April 17, 35 people participated in the workshop at Fordham University on "Neuropsychology: Trauma assessment, treatment, outcome," chaired by Rolland S. Parker of NYU Medical Center.

5. On April 24, SPSSI-NY presenters were among 200 participants in the 32nd Hunter Psychology Conference, coordinated by Professor Jason R. Young and his student researchers.

6. On May 5, 50 people attended the symposium on "Reconciliation through democracy" featuring Anie Kalayjian (UN), Murat Paker (SafeHorizon/Solace), Emrah Güker (Columbia University), and Aleksander S. Manasyan (Yerevan State University).

The spring SPSSI-NY committee that planned these diverse activities was comprised of Darren Bedrosian, Anie Kalayjian, Herbert H. Krauss, Rolland S. Parker, Jim Rasenberger, Joseph RoccoSalvo, Harold Takooshian, Richard S. Velayo, and Jason R. Young.

Those who want advance notice of future SPSSI-NY activities should be sure to send their e-address to takoosh@aol.com. Anyone interested in joining the planning committee can phone for details, 212/636-6393.

Why don’t you . . .

- Write a letter to the editor
- Volunteer for your favorite presidential candidate
- Start a SPSSI regional group
- Donate to a charity
- Volunteer one day at SPSSI headquarters
- Plant a tree in your neighborhood
- Meet with your national elected officials in their district offices.
The United Nations, Gender, and HIV/AIDS

By Farra Kahalnik
SPSSI Central Office

Earlier this year, I had the privilege of attending the 48th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women as a representative of SPSSI.

I was inspired by the large number of women who traveled from many parts of the world to discuss resolutions for common problems. One session that I found particularly informative was “HIV/AIDS Pandemic in Africa – Intergenerational Spread of the HIV/AIDS Virus,” sponsored by the Anglican Consultative Council. The women on the panel, representing a number of African countries, made the link between HIV/AIDS and gender inequality in Africa shockingly clear: In sub-Saharan Africa, 57% of adults with HIV are women and young women aged 15 to 24 are more than three times as likely to be infected as young men.

One reason for this startling statistic is that poor young girls often are forced to marry older men out of economic necessity. These “cross-generational relationships” are inherently unequal, so their sexual relations cannot be viewed as consensual. Therefore, abstinence, which is often seen as a simple solution to the transmission of HIV/AIDS, is unrealistic. It is incorrect to assume that these young women have the ability to say “no.”

For this and other reasons, the empowerment of women is key in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa. One of the panelists commented that with gender inequality, we'd have a disease, but we wouldn't have an epidemic. It is also important to mention that women as well as men must be involved in making change together. Boys and girls must be educated so that misinformation about HIV/AIDS and current harmful gender stereotypes do not continue to perpetuate themselves in future generations.

SPSSI has a history of using education to establish a socially just society. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has launched a Gender and HIV/AIDS Web Portal – www.genderandaid.org – to get current information on what is being done, worldwide, about the issue of HIV/AIDS and gender.

Diversity Task Force Gets Busy

By Stacey Sinclair
SPSSI Newsletter Editor

SPSSI’s leadership and governing Council recently created a Diversity Task Force charged with initiating activities that can help diversify Society membership, particularly in terms of demographic characteristics. Council members Allen Omoto and Pam Reid were appointed Task Force co-chairs. This newly created Task Force met during the SPSSI convention to discuss its priorities and to plan for future activities. The Task Force brainstormed about activities that could increase both SPSSI’s membership and its diversity. However, in scrutinizing Society membership reports, the Task Force noted that SPSSI also has work to do in retaining members, especially ethnic minority members. Hence, the Task Force discussed activities that would enhance the retention of diverse members and ways to ensure that all SPSSI members feel “at home” within the Society.

In a simple effort to help members of underrepresented groups feel at home in SPSSI, the Task Force decided to host a spontaneous open meeting at the SPSSI convention. Although the meeting was advertised with only 3 hours’ notice and at the end of a busy day, more than 30 convention participants attended! The Task Force now hopes to make such an open meeting a regular occurrence at SPSSI conventions. One agenda item at the meeting was to provide participants with an opportunity to voice their comments about SPSSI and to make suggestions about diversity activities that they would like to see implemented. In addition, the meeting was intended to serve a networking function, providing participants with a relaxed atmosphere in which to meet each other and Task Force members. Finally, the Task Force encouraged those in attendance to consider increasing their involvement in SPSSI, and especially to volunteer to serve on SPSSI committees, task forces, and work groups. To this end, participants provided email addresses and indicated their willingness to consider serving on SPSSI committees. The Task Force will use this email list to facilitate keeping participants in touch with each other and to advertise SPSSI initiatives, funding opportunities, and other information from underrepresented groups that might be of interest to Society members. Furthermore, the Task Force intends to pass on the names of individuals who indicated interest in serving on committees to appropriate SPSSI governance bodies.

If you would like to add your name and contact information to the Diversity Task Force’s e-mail list, please send your contact information to Allen Omoto at allen.omoto@cgu.edu. You should also feel free to contact any of the Task Force members with your suggestions, comments, and feedback. The Task Force members are Pam Reid, Co-chair (pamreid@umich.edu), B. Ann Bettencourt (bettencourt@missouri.edu), Ram Mahalingam (ramawasi@umich.edu), and Stacey Sinclair (stacey_sinclair@virginia.edu).
Call for SPSSI Election Nominations

The Nominations Committee seeks nominations for positions on SPSSI Council and for SPSSI President. Nominations by colleagues, and especially self-nominations, are encouraged. Prior involvement with SPSSI is desirable, but not required.

Candidates cannot simultaneously run for more than one office, and can serve SPSSI in only one elected position. Once the deadline for receiving nominations is reached, the Nominations Committee will put together from the list of nominees a slate of candidates, with 3-4 candidates for each open Council position and 2-4 candidates for President. Special consideration will be given to nominations from the general membership, including self-nominations. However, nomination does not guarantee that a nominee will appear on the ballot. In addition, all candidates will run “at large”—there are not specific slates for specific types of membership.

All nominations are reviewed by the Nominations Committee to ensure that candidates are SPSSI members. Because one goal of the Nominations Committee is to develop a diverse set of candidates for Council, nominations should include a brief statement by the individual making the nomination about the candidate’s qualifications for the position (e.g., prior service to SPSSI and other social science organizations, interest in social issues, goals for SPSSI, etc.).

Nominations are due at SPSSI no later than January 14, 2005. You can send in your nominations by mail or e-mail. If you use e-mail, please attach documents in Word or text format only.

Mail your nominations to:

SPSSI
208 Eye St., NE
Washington, DC  20002-4340

Or send via e-mail to: spssi@spssi.org.

Visit the SPSSI Web site at
www.spssi.org

Feedback on the site and suggestions for improving it are invited. The Web developer would like to thank members for the comments and suggestions already made.

Please e-mail your suggestions to spssi@spssi.org.

personal how tremendous this organization is, has been, and will continue to be. Thanks to all for the support, cooperation, and good work. I close with the compelling words of Anne Mulcahy, CEO of Xerox, who makes this simple claim for the value of diversity:

“Experience tells us that the most diverse companies – companies ruled by a hierarchy of imagination and filled with all ages, races, and backgrounds – are the most successful . . . Diversity breeds creativity . . . because people with different backgrounds challenge each others’ underlying assumptions, freeing everybody from convention and orthodoxy . . . Diversity in all its wonderful manifestations is good for business – good for our country and good for people”.

Secretary/Treasurer’s Report .........
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organizations suggested that SPSSI’s dues are lower than comparison groups’. The dues proposal is that students will pay $25, affiliates $50, new members $30, lifetime members $1500, and regular members will pay a sliding amount based on income ($50, $75, and $100, respectively, for members with incomes under $50,000, between $50,000 and $100,000, and over $100,000). Gift memberships will be $25, with 5 or more gift memberships being $20 each. Dues waivers will be available for hardship applicants.
the aging process. The inclusion of Albert Perna, a World War II veteran, who was on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day and served over six months as a POW, brought the issue of military trauma to life and culminated in a standing ovation. The room was filled with senior staff from key Senate offices along with leaders of aging and health organizations. The briefing has continued to generate interest in issues related to the psychological consequences of trauma on older adults.

### International Activities

- **SPSSI South Africa Delegation.** As I mentioned in my last article, I was extremely honored to participate in the January 2004 delegation to South Africa led by SPSSI President James Jones. Among the highlights of my trip was the opportunity to spend time with an extraordinary South African psychologist, Merle Friedman, who was gracious enough to introduce a subgroup of our delegation to one of South Africa’s heroes, Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, Secretary General of the African National Congress and Chairman of the Constitutional Assembly.

- **United Nations Third Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.** In May 2004, I was invited by SPSSI’s Main UN Representative Joseph DeMeyer to attend this event, which focused on indigenous peoples. The theme for this year’s conference was Indigenous Women. The seven areas of discussion included economic development, social development, environment, health, human rights, culture, and education. One of the highlights of my visit was an inspiring meeting with members of the indigenous youth caucus. Delegates produced recommendations for policy action that can be found at [http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/index.html](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/index.html).

### Advocacy

- **The President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health.** As I have previously reported, President Bush established the President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health in April 2002. The Commission, the first of its kind in nearly 25 years, was designed to study our nation’s mental health service delivery system. Beginning in September 2002, I actively followed the work of the Commission and worked closely with APA’s Office on Aging, preparing and submitting written and oral public testimony, providing resources to the Commission’s Subcommittee on Aging, and offering policy recommendations for improving the quality of care for older adults.

- **Creation of a New Aging Branch at NIMH.** Following concerted advocacy by the aging research community, including psychologist/aging researcher Steven Zarit, Ph.D., NIMH announced the creation of two new branches within the NIMH Division of Services and Intervention Research in February 2004: the Aging Treatment and Preventive Interventions Research Branch and the Adult Treatment and Preventative Interventions Branch. The separation of the earlier combined branch into these two new units will serve to direct more attention and visibility to the mental health needs of older adults.

- **SPSSI Takes the Hill.** On June 21, SPSSI partnered with APA’s Public Policy Office (PPO) for the "SPSSI on the Hill" lobby day. Approximately 60 SPSSI members participated in this event as part of the Fifth Biennial Convention. Participants were briefed by PPO staff and SPSSI leadership on two important issues before Congress: the importance of the scientific peer review process and health disparities legislation. SPSSI members met with their members of Congress and congressional staff to share pertinent psychological research. By all accounts, it was both an enlightening experience for the policymakers and an empowering experience for SPSSI members.

### Continuing on the Policy Path

I came to this fellowship two years ago with a tremendous passion for research and clinical work with underserved populations, including trauma survivors and their families. I am now moving forward in my career with great enthusiasm for policy work that has significantly enhanced my path as a psychologist. I look forward to continuing to utilize this new skill set that SPSSI has provided as an APA Congressional Fellow in 2005–2006. I extend my heartfelt thanks for all of the support that I have received and look forward to my continued role as a member of the SPSSI family.
The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues has chosen the site of the 2006 Biennial SPSSI Convention. The city of Long Beach, California boasts a diverse population and many attractions including the Aquarium of the Pacific, the Museum of Latin American Art, and the Queen Mary ocean liner – not to mention seven miles of beach ideal for walking, swimming, and biking!

SPSSI’s convention will be held June 23-25, 2006.
Save the date today!

2006 Convention Co-Chairs:
Shana Levin & Allen M. Omoto
Edited by Dr. Janet Swim 

Start A SPSSI Regional Group
Would you like to meet other SPSSI members in your area? SPSSI has 3,000 members scattered across the United States and in 60 countries around the world, and has supported regional groups in the past where members can host local activities to meet one another. To celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the SPSSI-New York group in 2004, Harold Takooshian and Rob Clark have prepared a step-by-step checklist and calendar describing how any SPSSI member can easily form a lively regional group. This checklist is available upon request from takoosh@aol.com.

Nominations Sought for SPSSI/Division 9 Fellow Status
The Fellows Committee invites nominations of Division 9 members for potential election to Fellow status in the American Psychological Association. Under the bylaws of the American Psychological Association, Fellow status is an honor bestowed on members who have made an unusual and outstanding contribution or performance in the field of psychology. Approximately one-tenth of APA members are Fellows. The Committee also invites nominations of non-APA SPSSI members for potential election to SPSSI Fellow status. In order to be recommended to APA for Fellow status by Division 9, the member must meet both APA and divisional requirements. APA requirements include:
a) the receipt of a doctoral degree at least partially in psychology;
b) a year’s prior APA membership;
c) active engagement in psychology at the time of nomination;  
d) 5 years since the PhD.
Division 9 requirements specify that the person be outstanding in one or more of the following:
1) application of the methods of psychology and social sciences to research on socially relevant issues;
2) dissemination (including teaching) of relevant research information bearing on social issues;
3) application of research results to the resolution of social issues; and
4) service to SPSSI as an organization.

Please e-mail Dr. Ann Peplau at lappeplau@ucla.edu by December 13th 2004 if you wish to nominate someone, including yourself. (Please indicate whether you are nominating someone for APA Division 9 Fellow status or SPSSI Fellow status.) Nominees for Fellow status will be asked to complete a set of materials and to return them to SPSSI by January 15, 2005. These materials include APAs Uniform Fellows Application and related materials. Recommendations must be sought from 3 persons, at least 2 of whom need to be Fellows in Division 9. SPSSI’s nominations for APA Division 9 Fellow status are forwarded to APAs Fellowship Committee and, if approved by the committee, sent to the Council of Representatives for a vote. The outcome of the process will be announced at next year’s APA convention in Washington, DC.

Division 9 Call for Proposals: 2005 APA Convention
The American Psychological Association (APA) will issue in August the Call for Programs, which will take place in Washington, DC from August 18-21, 2005. (For more details see the September APA Monitor or the APA website: www.apa.org/convention).

Members of Division 9 are invited to submit posters or symposia. Up to December 3, 2004 submission should be made online via the APA website: www.apa.org/convention. Attachments should be sent in Word or Wordperfect format only. Fax submissions will not be accepted. Please be sure to read the rules regarding the use of computers in presentations as outlined in the Call.

There is no theme for Division 9 programming at this conference so submissions may be related to any topic that is of interest to members of the division.

Dr. Janet Swim is the 2005 APA Program Chair. If you would be willing to serve as anonymous reviewers of the proposals that are submitted to Division 9 in conjunction with this conference, please contact her at jks4@psu.edu. No prior experience is necessary and the reviews should only require a few hours of your time.
**SPSSI Membership Application**

### 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

### 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.

**Sustaining 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 $1,500.00 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 Social Issues and Public Policy* (ASAP), the SPSSI Newsletter, and other mailings.

### Gift Memberships

Gift memberships are a great way to bring in new members. If you know people who would be interested in SPSSI, give them gift memberships. Once they are introduced to SPSSI, they may continue and become active members. This is a great investment in SPSSI’s future.

Students and qualified, interested people in other countries (particularly developing countries, and countries where the exchange rate makes subscriptions prohibitive) especially appreciate gift memberships. Each gift membership is $25. Five or more memberships given at one time are $20 each.

Applications are also available on the Web:  
www.spssi.org

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**Please complete and return this form with your check or credit card payment information to:**  
SPSSI, 208 Eye Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002-4340

**Date:** __________________

**Name:** ______________________________________________________________

- [ ] First  
- [ ] Middle Initial  
- [ ] Last

**Address:** ______________________________________________________________

- [ ] Street

**Billing Address:** _________________________________________________________

- [ ] Street

**Education:** ______________________________________________________________

- [ ] Highest Degree  
- [ ] Date

- [ ] Institution

- [ ] Major

- [ ] Minor

**Present Position:** _________________________________________________________

**Institution:** ______________________________________________________________

**Please check appropriate category** (See Membership Categories for descriptions):

- [ ] Affiliate Member: $50.00 per year
- [ ] Student Member: $25.00 per year (full member privileges)
- [ ] Full Member: $30.00 initial dues  
  (after first year a graduated dues structure is suggested, ranging from $50 to $100)
- [ ] Sustaining Member: $1,500.00 (one-time fee)
- [ ] Gift Membership: $25.00 each, $20.00 each for more than five memberships given at one time. (Please include a form for each gift membership. Form may be copied.)

**Payment options**

- [ ] Enclosed is my check, made payable to SPSSI
- [ ] Please charge my account:  
  - [ ] MasterCard  
  - [ ] Visa

**Expiration Date:** ____________  
*CVV# ____________

**Account Number:** ____________________________

**Signature:** ____________________________

*The card verification value is a three-digit number printed on the signature panel on the back of your credit card immediately following your credit card account number.

**Fax to:** 202/675-6902 or  
**Send application to:**  
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Attn.: Membership  
208 Eye Street, NE  
Washington DC 20002-4340
SPSSI NEWSLETTER
208 Eye Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4340
Tel: 202/675-6956    Fax: 202/675-6902
E-mail: spssi@spssi.org
Web: www.spssi.org

Editor-in-Chief
Stacey Sinclair, Ph.D.
Design & Production
Donna B. Jones

SPSSI OFFICERS 2004-05
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To submit copy to the SPSSI Newsletter: The Newsletter publishes announcements, articles, and letters that are relevant to members of the Society as space permits. Announcements of new books by SPSSI members are limited to 50 words; announcements of conferences, awards, meetings, etc. are limited to 100 words.

Copy deadlines: Nov 2004 issue: Oct 01, 2004
Copy submission: Please submit copy via e-mail to spssi@spssi.org. Receipt will be confirmed upon request. For more information, contact: Stacey Sinclair, Tel: 434/982-4733, E-mail: stacey_sinclair@virginia.edu.

Membership and other SPSSI information: Contact SPSSI at 208 Eye Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002-4340, Tel: 202/675-6956, Fax: 202/675-6902. E-mail: spssi@spssi.org, or see Web page at www.spssi.org.

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Adverts: $50 for quarter page, $100 for half page, $200 for full page, if space available.
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OFFICERS
President: Kay Deaux
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Email: ideaux@GC.cuny.edu
Past President: James M. Jones
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Email: jamesjones@msn.com
President-Elect: Marybeth Shinn
Tel: 212/998-7923
Email: beth@psych.nyu.edu
Secretary/Treasurer: Daniel Perlman
Tel: 604/822-6138
Email: d.perlman@ubc.ca

EDITORS
Journal of Social Issues: Irene H. Friese
Tel: 412/624-4336
Email: friese@vm.cmu.pitt.edu

Analysis of Social Issues and Public Policy (ASAP): Rhoda K. Unger
Tel: 787/736-8107
Email: asap@spssi.org

SPSSI Newsletter: Stacey Sinclair
Tel: 434/982-4733
Email: stacey_sinclair@virginia.edu

GRANTS AND AWARDS CHAIRS
Applied Social Issues Internship Program: Maureen O’Connor
Email: moconnor@ jjay.cuny.edu
Clara Mayo Grants: Monica Biernat
Email: biernat@ukans.edu
Dalmas Taylor Minority Public Policy Internship: James Jones
Tel: 302/831-2489
Email: jamesjones@msn.com

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Grants-in-Aid Program: Jennifer Richeson
Tel: 603/464-0769
Email: jennifer.richeson@dartmouth.edu

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Tel: 609/238-0655.
Email: sfiske@princeton.edu

Otto Klineberg Award: Daphna Oyserman

SAGES Award: TBA

Social Issues Dissertation Award: TBA

Theme Conferences: TBA

TOPIC COORDINATORS
The following individuals will serve as mini-clearinghouses for the flow of information to and from SPSSI on specified topics.

AIDS/HIV: TBA
Children, Youth, and Families: TBA
Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues: TBA

OTHER SPSSI FUNCTIONS
2005 APA Program Chair Janet Swin
Email: jks4@psu.edu
Planning Committee Chairs: Shana Levin
Tel: 909/607-5089, 909/621-8419.
Email: shana.levin@claremontmckenna.edu
Allen Omoto
Email: allen.omoto@cgv.edu

APA Council Representatives: Bernice Lott
Tel: 401/874-2428
Email: blott@uri.edu
Irma Serrano-Garcia
Tel: 787/895-2188
Email: immaserrano@sanjuanstar.net

Dalmas Taylor Fellow: TBA

Historian: Frances Cherry
Tel: 613/520-2600 x2702
Email: fcherry@ccs.carleton.ca

James Marshall Public Policy Scholar: Karen Chen

SPSSI Listserv Moderator: Richard Moreland
Tel: 412/624-4428
Email: rmoreland@pitt.edu

STANDING COMMITTEES/TASK FORCES

SPSSI DIRECTORY 2003-04

To All SPSSI Members:
Please keep Central Office informed of any change of address or other contact details!

Investments: Geoffrey Maruyama
Tel: 612/624-7396
Email: geoff@cc.umn.edu

James Marshall Public Policy Scholar
Oversight Committee:
(See contact information below)

Membership: TBA

New York Regional Group:
Harold Takosaih
Tel: 212/636-6393
Email: takoosh@aol.com.

Publications: Jack Dovidio
Tel: 860/486-2620.
Email: John.Dovidio@uconn.edu

SAFT: Geoffrey Maruyama
Tel: 612/624-7396
Email: geoff@cc.umn.edu

Student Committee:
Lori Scott-Sheldon
Email: Lori.Scott-sheldon@uconn.edu

UN and International Issues:
Joseph DeMeyer
Email: josephdemeyer@hotmail.com

Web Committee: Daniel Perlman
Tel: 604/822-6138
Email: d.perlman@ubc.ca

SPSSI CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF
208 Eye Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4340
Tel: 202/675-8936
Fax: 202/675-8902
spssi@spssi.org
www.spssi.org

Executive Director: Sheri Miles
Email: smiles@spssi.org

Membership Database Administrator:
Sougza Roy
Email: membership@spssi.org

Office Assistant:
Farra Kahalnik

E-mail: spssi@spssi.org
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SPSSI Convention
June 2006
in California

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