



AMERICAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

REPORT  
TO  
COUNCIL OF  
REPRESENTATIVES  
FROM  
CENTRAL OFFICE

*FEBRUARY 2008 – JULY 2008*

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# *Central Programs*

*L. Michael Honaker, PhD  
Chief Operating Officer*

# CENTRAL PROGRAMS

## HIGHLIGHTS

### FEBRUARY '08 – JULY '08

Please note that the Public Policy Office reports are included in the Science, Public Interest and Education Directorate reports.

#### AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

This year, APAGS celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and has many events, activities and special programs planned to commemorate this milestone. APAGS is proud of its long history of advocating for graduate students in psychology and continues to be in the forefront regarding to issues that affect psychology students.

APAGS was established in 1988 by the APA Council of Representatives as an advisory committee, and is now one of the largest constituency groups of the APA with approximately 42,000 members. APAGS is also the largest organized group of psychology graduate students worldwide. Similar to the APA, APAGS implements governance initiatives and policies, provides direct member contact and support, develops resources to meet the information and advocacy needs of members, provides leadership opportunities, and provides special convention programming and other distinct training.

What follows are APAGS' highlights from the past six months (January 2008 – June 2008).

- APAGS, *gradPSYCH* and Dr. Alan Kazdin co-hosted a roundtable discussion in which 30 graduate students from the East Coast were invited to participate. Dr. Kazdin engaged APAGS members in a discussion about pertinent issues in psychology such as diversity within the field, reaching out to underserved populations, the internship imbalance, and the image of psychology in pop culture, to name a few.
- APAGS kicked off its anniversary year by having an open house for all APA Central Office Staff. Attendees were encouraged to participate in trivia challenges, raffles, and were provided with educational information about APAGS' history, accomplishments, and current initiatives.
- The APA Membership/Marketing Department worked in conjunction with APAGS to develop and launch a branding campaign for APAGS that aimed to increase APAGS' visibility among students and faculty and establish APAGS as the professional home for all psychology graduate students. The slogan for the new campaign is *APAGS: Your future in psychology begins here*. Advertisements with this new slogan can be seen in various APA/APAGS publications.
- The APAGS Convention Committee along with APAGS Staff developed another stellar slate of APAGS Convention programming for the 2008 Annual APA Convention in Boston, MA. This year, APAGS partnered with APA's Publications and Communications Board to develop a "Publication Track" for students at Convention. This track requires students to

complete 6 hours of programming on various topics related to publishing and rewards students who complete the track with a certificate of participation. APAGS will also host a panel discussion of twelve APAGS past chairs, chaired by Norman Anderson, PhD, that will examine how their involvement in APAGS and other leadership roles helped shape their career trajectories. Other APAGS Convention program topics include: balancing professional and personal roles, licensure and certification, funding opportunities for graduate students, mentoring, surviving the dissertation process, integrated healthcare, legislative advocacy and more.

- The APAGS Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs awards up to two \$1000 grants each spring semester for projects that recruit, retain, and/or enhance the training of ethnic minority graduate psychology students. The winners of the Spring 2008 grants were:
  - **Jennifer Phillips**, University of Pittsburg Psychology Diversity Committee
  - **Carmela Alcantara** and **Kristina Molina**, University of Michigan Latina/0 Student Psychological Association.
- Fifteen APAGS members participated in the APA State Leadership Conference in March 2008. Students were able to participate in various workshops and discussions regarding legislative advocacy. The conference culminated with visits to Capitol Hill, where students were able to meet with their state's congressional members.
- The APAGS Committee participated in the 2008 Spring Consolidated Meetings in Washington, DC. The APAGS Committee discussed and reviewed APAGS' policies as well as several upcoming initiatives and projects.
- APAGS launched two mentoring programs this year. APAGS' Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns launched a Mentoring Program designed to provide an opportunity for LGBT psychology graduate students to be paired with mentors who can address their unique needs and interests. APAGS' Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs launched a Peer Mentoring Program, which links ethnic-minority graduate and undergraduate students with doctoral psychology students who have completed at least two years in their program.
- APAGS held elections in May 2008. The following new committee members were appointed:
  - **Rachel N. Casas**, Chair-Elect
  - **Erlanger Turner**, Member-at-Large, Practice
  - **Arlette Atioky**, Member-at-Large, Membership Focus
  - **Ali Mattu**, Member-at-Large, Diversity Focus
- APAGS appointed the following new subcommittee chairs in May 2008:
  - **Innocent Okozi**, Chair, APAGS CEMA
  - **lore m. dickey**, Chair, APAGS CLGBTC
- APAGS submitted a memorandum to APPIC providing information on APAGS' position on the proposed changes to the APPI and endorsed the development and implementation of the online APPI.

- APAGS participated in the TPER Meeting, which was held in Chapel Hill, NC, in May 2008. Discussion topics included the accreditation status of offshore and satellite programs and the mission and future of TPER and CCOPP. TPER was sunsetted at this meeting. CCOPP asked the Mexican Psychological Society to join CCOPP as a member, and invited APAGS and the APA Executive Office to attend CCOPP as liaisons.
  
- The APA Commission on Accreditation (CoA) held its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Accreditation Assembly in Minneapolis, MN, May 30-31, 2008. This year's theme was Evidence- Based Outcomes: Assessing Achievement of Educational Goals, Objectives and Competencies. Eric VandeVoorde, the APAGS Liaison to CoA, co-presented a special session geared towards students called *Accreditation 101: Everything Graduate Students and Interns Want to Know about Accreditation*. Jae Yeon Jeong, PhD, (APAGS Member-at-Large, Education Focus,) and Bryana White (APAGS Member-at-Large, Communications Focus), also attended the Assembly as APAGS representatives.
  
- The May/June 2008 issue of the APAGS Campus Bulletin is available for download at: <http://www.apa.org/apags/May-June08.pdf>. The APAGS Campus Bulletin enhances reciprocal communication between leaders of APAGS and graduate students so that APAGS can address issues of concern and keep students informed about current governance and association initiatives.
  
- APAGS awarded the following scholarships to APAGS members in 2008:
  - The APAGS Outstanding Division Award was awarded to **Division 22 (Rehabilitation Psychology)**.
  - The Diversity Dissertation Scholarship was awarded to **Jennifer Hamilton (University of Massachusetts, Boston)**.
  - The Raymond D. Fowler Award was awarded to **Randolph Pipes (Auburn University)**
  - The Nancy B. Forest and L. Michael Honaker Master's Scholarship for Research in Psychology was awarded to **Lauren Bylsma (University of South Florida)**
  - The Ellin Block and Pierre Ritchie Honorary Scholarship was awarded to **Tana Bleser (University of Florida)**
  - The Scott Mesh Honorary Scholarship for Research in Psychology was awarded to **Irani Farzin (Drexel University)**.
  - The Department of the Year was awarded to the **Counseling Psychology Department at Western Michigan University**
  - The David Pilon Scholarship for Training in Professional Psychology was awarded to **Andreana Benitez (Kent State University)**
  - The APAGS Outstanding SPTA of the Year was awarded to the **New Jersey Psychological Association**
  - The Carol Williams-Nickelson Award for Women's Leadership and Scholarship in Women's Issues was awarded to **Crystal Edler (University of Iowa)**
  - The APAGS LGBT Dissertation Scholarship was awarded to **Erin Gorter (University of Alabama)**
  - 5 Convention Travel Awards were awarded to **Heather Prayor-Patterson (University of Alabama at Birmingham), Jennifer Pattershall (University of Arkansas), Julie Braciszewski (Wayne State University), William Hua (University of North Texas), and Eliza Wells (University of Georgia)**

- In celebration of APAGS' 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008, APAGS acknowledged four outstanding graduate psychology students who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in psychology and are on track to becoming future pioneers in the field by awarding four \$5000 scholarships. In addition to the monetary award, winners will also receive travel funds to attend the 2008 APA Convention in Boston to participate in a brief presentation of their work with the other award recipients. The winners for this special, one-time award are: **Theresa DeWalt (Marquette University), Lori Gray (University of Windsor), Katharina Kircanski (University of California, Los Angeles), and Melissa Noya (Carlos Albizu University).**
- The APA Board of Directors voted and passed an amendment to allow APAGS to gain a voting seat on the Board. The bylaw amendment will go out to the voting membership in the fall of this year.
- APAGS exhibited at the following conferences:
  - International Counseling Psychology Conference (March 2008)
  - Rocky Mountain Psychological Association Conference (April 2008)
  - California Psychological Association (April 2008)
  - Midwestern Psychological Association Conference (May 2008)
- APAGS conducted informal focus groups with bench science students across the country to help identify ways in which APAGS could address and meet the needs of these students.

## ETHICS OFFICE

The Ethics Office has three primary areas of focus: education, consultation, and adjudication of ethics complaints. The Ethics Office also responds to Association needs by supporting special projects.

- The Ethics Office has developed a vibrant program of ethics workshops.
- The Ethics Office provides support for the award of an annual student ethics writing prize.
- The Ethics Office Director writes a monthly column, "Ethics Rounds," in APA's *Monitor on Psychology*, which focuses primarily, although not exclusively, on practice issues.
- The Ethics Office continues to provide staff support for the Association as it addresses the ethical aspects of psychologists' involvement in military interrogations.
- In continuance of a project funded in 2007, the Ethics Office is providing staff support to a Task Force on Licensing Board and Ethics Committee Training.
- The Director of the Ethics Office gave a plenary address at the ASPPB mid-year meeting in Vancouver this April.
- In May, the Ethics Office co-sponsored the first-ever workshop held jointly by a state psychological association, a state licensing board, and the APA Ethics Office.
- The Ethics Office provides staff support for the Ethics Committee, which last met in April 2008.

## OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

*Staff: Merry Bullock, PhD, Senior Director, Office of International Affairs*  
*Sally Leverty, International Affairs Assistant*  
*Amena Hassan, International Communications Manager*

The Office of International Affairs leads APA's international activities through facilitating international outreach, collaboration and exchange, providing information about international issues and opportunities, and coordinating international policy initiatives. The office maintains contact and coordination with over 90 national psychological associations and over 6000 international affiliates and members, coordinates APA's representation at major international meetings and congresses, serves as staff liaison to the Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP), and coordinates APA's NGO- representation at the United Nations. Through a variety of media, the office informs APA members and affiliates about international issues of relevance to psychology, monitors international issues related to psychology as a science and a profession, informs and coordinates APA representation to and activities with other organizations concerned with international science and policy issues, and serves as APA's liaison to global psychology, health and policy organizations.

Over the last two years, the Office of International Affairs has developed targeted activities as part of the GOALS (Global Opportunities and Long Term Strategies) initiative to help equip APA and APA members for active international involvement, and has worked with the Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP) to advise APA on international policies and perspectives.

Some highlights since the last Council meeting include:

- Plans are set to highlight the Fulbright Exchange programs at the 2008 Convention as models of international cooperation and exchange. Over 100 former Fulbright scholars from the US and abroad will gather at convention to discuss and present information about their experiences, and to inaugurate programs to encourage and promote international exchange.
- A listserv for all Presidents of National Psychology Associations ([intlpres@lists.apa.org](mailto:intlpres@lists.apa.org)) was begun after the 2007 Convention to offer a rapid communications channel for association presidents to share information and issues.
- Following last year's first Psychology Day, APA's NGO team has begun planning for the 2008 Psychology Day to be held in the Fall. Events will include seminars, symposia and a public briefing organized through the UN Department of Public Information.
- APA is providing partial travel awards for APA and APAGS members to attend international conferences and for APA international affiliates to attend convention
- APA signed a memorandum of understanding with the British Psychological Association, pledging to collaborate on activities in support of the discipline and psychology in the service of society

# CENTRAL PROGRAMS

## NARRATIVE

### American Psychological Association of Graduate Students

#### *APAGS COMMITTEE UPDATES*

APAGS operates on an academic year, transitioning leadership each August at the APA Convention. The APAGS chair serves a three-year term, as chair-elect, chair, and past-chair. The six elected APAGS members-at-large serve two-year terms, each with a specific focus. APAGS subcommittee chairs are appointed and serve two-year terms.

The following are updates on the activities and initiatives of the APAGS Committee and Subcommittee members:

#### *COMMUNICATIONS*

The APAGS Division Student Representative Network (DSRN) provides a forum for student representatives to discuss the challenges of recruiting student members, while building leadership skills within each division.

The APAGS Campus Bulletin, designed to enhance communication between APAGS and graduate students, continues to be a useful resource to inform students of activities, resources, and member benefits. *gradPSYCH*, the APAGS Magazine also continues to provide psychology graduate students with cutting-edge information.

#### *DIVERSITY*

The APAGS Member-at-Large, Diversity Focus, attended the International Counseling Psychology Conference (March 2008), worked with the organizers for the National Multicultural Conference and Summit (NMCS) to form a collaborative programs between APAGS and NMCS for the 2009 Conference, collaborated with Division 35 on the Making Feminism Relevant program for the 2008 APA Convention, and is currently working on a “Dialogues on Diversity” section for the APAGS website.

#### *EDUCATION*

The APAGS Member-at-Large, Education Focus wrote and submitted an article for the APPIC Newsletter, participated in the CCTC meeting, participated in a CRSPPP conference call regarding APA Convention programming on specialties, and monitored and participated in the following listservs: APPIC Intern Network, APPIC Postdoc Network, CCTC, APAGSINTERNSHIP, APABEA, and the BEAML.

## *MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION*

The APAGS Member-at-Large, Membership Recruitment and Retention Focus in conjunction with APAGS staff, developed a focus group for the APA Convention that will target University faculty to determine ways to get them involved in the recruitment process for APAGS and to help students understand their member benefits.

## *PRACTICE*

The APAGS Member-at-Large, Practice Focus participated in and monitored the CAPP listserv, attended the Spring CAPP meeting, worked on forging collaborative relationships with the Practice Directorate and other groups within APA, is working on finalizing the APAGS Resource Guide on Integrated Healthcare, and reviewed submissions for the Ethics Paper Prize.

## *SCIENCE AND RESEARCH*

APAGS continues to work to develop a strong relationship with science students and the Science Directorate. The APAGS Convention committee solicited and accepted several science-focused programs for the APA Convention and included these programs in the Scientist's Guide to APA Convention Programming, developed by the Science Directorate.

The Member-at-Large, Science Focus is working on the development of a Science Student Resource Guide.

## **APAGS SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

### *CONVENTION*

The APAGS Convention Committee met in January to select programming for the 2008 APA Convention in Boston. The Committee reviewed and rated many exciting proposals and selected an outstanding slate of convention programming geared specifically toward graduate psychology students. They also arranged social activities for students during convention to help foster a sense of community within APAGS. In addition to APAGS' regular programming, many symposia, workshops and meetings will take place in the APAGS Suite. This year, APAGS will offer special 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary convention programming such as a formal, invitation-only reception and a symposium chaired by Norman Anderson, PhD that features the leadership and career trajectory of twelve former APAGS Chairs.

### *ADVOCACY COORDINATING TEAM (ACT)*

ACT continues to disseminate APA Legislative Action Alerts through the APAGS-ACT network. The ACT network responds with multiple waves of targeted calls and emails to legislators. The following Action Alerts were sent through the ACT Network between during the past six months:

- Action Needed to Focus Senate on Restoring Medicare Cuts (Feb)
- Urge you Rep to support passage of H.R. 1424 (Feb)
- Urge Your Rep to Support the Minority Fellowship Program (Mar)
- Patient Records Privacy at Risk in HIT Legislation (May)

- Senate Advocacy Needed to Ensure Patient Records Privacy Protected in HIT Legislation (May)
- Psychology Restoration Provision Included in Senate Medicare Bill (June)
- Opposition Stalls Senate Medicare Bill (June)
- House Vote on Medicare Bill Expected Tuesday (June)
- Senate to Consider Medicare Bill Thursday (June)
- Continued Pressure Needed to Pass Senate Medicare Bill (June)
- Targeted Senate Advocacy Needed on Medicare

The ACT Network maintains a database of approximately 50 SACs and 300 CRs.

### *COMMITTEE ON ETHNIC MINORITY AFFAIRS (CEMA)*

APAGS-CEMA has received many applications for the CEMA Peer Mentoring Program, and has successfully matched approximately 25 pairs. CEMA continues to monitor and support the mentoring relationships.

APAGS-CEMA is working with APA Central Office staff to develop a web page on the APAGS website dedicated to the work of APAGS-CEMA.

### *COMMITTEE ON LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER CONCERNS (CLGBTC)*

APAGS-CLGBTC successfully matched approximately 30 pairs for the LGBT mentoring program and continues to monitor and support the mentoring relationships. APAGS-CLGBTC has also worked with Division 44 to develop mentoring-themed programming for a shared Convention hour and is currently working on *Questions to Consider*, a guide for LGBTQ psychology students to help them consider and determine which psychology programs will best meet their needs.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF APAGS' SERVICES

### *LISTSERVS*

APAGS Listservs are targeted to a variety of student interests including: ethnic minority issues, disability issues, the dissertation process, international student issues, clinical psychology, cognitive psychology, LGBT issues and many more. Visit <http://www.apa.org/apags/members/listserv.html> for further information

### *SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS*

APAGS funds a variety of prestigious scholarships and awards and has partnered with other APA groups to offer additional awards. Visit <http://www.apa.org/apags/members/schawrdsintro.html> for additional information.

### *RESOURCE GUIDES*

*APAGS provides several resource guides specific to graduate student needs. Highlights include:*

**Resource Guide for Psychology Graduate Students with Disabilities** provides insider perspectives on critical issues and concerns that today's students with disabilities face.

**Networking with APAGS in State, Provincial, and Territorial Psychological Associations**, contains material helpful in generating ideas to solicit more student involvement and subsequent professional membership in SPTAs.

**APAGS Survival Guide for Ethnic Minority Graduate Students**, created through a survey of ethnic minority graduate students, this guide provides advice and recommendations for navigating the graduate school experience.

**Succeeding in Practicum: An APAGS Resource Guide** includes information about identifying training goals, selecting practicum placements, supervision, and more (\$8 for APAGS members, \$12 for non-members).

**APAGS Resource Guide for LGBT Students in Psychology** addresses the unique experiences/obstacles of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students (\$8 for APAGS members, \$12 for non-members).

**Relieving Stress: Self-Care Practices for Graduate Students in Psychology** contains information needed to create a personal approach to self-care.

**Internships in Psychology: The APAGS Workbook for Writing Successful Applications and Finding the Right Match** (APA, 2008) provides resources/information to successfully navigate the internship application process (\$19.95 for APAGS members, \$24.95 for non-members).

#### *APAGS LIAISONS*

*APAGS committee members and staff represent students on many boards and committees in and affiliated with the APA. This involvement helps students have a voice in shaping the policies and initiatives that will affect them and their future. Some of these boards and committees include the:*

- APA Board of Directors
- APA Council of Representatives
- Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC)
- Council of Chairs of Training Councils (CCTC)
- Committee for the Advancement of Professional Practice (CAPP)
- Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI)
- Board of Educational Affairs (BEA)
- Board of Professional Affairs (BPA)
- Board of Scientific Affairs (BSA)
- Board of Convention Affairs (BCA)
- Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB)
- The National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology (NRHSPP)
- National Council of Schools of Professional Psychology (NCSPP)
- Psychology Executives Roundtable (PER)

## THE APAGS COMMITTEE

APAGS is governed by nine officers who are elected by APAGS members along with several specialized subcommittees. The current APAGS Committee members are:

Nadia Hasan, MA	Chair
Kristi Van Sickle, PsyD	Past Chair
Konjit Page, MS	Chair-Elect
Benjamin Miller, PsyD	Member-at-Large, Practice Focus
Constanze Hahn, MA	Member-at-Large, Science Focus
Karen Kersting, MA	Member-at-Large, Membership Focus
Jae Yeon Jeong, PhD	Member-at-Large, Education Focus
Bryana White	Member-at-Large, Communications Focus
Amina Mahmood	Member-at-Large, Diversity Focus
Marina Field, MA	APAGS Consultant
Dawn Brock, MA	Chair, Advocacy Coordinating Team
Brian Hall, MA	Chair, Convention Committee
Rachel Casas	Chair, Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA)
Michelle Vaughan, PhD	Chair, Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns (CLGBTC)

APAGS Staff Members are:

Renée Valdez, MA, *Interim Associate Executive Director, Director of Committee Operations and Programs*

Heather Dade, *Communications and Marketing Manager*

Donald E. Knight, MA, *Electronic Communications, Research and Database Manager*

Lauren Kohari, *Administrative and Meetings Coordinator*

## ETHICS

### *Education and Consultation*

- The Ethics Office has developed a vibrant program of ethics workshops. The Office priority is to provide ethics programs to state, provincial, and territorial psychological associations that offer continuing education credit in ethics and law and raise funds for the psychological associations. In the first half of 2008, the Ethics Office has participated in 36 educational workshops and programs, 14 of which were continuing education workshops for state, provincial, and territorial psychological associations, and 2 of which were continuing education workshops for affiliates of APA Divisions (both for Division 39, Psychoanalysis).
- The Ethics Office provides support for the award of an annual student ethics writing prize. The prize includes a \$1000 award; an expense-paid trip to Convention, where the winner presents his or her paper; and consideration for publication in the journal *Ethics and Behavior*, edited by Gerald P. Koocher, PhD. Co-authors Zachary W. Adams and Sara E. Boyd of the University of Kentucky are the winners of the 2008 prize for their paper entitled "Ethical Challenges in the Treatment of Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities."

- The Ethics Office Director writes a monthly column, “Ethics Rounds,” in APA’s *Monitor on Psychology*, which focuses primarily, although not exclusively, on practice issues.

### *Special Projects*

- The Ethics Office continues to provide staff support for the Association as it addresses the ethical aspects of psychologists’ involvement in military interrogations, which will include supporting the Ethics Committee in the writing of a casebook/commentary on APA’s work on this issue.
- In continuance of a project funded in 2007, the Ethics Office is providing staff support to a Task Force on Licensing Board and Ethics Committee Training. The task force is a joint endeavor of APA and ASPPB. An initial goal of the task force, called together by 2007 APA President Sharon Stephens Brehm, PhD, is to identify the training needs of individuals who will serve on licensing boards and ethics committees. The task force held a 2-day meeting in December 2007 and developed a schedule of meetings in 2008 to identify issues of common concern for ethics committees and licensing boards. Due to fortuitous timing, these meetings can be achieved within the projected 2008 Ethics Office budget.
- The Director of the Ethics Office gave a plenary address at the ASPPB mid-year meeting in Vancouver this April, with proposals for future steps regarding shared points of interest between ethics committees and licensing boards.
- In May, the Ethics Office co-sponsored the first-ever workshop held jointly by a state psychological association, a state licensing board, and the APA Ethics Office. This workshop, which took place in Ohio, was a success both in terms of the maximum number of attendees and very positive evaluations. The Ethics Office will continue to explore the possibility of such joint workshops with other states.

### *Adjudication*

- The Ethics Office provides staff support for the Ethics Committee, which last met in April 2008. A complete description of the adjudication program, including statistics regarding all stages of ethics complaint processing in 2007, is published in the July/August 2008 issue of *American Psychologist*.

## **OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

The activities of the office are summarized below under subheadings that describe its major activities: Promoting an international perspective in psychology; outreach; governance; and programmatic activities.

## PROMOTING PSYCHOLOGY INTERNATIONALLY

### *APA Travel Awards*

The Office of International Affairs provided partial travel awards for registration costs for APA and APAGS members to attend international psychology meetings, and for International Affiliates to attend the APA Convention. Over 20 awards for international meetings have been provided to date. Priority is given to graduate students and young psychologists. Twelve convention travel awards are being provided. Feedback from awardees illustrates the catalytic effects of international contacts on research, teaching and international collaboration.

### *United Nations*

APA's UN team has been active in directing attention to mental health and psychosocial issues in UN documents and programs at the United Nations. In 2007, the APA team took the lead to bring together psychology organizations at the UN together to plan a UN Psychology day. This event will be repeated in 2008 and will showcase the relevance of psychology and psychologists to addressing UN issues as well as introduce the UN to psychologists.

The UN team organized a symposium on "Psychology in Action at the United Nations" that features papers on the history of psychology's involvement and examples of using psychology's knowledge base to affect UN policy positions.

This Spring inaugurated a call for applications for positions on the APA representative team. The Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP) is reviewing applications and developing a short list for interviews.

Members of the APA NGO- representation at the UN include Florence Denmark, PhD, Main Representative, Deanna Chitayat, PhD, Corann Okorodudu, EdD, Harold Cook, PhD., Harold Takooshian, PhD, and Janet Sigel, PhD. In addition Neal Rubin, PhD and Norma Simon, EdD, work on special projects. The APA team meets monthly to plan its activities and to provide updates on each team member's portfolio. Representatives are active in a variety of UN Committees including ageing, the family, human settlements, status of women, mental health, children's rights, human rights, UNICEF, AIDS and the planning committee of DPI (Department of Public Information). A full description is available at [www.apa.org/international/apaun.html](http://www.apa.org/international/apaun.html).

Interested council members may join a listserv for psychologists interested in the UN ([APAUNITEDNATIONS@lists.apa.org](mailto:APAUNITEDNATIONS@lists.apa.org)). The announce-only listserv carries notices of UN activities, and meetings in the New York area, and offers opportunities for psychologists to become informed about and involved in UN activities.

### *Newsletter*

***Psychology International*** the bimonthly publication of the Office of International Affairs is sent electronically to all International Affiliates, selected officers of international organizations, the Board of Directors, Council, and to Division Listservs. The newsletter serves as a timely source of information about events and opportunities for international scholarship and collaboration, new developments in international psychology research, practice, and education; and provides a forum for the exchange of information on psychology around the globe. It is available at [www.apa.org/international/pi](http://www.apa.org/international/pi).

### *International Congress of Psychology, 2008*

OIA staff are attending the XXIX International Congress of Psychology in Berlin. Activities at the Congress include an APA-hosted reception for the Congress organizers and psychology leaders, staffing the APA publications booth, conducting an affiliate membership drive, participating in a symposium on the public face of psychology, and interacting with US and international colleagues. Attendance at this Congress (pre-Congress estimates 10,000) is large and broad in terms of country participation.

## **OUTREACH**

### *Directories*

The Directory of International Organizations and the Directory of National and Regional Psychology Organizations are updated in web-based versions and printable PDF versions. These provide up-to-date contact information to foster international interaction and exchange, are available at the International booth at Convention and online.

### *Website*

The content and format of the international website (see [www.apa.org/international](http://www.apa.org/international)) was expanded to increase its use as a resource for information relevant to international psychology and psychological collaboration, including updates to the “frequently asked questions” and “Resources” pages. Special sections include “Psychology in Spanish”, expanded to offer links to newsletters and other resource information in Spanish, and “Psychology and Disasters”, expanded to offer resources for psychologists coping with local disasters. The website also offers an up to date meeting calendar and other resources for international exchange.

## **GOVERNANCE**

The Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP) met in the Spring of 2008. The members of the committee in 2006 are Stephen Quintana (Chair), Lynn Collins, PhD, Carol Enns, PhD, Oliva Espin, PhD, Pamela Flattau, PhD, Laura R. Johnson, PhD, Shinobu Kitayama, PhD, Jeanne Marecek, PhD, Guerda Nicolas, PhD, Stephen Quintana, PhD. Highlights of the Spring meeting included development of GOALS, the initiative designed to further APA’s international program and policy needs, review of the CIRP/BEA Task force to advise APA on possible international roles it might play in quality assurance for psychology education and training, selection of the Scientific Meeting Award recipients

## **CONVENTION**

This year’s APA Convention plans include a program highlighting the Fulbright scholar experience of international exchange. Fulbright scholars, students and foreign visitors since 1998 were invited to attend convention and participate in poster sessions and a symposium. The program, featuring around 100 Fulbrighters includes two back-to-back poster sessions, a symposium featuring former Fulbrighters and senior Fulbright program officers, and social events. Planning for this activity was assisted by CIRP and a special ad hoc committee consisting of Danny Wedding, Thomas Zentall, Susan Whitbourne and Guerda Nicolas. In addition to the CIRP convention programming, the Office of International Affairs and CIRP have planned a number of activities to foster collaboration between

international visitors and US colleagues, including a reception for international visitors and a breakfast meeting with Division liaisons to CIRP.

The Office of International Affairs has prepared program books listing all international programming and all international visitors to convention.

## **PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES**

**The Office of International Affairs** maintains a number of ongoing programs, including assistance to members with matching book and journal donations, hosting international visitors, addressing queries to the international mailbox, and maintaining interaction and communication with national and international psychology organizations.

Please see the website [www.apa.org/international](http://www.apa.org/international) for further information.

*Education Directorate*

*Cynthia Belar, PhD  
Executive Director*

# EDUCATION DIRECTORATE

## HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT ACTIVITIES

### FEBRUARY '08 – JULY '08

#### EDUCATION DIRECTORATE MISSION

The APA Education Directorate advances education in psychology and psychology in education for the benefit of the public. It seeks to enhance (1) the education and training of psychologists across all levels, (2) the teaching of psychology, and (3) the application of psychology to education. Staff of the Education Directorate work in direct support of the Board of Educational Affairs (BEA), its reporting committees, and such other groups as assigned in addressing goals related to this mission. The executive review that follows highlights a sample of the achievements in different program areas of the Directorate with detailed reports of program activities appended.

#### *Executive Review*

#### EDUCATION OUTREACH INITIATIVES

- The annual APA Education Leadership Conference (ELC) will be held on September 6 – 9. The theme for the 2008 ELC is *Internationalizing Psychology Education*. (page 22)

#### GOVERNANCE COMMITTEES AND TASKFORCES

- Senior Staff attended a meeting of the Trilateral Psychology Executive Roundtable (PER) and Council of Credentialing Organization in Professional Psychology (CCOPP). The agenda included discussion of current issues in credentialing such as assessment of competence and the development of regulations to ensure individuals who are licensed are appropriately qualified. Perspectives on these issues were presented from groups in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. (page 22)
- The Council of Chairs Training Councils (CCTC) addressed the following topics at their March meeting.
  - a report from the assessment of competencies benchmark workgroup,
  - the internship supply/demand imbalance,
  - an update on advocacy efforts in training and education,
  - workgroup and taskforce updates, and an update on reporting of licensure rates. (page 22)
- The Taskforce to Develop an APA Designation Process for Postdoctoral Psychopharmacology Education and Training met April 30th-May 2, 2008. This task force was charged with developing a detailed proposal that would include the structure of the designation system outlining the minimal standards of program quality for psychopharmacology education and training programs and the composition of an appropriate body overseeing and implementing this system for review and approval by the Board of Directors and the Council of Representatives. (page 23)

## EDUCATION ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

- In February, a standing room only crowd gathered in the U.S. Capitol to hear the APA Education Government Relations Office (EdGRO) sponsored briefing entitled, "PTSD, TBI & Post Deployment Adjustment: Addressing Challenges of Returning Military Personnel." (page 23)
- The House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Subcommittee recently marked up its funding bill for the 2009 fiscal year. In the bill, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Subcommittee member and champion of the GPE program included a significant increase \$4 million for FY 2009. (page 24)
- In June, the EdGRO hosted its first-ever on-line advocacy training Webinar, entitled *Advocating for a Piece of the Federal Pie: Gaining Support for Psychology Education and Training*. (page 24)

## DIRECTORATE PROGRAMS IN EDUCATION

### ENHANCEMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY IN EDUCATION

- The APA Coalition for Psychology in Schools and Education convened for its biannual meeting in Washington, DC to advance several initiatives including:
  - Psychological core knowledge and skills for K-12 teachers
  - A brochure that addresses the stress that new teachers face.
  - A conference and an edited book entitled *Taking Intergroup Theory to School*. (page 24)
- Center for Psychology in Schools & Education (CPSE) was involved in preparing for the Catalyst Mentorship Program that took place from June 26-July 5. The project brought together a second group of eminent chemical scientists and artists to mentor gifted adolescents. (page 26)

### ENHANCEMENT OF EDUCATION IN PSYCHOLOGY

- Education staff supported APA's participation as a Special Awards Organization at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). Held annually, ISEF brings together nearly 1,500 high school students from 40 countries to compete for scholarships, tuition grants, internships, scientific field trips and the grand prize: a \$50,000 college scholarship. (page 26)
- Through the generous support provided of APA, the University of Puget Sound, the National Science Foundation, the American Psychological Foundation, Psi Chi, and a number of other co-sponsoring organizations, APA held the 2008 National Conference on Undergraduate Education in Psychology at the University of Puget Sound (Tacoma, Washington). (page 27)
- The fourth annual APA/Clark University Workshop for High School Teachers was held in July, at Clark University in Worcester, MA. Twenty-five high school teachers from around the country participated in the workshop. The goal of the annual workshop is to promote and advance the teaching of precollege psychology. (page 27)
- Senior staff attended the mid-year meeting of the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards. A focus of the meeting was discussion of proposed language for regulatory boards regarding requirements for practicum training. (page 29)

- Staff completed a compilation of federal and private foundation sources of funding appropriate for psychology undergraduate and graduate students. These listings will soon be available on the GPET office Web site in both HTML and downloadable spreadsheet form. (page 29)
- For the 2008 APA Convention in Boston, the CEP Office has significantly increased the CE offerings this year with 5 pre-convention workshops, 84 scheduled workshops, and over 200 sessions. (page 30)
- The APA Online Academy offers programs virtual programs that blend multimedia presentations with interactive and downloadable presentation slides. APA currently offers nine programs. The new releases are:
  - Advanced Assessment and Treatment of Attention Deficit Disorders (ADD/ADHD)
  - Positive Aging: An Innovative Approach to Counseling Older Adults
 This fall, approximately 14 additional online programs will be available in a range of topics. (page 30)

#### *QUALITY ASSURANCE IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING*

- The Continuing Education Committee (CEC) approved 31 new organizations as sponsors of continuing education at its March 2008 meeting. There are currently 792 APA-approved sponsors. (page 31)
- Effective January 1, 2008, the 21-member Committee on Accreditation successfully transitioned to the new 32-member Commission on Accreditation. (page 32)
- During this reporting period, there were 898 accredited programs in professional psychology: 377 doctoral programs (including 5 newly accredited programs), 472 internship training programs (including 2 newly accredited programs), and 49 postdoctoral residency training programs. (page 32)
- The Commission adopted an Implementing Regulation on programs operating outside the United States. The Commission affirmed that it would not accredit any program outside the US and its territories until APA adopts a policy regarding quality assurance by APA groups in other countries. (page 32)

## **EDUCATION OUTREACH INITIATIVES**

- *The 2008 Education Leadership Conference*

The annual APA Education Leadership Conference (ELC) will be held on September 6-9. The theme for the 2008 ELC is *Internationalizing Psychology Education*. The ELC will address models, student issues, faculty development and engage in some of the critical conversations related to the globalization of higher education. As in years past, the ELC will also provide an opportunity for advocacy training and visits to Capitol Hill.

The long-term goals of the ELC are to:

- Provide a forum for groups and organizations across all levels of education and training to address issues of mutual concern
- Promote a shared disciplinary identity among education and training leaders in psychology
- Impact public policy regarding education in psychology and psychology in education

The ELC is the major advocacy event for the psychology education community.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEES AND TASKFORCES**

- The **Council of Chairs Training Councils (CCTC)** held its meeting on March 27, 2008. The mission of CCTC is to provide a forum for communication among the doctoral, internship and postdoctoral training associations in psychology. Principle topics of the March meeting included:
  - a report from the assessment of competencies benchmark workgroup,
  - the internship supply/demand imbalance,
  - an update on advocacy efforts in training and education,
  - workgroup and taskforce updates, and
  - an update on reporting of licensure rates.
- The **Competency Assessment Portfolio Group (CAP)** held its meeting on April 24-28, 2008. The work group, charged by BEA to develop a “tool kit” of resources for the assessment of competence, met to refine work products. It is hoped that final drafts will be available and disseminated to the public beginning this summer. Dissemination plans include Web-based resources, presentations at national meetings, and publication of a journal article.
- The **Trilateral Psychology Executive Roundtable (PER)** and the **Council of Credentialing Organization in Professional Psychology (CCOPP)** met May 16-17 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The agenda including discussion of current issues in credentialing such as assessment of competence and the development of regulations to ensure individuals who are licensed are appropriately qualified. Perspectives on these issues were presented from groups in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Discussion also focused on the growing need to develop guidance for accreditation and credentialing groups in their interactions with individuals and programs from other countries.

- **The Commission for the Recognition of Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology (CRSPPP)** held a meeting on May 8-9, 2008. CRSPPP reviewed a petition for a proficiency in Police Psychology and the petitions for renewal of recognition in the following specialties and proficiencies: a specialty in Forensic Psychology, and proficiencies in the Psychological Treatment of Alcohol and other Psychoactive Substance Use Disorders, and Psychopharmacology. In addition, CRSPPP also reviewed and discussed public comments submitted by APA boards and committees on its document, Principles for the Recognition of Proficiencies in Professional Psychology.
- **The Taskforce to Develop an APA Designation Process for Postdoctoral Psychopharmacology Education and Training** held a meeting on April 30th-May 2, 2008. This task force was charged with developing a detailed proposal that would include the structure of the designation system outlining the minimal standards of program quality for psychopharmacology education and training programs and the composition of an appropriate body overseeing and implementing this system for review and approval by the Board of Directors and the Council of Representatives.

## ***EDUCATION ADVOCACY INITIATIVES***

[\*Education Advocacy Trust\*](#)  
[\*www.apaedat.org\*](http://www.apaedat.org)

- The Education Advocacy Trust (EdAT) is working to promote psychology's full engagement of the advocacy process. EdAT has been soliciting contributions through the APA dues statement and direct communication with individuals with a stake in psychology's education advocacy agenda.

The EdAT, which is a legal structure within the American Psychological Association's companion organization, the American Psychological Association Practice Organization (APAPO) -- a 501(c)(6) tax status organization, received voluntary contributions from approximately 300 individuals so far this year.

The mission of the EdAT is to promote the mutual professional interests of psychologists in advancing education in psychology and psychology's role in other areas of education through advocacy activities that cannot be conducted legally within the APA, an organization that is tax exempt pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

[\*Education Government Relations Office \(Ed GRO\)\*](#)  
[\*www.apa.org/ppo/education\*](http://www.apa.org/ppo/education)

The Education Public Policy Offices seeks to increase federal support for psychology education and training and to promote the application of psychology to education.

- In February, a standing room only crowd gathered in the U.S. Capitol to hear the APA Education Government Relations Office (EdGRO) sponsored briefing entitled, "PTSD, TBI & Post Deployment Adjustment: Addressing Challenges of Returning Military Personnel." The briefing was cosponsored by Congressman Bill Young (R-FL) and Congressman Sam Farr (D-CA) and

included a panel that addressed personal challenges and professional approaches to treating wounded warriors dealing with post traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and issues in readjusting to civilian life following deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan.

- In May, EdGRO worked in collaboration with Public Interest GRO, the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS), and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) to co-sponsor a congressional briefing entitled "Addressing the Mental Health Needs of Service Members, Veterans, and their Families: Innovative Strategies for Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery". This event was hosted in collaboration with Representatives Grace Napolitano (D-CA) and Tim Murphy (R-PA) and the Congressional Mental Health Caucus.
- In June, the EdGRO hosted its first-ever on-line advocacy training Webinar, entitled *Advocating for a Piece of the Federal Pie: Gaining Support for Psychology Education and Training*. Education GRO is in the process of developing a series of advocacy training Webinar sessions that will be available online to psychologists all across the country.
- APA EdGRO staff has been working hard along with members of its Federal Education Advocacy (FEDAC) grassroots network to gain increased funding for the GPE program which would provide more funding for currently existing Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) grants as well as increase the number of available grants. The House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Subcommittee recently marked up its funding bill for the 2009 fiscal year. In the bill, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Subcommittee member and champion of the GPE program included a significant increase \$4 million for FY 2009. To learn more about FEDAC visit [www.apa.org/ppo/ppan/fedac.html](http://www.apa.org/ppo/ppan/fedac.html).

## **ENHANCEMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY IN EDUCATION**

[Center for Psychology in Schools & Education \(CPSE\)](http://www.apa.org/ed/cpse)  
[www.apa.org/ed/cpse](http://www.apa.org/ed/cpse)

The Center for Psychology in Schools and Education promotes the high quality application of psychology to programs and policies for schools and education.

### *Meetings and Outreach Initiatives*

- **APA Coalition for Psychology in Schools and Education**  
Through the Education Directorate's sponsorship, the Coalition advances APA's mission to improve health, education, and human welfare by focusing on the improvement of PK-12 education. On June 6-8, 2008, the Coalition convened for its biannual meeting in Washington, DC to advance several initiatives including:
  - Psychological core knowledge and skills for teachers: This Coalition project focuses on answering the question, "What is the core knowledge that a high quality educator needs to know from psychology?"
  - A brochure for new teachers that will (a) describe high stress as a normative part of the first year or two of teaching, (b) describe strategies for helping the new teacher cope with

or process the normative levels of stress that he/she is experiencing, (c) identify issues and times of the year that are usually associated with higher-than-normal levels of stress (e.g., parent/teacher conferences), and (d) describe signs that a new teacher is experiencing problematic levels of stress and how to help when this happens.

- A conference and an edited book entitled *Taking Intergroup Theory to School*. The idea is to invite psychologists (e.g., from developmental and social psychology) who have conducted research on various aspects of intergroup theory to discuss the application and implications of their work to the school setting.
- **Classroom Violence Directed at K-12 Teachers Task Force**  
The Center for Psychology in Schools and Education (CPSE) is staffing a task force to create a resource aimed at helping K-12 teachers cope with and prevent the occurrence and threat of violent incidents in their classrooms. The focus of the task force will be to gather and translate psychological science on this topic into an accessible resource for teachers. This resource will also serve as a research-based foundation to inform education policy with regard to school management, parent and community involvement, classroom climate, and teaching and learning.

Although the first task force meeting will not occur September 25-26, 2008, task force members have already begun preparing for the meeting and have been discussing possible directions and products for the task force

- **Application of Psychological Science to Teaching and Learning Task Force**  
The Task Force was sponsored by the Board of Educational Affairs during 2006 to explore the applications of psychological science to teaching and learning by tapping the expertise of psychologists from several sub-disciplines including: motivation, development, assessment, behavior management, social psychology, and learning and instruction, to work collaboratively on translating psychological literature associated with evidence based teaching strategies.

Currently the Task Force is working on getting their ten teaching strategy modules ready for teacher piloting which is set to commence by the end of the summer.

- **Professional Development - Practical Classroom Management Online Module**  
With the support of BEA, an online professional development module entitled *Practical Classroom Management: Class-wide and Individual Strategies* was developed by Dr. Russell Skiba and Dr. Jack Cummings from Indiana University. The module presents an introduction to identifying and understanding Pre-K-12 classroom management problems while providing educators with the necessary skills needed to implement various effective management strategies. Based on the teacher feedback, CPSE has been reworking the original script to make it more teacher accessible as well as develop a second focused script on dealing with disruptive students entitled *Interventions for Classroom Disruption: Addressing Emotional and Behavioral Problems in the Classroom*. Both are expected for completion by fall 2008.
- **Guide to the Use of Multiple Methods in Randomized Controlled Trials in Assessing Intervention Effects: The Promise of Multiple Methods**  
An interactive guide will soon be posted to the CPSE Web site highlighting definitions and samples from studies that employ this complex and rigorous research design. The text has been written by David Grissmer, principal scientist at the Center for the Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, and edited by CPSE. Dr. Grissmer

will be requesting reviews of the text in July from scholars whose work is prominently mentioned in the background material for the Guide.

- **NSF Grant Proposal: Study of the Impact of Specialized Public High Schools of Science, Mathematics, and Technology**

In January, 2008 CPSE submitted a grant to the National Science Foundation's Education and Human Resources Directorate to fund a study exploring educational factors associated with specialized schools that contribute to the science research pipeline. Of special interest are the psychosocial and learning variables needed to meet national needs for academic competitiveness in the sciences, including behavioral sciences.

During May and June CPSE received notice that the submission was under consideration. Notification is expected in August.

- **National Education Association (NEA) Meeting**

On April 22nd, CPSE staff met with directors of 6 offices of the NEA to discuss two projects:

- materials devoted to preventing and addressing violence directed at teachers
- modules for teachers translating psychological science for classroom practice.

In addition the meeting addressed a new Coalition project exploring the psychological supports teachers need to enter or leave the teaching profession. NEA staff greeted the CPSE projects as original and potentially highly valuable contributions to educators.

- **Catalyst Mentorship Program (Catalyst)**

CPSE staff was involved in preparing for Catalyst 2008 that took place from June 26-July 5. The project brought together a second group of eminent chemical scientists and artists to mentor gifted adolescents. Of special interest is the focus on tacit/ practical knowledge provided by the mentors in helping to prepare young people for the stresses and joys of competitive careers. To learn more about the Catalyst program visit [www.apa.org/ed/catalyst\\_home.html](http://www.apa.org/ed/catalyst_home.html).

## **ENHANCEMENT OF EDUCATION IN PSYCHOLOGY**

*[Office of Precollege and Undergraduate Education \(PCUE\)](#)*

*[www.apa.org/ed/pcue](http://www.apa.org/ed/pcue)*

The Office of Precollege and Undergraduate Education advances psychology in secondary schools, community colleges, and undergraduate programs by providing information, linkages, resources, funding, and professional development to faculty, students, and the general public.

### *Precollege Initiatives*

- **Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF)**

Education staff supported APA's participation as a Special Awards Organization at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), held in Atlanta, GA. Held annually in May, ISEF brings together nearly 1,500 high school students from 40 countries to compete for scholarships, tuition grants, internships, scientific field trips and the grand prize: a \$50,000 college scholarship. APA granted seven awards to the best projects in the psychological sciences.

During two days of intense judging, a panel of psychologists served as judges and selected the top seven projects from all science projects related to psychology. The effort is funded and organized through the Education Directorate. All winners received a scholarship, a certificate, and a one-year student membership to APA.

- **APA/Clark University Workshop for High School Teachers**

The fourth annual APA/Clark University Workshop for High School Teachers was held in July 21-23, 2008, at Clark University in Worcester, MA. The goal of the annual workshop is to promote and advance the teaching of precollege psychology. Twenty-five high school teachers from around the country participated in the workshop. The event was sponsored by Clark University, APA, and the American Psychological Foundation (APF) Lee Gurel Fund, and organized by the APA Education Directorate and Clark University. Presenters included two members of the TOPSS and Clark psychology professors. Stephen Kosslyn, PhD, of Harvard University delivered the keynote address on *Imagery Engineering: Designing Presentations to Facilitate Subsequent Mental Imagery of the Material*. The workshop has been made possible through generous gifts from Lee Gurel, PhD, a Clark University alumnus, APA member and longtime APF donor, to both Clark and APF.

- **TOPSS Unit Lesson Plan**

The APA Education Directorate published a modular lesson plan for high school psychology teachers on *The Psychology of Sexual Orientation*, developed jointly by TOPSS and the APA Committee of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns (CLGBC). Lead author Nathan Grant Smith, PhD, McGill University, worked with high school teachers Jeanne Blakeslee and Hilary Rosenthal to develop the unit. The teaching resource will be available via the TOPSS Web site, and hard copies are available upon request.

### *Two and Four-Year College Initiatives*

- **APA National Conference on Undergraduate Education in Psychology**

Education Directorate staff were involved in planning for the 2008 APA National Conference on Undergraduate Education in Psychology. Through the generous support provided by APA, the University of Puget Sound, the National Science Foundation, the American Psychological Foundation, Psi Chi, and a number of other co-sponsoring organizations, APA held the 2008 National Conference on Undergraduate Education in Psychology (June 22-27, 2008) at the University of Puget Sound (Tacoma, Washington). Participants examined recent changes in students and faculty; in knowledge about how people learn; and in beliefs about what students need to know to be informed citizens of the world, caring family members, and productive workers who can meet the challenges of the coming decades. Attendees also considered how undergraduate education in psychology needs to change to meet these new challenges.

- **Online Psychology Laboratory**

PCUE is continuing its efforts to build the Online Psychology Laboratory (OPL). Now in its third year of development and funding by the National Science Foundation, OPL consists of interactive, Web-deliverable psychology experiments and demonstrations, a cumulative data archive, and pedagogical materials. Web usage for OPL has increased almost 35% (172,252 total page views for January-June 2008) over this same reporting period from 2007. For more information, visit OPL on the Web at <http://opl.apa.org>.

- **Board of Educational Affairs (BEA) Block Grants**  
Staff continued its support of BEA awards programs such as the BEA block grant awards to support conferences for precollege and undergraduate teachers of psychology. This spring, BEA awarded \$5,000 to support several conferences to enhance the teaching of psychology.
- **APA Psychology Department Program (PDP)**  
APA's Psychology Department Program provides access to the APA's many teaching and advising publications as well as subscriptions to APA magazines and newsletters for departments at a price of \$300.00 per year. The 2007-2008 program includes the new editions of *Career Paths in Psychology: Where Your Degree Can Take You*; *Getting In: A Step-by-Step Plan for Gaining Admission to Graduate School in Psychology*; *Graduate Study in Psychology: 2008*, the *Careers in Psychology* video, three complimentary student affiliate memberships, in addition to subscriptions to the *Monitor on Psychology*, *gradPSYCH*, *the Psychology Teacher Network*, and *The Educator*. The PDP has also recently added the PDP-NEWS, an online news source for psychology faculty and students. APA also provides a link to participating psychology departments on the APA Web site. For more information, visit [www.apa.org/ed/pcue/psydeptprog.html](http://www.apa.org/ed/pcue/psydeptprog.html).

### *Meetings and Outreach Initiatives*

- The Director was invited to serve as a panelist for a featured session at the Association of American College's and Universities' Network for Academic Renewal conference on Integrative Designs for General Education and Assessment. The title of the featured session was *Cultivating liberal education outcomes: Perspective of disciplinary societies*. During this session the Director disseminated the *APA Guidelines for the Undergraduate Psychology Major* and discussed teaching resources available through the APA web site. Representatives from the disciplines of sociology and mathematics also served on this panel.
- The Director served as a judge for the Christopher Columbus Awards Program. This program is a national, community-based science and technology program for middle school students. The Christopher Columbus Awards Program is endorsed by the National Science Foundation. Eight finalist teams were selected to attend an all-expense paid trip to Disney World in order to compete for a \$25,000 grant.
- The Director delivered the keynote address for 14th Annual All-Maryland Community College Academic Team Recognition Awards Program. The purpose of the program was to recognize the achievements of community college honor students who made the first and second academic teams in the state of Maryland.
- The Director was invited to attend the *AAC&U Institute Design Charrette* held July 10-12. The purpose of this meeting was to design a Mock Institute for faculty teams that will take place in July 2009.
- The Director received an invitation from Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings to attend a summit titled "A test of leadership: committing to advance postsecondary education for all Americans." The summit was held July 17-18 in Chicago, IL.

[Office of Graduate & Postgraduate Education & Training \(GPET\)](#)  
[www.apa.org/ed/graduate](http://www.apa.org/ed/graduate)

The mission of the Office of Graduate and Postgraduate Education and Training is to advance the quality and public understanding of graduate and postdoctoral education and training in preparation for careers in teaching, research, and applications of psychology as a scientific discipline and profession.

*Conferences and Meetings*

- Staff attended the mid-year meeting of the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards. A focus of the ASPPB meeting was discussion of proposed language for regulatory boards regarding requirements for practicum training. The model regulations were developed in consultation with individuals from the education and training community and informed by the significant initiatives that have been underway by APA and others related to assessing and defining competence.
- Staff also attended or presented at the International Counseling Psychology Conference, the Council of Chairs of Training Councils, the American Council on Education, and the Association of Academic Health Centers

*Ongoing Outreach Activities*

- Staff completed a compilation of federal and private foundation sources of funding appropriate for psychology undergraduate and graduate students. These listings will soon be available on the GPET office Web site in both HTML and downloadable spreadsheet form. The listings include contact information for the funding source and any special considerations necessary for the scholarship/fellowship/research award application.
- Staff compiled a listing of graduate departments that have reported graduate program vacancies for the fall semester of 2008. This listing is now available in PDF form on our office website.
- The office completed its annual on-line collection of information from graduate departments of psychology for the publication and online product, *Graduate Study in Psychology*, during the months of February and March. The publication and online product provide information from approximately 600 departments of psychology related to employment outcomes of graduates, degree and admission requirements, tuition costs, availability of internships, and other information. An extensive revision of the introduction section entitled “Considering Graduate Study” will be available in the 2009 edition. The online product is available through the APA website at [www.apa.org/gradstudy](http://www.apa.org/gradstudy).
- One of the two 2007 Awards for Innovative Practices in Graduate Education in Psychology was presented to a departmental representative from the University of Washington at the 2008 Annual Meeting of Council of Graduate Departments of Psychology (COGDOP), held February 22-24 in San Antonio, TX. A representative of the Adler School was unable to attend the meeting, so the award was presented to the program at the Adler School of Professional Psychology at their

campus in Chicago. Dr. Clare Porac, Associate Executive Director for Graduate and Post Graduate Education, presented both awards.

- The Innovative Practices in Graduate Education in Psychology is reviewed and awarded by APA through BEA and COGDOP. The University of Washington, Department of Psychology was recognized for its innovations in competency-based clinical scientist training. The doctoral program in clinical psychology at the Adler School of Professional Psychology was recognized for its distinctive and innovative focus on the education and training of socially responsible practitioners.

[OFFICE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION IN PSYCHOLOGY \(CEP\)](#)  
[www.apa.org/ce](http://www.apa.org/ce)

The CEP Office continues to offer and to expand programs and products for the continuing education of psychologists and other mental health professionals. Live programming (workshops and seminars) is offered at the Annual Convention and Independent Study through online programs, DVD, CD, book-based, and journal-based programs. In addition, the CEP Office sponsors workshops offered by other APA offices.

- **2008 APA Annual Convention**

For the 2008 Convention in Boston, the CEP Office has significantly increased the CE offerings this year with 84 scheduled workshops and over 200 sessions. Submitted workshops and sessions were reviewed by the Continuing Education Committee and their decisions were based on a number of criteria including the need to maximize the breadth of topic areas and conference room and staffing capacity.

- **Independent Study**

The Office currently offers Independent Study in three formats:

- **APA Online Academy programs**—these are virtual programs that blend multimedia presentations with interactive and downloadable presentation slides. APA offers nine programs. The new releases are:
  - Advanced Assessment and Treatment of Attention Deficit Disorders (ADD/ADHD)
  - Positive Aging: An Innovative Approach to Counseling Older AdultsThis fall, approximately 14 additional online programs will be available in a range of topics.
- **APA DVD and CD series programs**—these programs feature distinguished psychologists demonstrating specific approaches to a patient and practice problems.
- **APA book-based and journal article-based programs** – APA now offers more than 70 programs that cover a broad array of areas of interest.  
Upcoming releases are:
  - *Behavioral Interventions in Cognitive Behavior Therapy: Practical Guidance for Putting Theory Into Action*
  - *Childhood Mental Health Disorders: Evidence Base and Contextual Factors for Psychosocial, Psychopharmacological, and Combined Interventions*
  - *Cognitive Therapy with Suicidal Patients*
  - *Emotion-Focused Couples Therapy: The Dynamics of Emotion, Love, and Power*

- *Inclusive Cultural Empathy: Making Relationships Central in Counseling and Psychotherapy*
  - *Pedophilia and Sexual Offending Against Children*
  - *Sex Offending: Causal Theories to Inform Research, Prevention, and Treatment*
  - *A Spiritual Strategy for Counseling and Psychotherapy, Second Edition*
  - *Unlocking the Potential of Patients With ADHD: A Model for Clinical Practice*
- **Continuing Education Sponsorship**  
The CEP office has continued to sponsor workshops offered by other APA Offices, including CE credits for two conferences this spring: the ABA/APA Child Custody Conference in Chicago and the Work, Stress, and Health Conference in Washington, DC. In addition, the office is offering CE credits for selected workshops at the International Congress of Psychology in Berlin this July.

## QUALITY ASSURANCE IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

[CONTINUING EDUCATION SPONSOR APPROVAL SYSTEM \(CE/SAS\)](http://www.apa.org/ce/sponsorapproval)  
[www.apa.org/ce/sponsorapproval](http://www.apa.org/ce/sponsorapproval)

The Continuing Education Sponsor Approval System recognizes organizations committed to providing high quality continuing professional education in psychology.

- The Continuing Education Committee (CEC) approved 31 new organizations as sponsors of continuing education at its March 2008 meeting. There are currently 792 APA-approved sponsors.
- The Sponsor Approval System has received 18 applications for one-time course approval to date in 2008.
- The Committee had a full-day policy retreat in advance of its March 2008 meeting. Included in the discussion were reviews of comments received by Boards and Committees as well as the public on a proposed change to Criterion D.1.2 of the Standards and Criteria for Approval of Sponsors. The proposed revision will be sent to the Board of Educational Affairs for review and action including a recommendation regarding approval to the Council of Representatives.
- The Committee continues to engage in outreach activities to promote understanding of its policies and procedures including appointing a member to serve as a liaison to the Committee for the Advancement for Professional Practice.

[OFFICE OF PROGRAM CONSULTATION & ACCREDITATION \(OPCA\)](http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation)  
[www.apa.org/ed/accreditation](http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation)

The Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation assists the Committee on Accreditation (CoA) in its activities related to the accreditation of doctoral programs, internships, and postdoctoral residencies in professional psychology. This office publishes lists of accredited programs; consults with programs considering application, as well as those already accredited; conducts research to

support accreditation; assists with development of guidance documents to support the accreditation process; and represents the CoA at national meetings on accreditation.

- Effective January 1, 2008, the 21-member Committee on Accreditation successfully transitioned to the new 32-member Commission on Accreditation. The first meeting for the 2008 Commission on Accreditation was held in February. This meeting included an orientation session for new members and a training session on program review for all members. Commission members also received updates on higher education in the US and discussed current policy issues.
- During this reporting period, there were 898 accredited programs in professional psychology: 377 doctoral programs (including 5 newly accredited programs), 472 internship training programs (including 2 newly accredited programs), and 49 postdoctoral residency training programs.
- The Commission on Accreditation (CoA) held a program review meeting on April 3-6, 2008 during which the CoA reviewed 75 programs for both initial and re-accreditation. Three programs were placed on “accredited, on probation” status. None of those programs appealed that decision. The next program review meeting will occur on July 17-20, 2008.
- With the assistance of accreditation staff members, members of the CoA conducted accreditation workshops at the following conferences:
  - National Council of Schools and Programs of Professional Psychology (NCSPP) – Austin, TX
  - Council of University Directors of Clinical Psychology (CUDCP) – San Antonio, TX
  - Council of Directors of School Psychology Programs (CDSPP) – Deerfield Beach, FL
  - International Counseling Psychology – Chicago, IL

In addition, accreditation workshops were conducted at The School at Columbia University (New York, NY) as well as the Accreditation Assembly (Minneapolis, MN).

- A revised *Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU) that allows the CoA to cease concurrent accreditation of programs in Canada has been signed. Per the MOU, concurrent accreditation in Canada will end effective September 1, 2015. A student who graduates from a program that was accredited by the APA at the time of his or her graduation (i.e., a graduation date which must be prior to September 1, 2015), can claim to have graduated from an APA-accredited program.
- The Commission adopted an Implementing Regulation on programs operating outside the United States. The Commission affirmed that it would not accredit any program outside the US and its territories until APA adopts a policy regarding quality assurance by APA groups in other countries. In late 2007, accreditation staff members staffed the Joint Board of Educational Affairs (BEA)/Committee on International Relations (CIRP) Task Force on APA’s Role in International Quality Assurance. During this reporting period, the report of the Task Force was reviewed by BEA and CIRP. The draft report should be circulated to appropriate APA governance bodies this fall.

- The CoA reviewed the comments received on potential changes to Section 3.1 of the *Accreditation Operating Procedures* (AOP) regarding site visitor selection and the definition of the generalist visitor to doctoral programs. In considering the comments received, the CoA voted not to make these changes at this time. The CoA plans to increase its efforts at recruiting generalist site visitors and to review the operations of its new database before taking final action on either of these proposals.
- The CoA previously posted for comment a change to Section 8 of the AOP which clarifies that the outcomes of programs applying for initial accreditation will be made public. After reviewing the comments received, the CoA voted to approve this change and recommended that the APA Board of Directors vote to accept the change as well.
- Effective January 2007, all accredited doctoral programs were required to provide information on its education and training outcomes to the public per the CoA's Implementing Regulation C-20. The Commission adopted an update to IR C-20 to require reporting of graduates' licensure rates and student attrition data to be provided in a specific format. The updated IR C-20 was effective January 1, 2008.
- Based upon feedback from site visitors, the CoA adopted an Implementing Regulation to allow visitors to see the program's response to their site visit report. After a final decision has been made, visitors will receive confidential copies of that response and the CoA's final decision letter. Visitors to all site visits after January 1, 2008 will receive a copy of that report.
- The Office began using its new Web-based database system and will evaluate its effectiveness prior to opening the system to programs and site visitors for electronic submission of accreditation program review materials.
- The Accreditation Annual Report Online (ARO), which opened for accredited programs on April 22, 2008, now uses the new software and database system for reports by accredited programs. Accreditation staff members are evaluating the revised format for ease of data entry.
- The second Accreditation Assembly was held May 30-31, 2008 in Minneapolis, MN. The 2008 Assembly included accreditation workshops and a number of breakout sessions. The schedule included sessions on the assessment of competency, FERPA-HIPAA, changes in accreditation, aspects of program review, and looking to future issues in accreditation of professional psychology. The CoA sought input and provided several opportunities for questions and answers throughout the meeting. The presentations and session notes are in the process of being placed on the accreditation web pages. We hope to also include videotapes of some of the key sessions. The draft survey completed by attendees indicates that it was a useful and productive meeting.
- Staff has kept CoA informed of issues related to higher education and accreditation. CoA is an active member of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA) and has been involved in discussions regarding the importance of continuing to keep accreditation as a voluntary peer review process. Dr. Susan Zlotlow is currently the Chair of the External Reviews Issues of ASPA. That group has been working with other accreditors and institutional membership groups on issues related to accreditation in the Higher Education Authorization bill. Dr. Zlotlow continues to be involved in discussions regarding the Higher Education Reauthorization. This is of particular importance to the Commission on Accreditation, as the

CoA is scheduled for review in 2009 of its 5-year continued recognition. The review will occur under the (to be) revised regulations and newly structured advisory council to the Secretary of the US Department of Education.

*General Counsel*

*Nathalie Gilfoyle  
Executive Director*

# OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

## HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT ACTIVITIES

### FEBRUARY '08 – JULY '08

#### OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

In addition to providing legal advice to APA, the OGC continued to advance APA's interface between psychology and law from February through July 2008 in the following ways:

- **Amicus Involvement:** The OGC worked closely with the Committee on Legal Issues, APA directorates, relevant governance bodies, psychological experts, and outside counsel to prepare and file an amicus brief in the Supreme Court of Iowa *Varnum v. Brien*. The brief addresses a constitutional challenge to Iowa's refusal to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.
- APA/ABA handbook for psychologists, on "Assessment of Older Adults with Diminished Capacity." This document represents the third work product resulting from the collaborative efforts of the APA/ABA Working Group on Assessment of Capacity in Older Adult Adults. The first work product, *Assessment of Older Adults with Diminished Capacity: A Handbook for Lawyers* (published in 2005), and the recently published *Determining Capacity of Older Adults in Guardianship Proceedings: A Handbook for Judges* (published in 2006) are available in hard copy and also available on line at <http://www.apa.org/pi/aging>. Debbie DiGilio and Donna Beavers are working together to support this APA-ABA Collaborative Working Group.
- APA/ABA co-sponsored the National Conference on Divorce and Child Custody RECONCEPTUALIZING CHILD CUSTODY: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE *Lawyers and Psychologists Working Together* April 30 - May 3, 2008, in Chicago. OGC staff worked with the Advisory Committee and ABA Section of Family Law staff and governance. Doctor Mary Connell and Doctor Randy Otto served as APA's co-chairs of the conference, which was attended by approximately 600 psychologists and lawyers from 45 states and five countries. Through a series of 35 programs, attendees weighed in on the varied but distinct roles psychologists play in divorce and custody cases, including as evaluators of psychological functioning of children and parents, expert witnesses with regard to the child's best interests, litigation consultants, parenting coordinators and divorce coaches and therapists for the children, parents or both. They also participated in sessions on parental alienation, psychological testing in child-custody evaluations and a mock custody hearing.

*Governance Affairs*

*Judy A. Strassburger*  
*Executive Director*

# GOVERNANCE

## HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT ACTIVITIES

### FEBRUARY '08 – JULY '08

#### BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPERATIONS

- Organized the March 2008 Consolidated Meetings at the Hyatt Regency Washington. This meeting brought together 28 boards and committees in addition to the APA Board of Directors. Highlights of the meeting included Diversity Training: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity presented by Dr. Ruth Fassinger and discussion groups comprised of one member from each participating board and committee gathered to provide input toward the development of APA's Strategic Plan.
- Produced and distributed *Making APA Work for You 2008*, the annual comprehensive listing of APA governance structures, members and resources. *Making APA Work for You* is also available electronically to APA staff on the APA Intranet and to APA members at <http://members.apa.org/workforyou/index.html>.
- Coordinated production of Directorate Reports to Council and the Governance Affairs section of the APA Annual report appearing in the August *American Psychologist*.

#### DIVISION SERVICES OFFICE

**Division Services Office** (DSO) staff supports the work of the **Committee on Division/APA Relations** (CODAPAR) and the **Policy and Planning Board** (P&P). In addition, it maintains administrative service contracts with 32 APA divisions and 6 division sections. During the past six months:

The Division Services and Internet Technology Services offices have worked together to produce an online electronic signature system for proposer(s) of a new division to use in collecting signatures. The new system will allow APA Members and Fellows easy access to division petitions and will set petition language over the life of the petition. Currently, there are no proposed divisions gathering signatures so testing the usefulness of the new system will have to wait.

The Board of Directors approved a first-time recruitment campaign that will be sent out in September 2009 for the 2010 dues year. Five hundred early career psychologists, who have no division membership, will be randomly selected to receive a \$20.00 coupon to use to join a division. Division Services will track the participation of those 500 members for 3 years and compare the retention rate with a control group of 500 early career psychologists who are not given the coupon. The purpose of the campaign is to find if APA can encourage new members to become active in one or more divisions thereby enhancing their APA membership experiences.

Of note in the review of the 2007 division annual reports is the interest by divisions in creating guidelines. Below is a list of divisions reporting that they are currently developing or

reviewing/revising existing guidelines documents: Division 17 (Prevention Guidelines), Division 20 (revision of the Guidelines on Dementia Assessment), Division 22, Division 36 (Practice Guidelines for Religious-Spiritual Issues), Division 40 (revision of the Structure and Function of an Interdisciplinary Team for Persons With Acquired Brain Injury with the American Speech and Hearing Association), Division 41 (Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychology), Division 44 (revision of Guidelines for Psychotherapy with Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Clients), Division 47 (Sport and Exercise Psychology Practice Guidelines), Division 51 (Guidelines for Psychotherapy With Boys and Men) and Division 55 (Guidelines for Practice in Pharmacotherapy).

The Policy and Planning Board (P&P) is developing its 2008 annual report which will focus on the impact of technology on psychology education and practice, as well as, the impact that technology will have on the future needs of the public. P&P is also preparing to work on the 2009 5-year report. The focus of the report has not yet been determined.

*Office of Public  
and Member  
Communications*

*Rhea Farberman  
Executive Director*

# OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT ACTIVITIES FEBRUARY '08 – JULY '08

## OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

The Office of Public and Member Communications (P&MC) houses Public Affairs, the Monitor *on Psychology*, *gradPSYCH*, Advertising and Exhibit Sales, Membership Development, the Service Center, Editorial and Design Services, and the APA Web Site.

The office is the primary contact for APA membership at large and nonmember and business customers of the association's products and services. It also links APA and psychology with the news media and the public, helps companies market products and services to psychologists by selling advertising and exhibit space, publishes documents to be distributed to APA membership and the public, manages membership recruitment and retention activities, and manages content and content strategies for the APA Web site.

Council Priorities that the Office of Public and Member Communications activities support are in parenthesis throughout this report.

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

The Public Affairs Office manages the association's media relations program and serves as a contact for the press and general public. Specific media relations initiatives include the following.

## NEWS MEDIA RELATIONS/JOURNALS NEWS MARKETING

During the past 6 months, the office received 550 inquiries from the news media and made 2,750 referrals. Additionally, the office researched, wrote, and distributed 28 press releases, the majority of which summarized research being published in APA journals.

The following are samples of press releases distributed to national news media during the past 6 months. News coverage of the research is also noted.

“Artificial Sweeteners Linked to Weight Gain,” *Behavioral Neuroscience* (February 2008).  
**Placements:** *ABC World News Tonight, Good Morning America, Wall Street Journal, CBS News, Time Magazine, CNN, U.S. News & World Report, Los Angeles Times, MSNBC, Scientific American, Fox News*

“Internet Predator Stereotypes Debunked in New Study,” *American Psychologist* (February 2008). **Placements:** *Reuters, USA Today, Detroit Free Press, Seattle Times, Boston Globe, The Canadian Press, Medical News Today, New York Post, Charlotte Observer*

In March, the office issued an advisory to promote the Work, Stress, and Health Conference that took place in Washington, DC, on March 6-8, 2008, and a press release on one of the presentations that found that bullying is more harmful than sexual harassment in the workplace. **Placements:** *Washington Post, ABC News, New York Times, New York Times Blog, Newsday, Globe & Mail, Toronto Star, Reuters, Financial Post, Webwire, Louisville Courier, Chicago Tribune, Medical News Today, New York Post, LiveScience wire*

“Too Many Choices—Good or Bad—Can Be Mentally Exhausting,” *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* (April 2008). **Placements:** *Washington Post, CBS News, CBC, Science Daily, LiveScience wire, Environmental News Network, Medical News Today, UPI, Deccan Herald, PhysOrg, WebMD, Health Scout, Health Central, HealthDay, MedicineNet*

“Study Finds 21st Birthday Binge Drinking Extremely Common: Can Pose Serious Health Hazards,” *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* (June 2008). **Placements:** *U.S. News & World Report, CBS News, Houston Chronicle, WebMD, eMaxHealth.com, UPI, Medical News Today, The News & Observer, News Medical Unit*

“New ‘Everyday Cognition’ Scale Tracks How Older Adults Function in Daily Life,” *Neuropsychology* (July 2008). **Placements:** *Washington Post, Science Daily, Barchester Healthcare (UK), Medical News Today, Web MD, eMaxHealth.com, Medscape, McKnight’s Long- Term Care News, MedicineNet, Health Central, Health Scout, HealthDay*

Media advisories were also prepared to promote congressional briefings on genes and drug addiction, stress disorders among returning military, and children’s mental health. Other advisories focused on holidays—Martin Luther King Day, Valentine’s Day, Earth Day, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day and 4th of July (patriotism)—and highlighted experts who could discuss the psychology angle of the holidays

## **PUBLIC AND MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS SPECIAL PROJECT**

P&MC has been playing a leading role in laying the groundwork for a public education campaign aimed at bolstering the image of psychology as a science, thereby spurring more people to study it. In the first half of 2008, P&MC pulled together a committee comprising members of the Science and Education directorates to work with an outside consultant, Reingold Inc., on developing a public opinion poll. The poll was administered by phone to 1,000 adults Feb. 25-29. In addition, Reingold and the committee worked together to develop a moderator’s guide for focus groups. Five focus groups were held in April and May in Towson, MD; Denver; and Charlotte, NC. Information collected as a result of all the above research will be used to craft messages, which will be tested later this year by our consulting polling firm, Penn, Schoen, & Berland Associates.

The proposed campaign will move into the message and materials development phase as additional funding is earmarked through the APA budget process.

## EDITORIAL AND DESIGN SERVICES

The Editorial and Design Services (E&DS) unit of the office continues to provide in-house editing, design, and production services to APA directorates, offices, and governance groups. These in-house services enable APA to save money and provide consistently high-quality publications and other media projects for members and the public. So far in 2008, the department has worked on 105 projects. Projects include public information brochures, convention marketing materials, task force reports, exhibits, slide shows, logos, promotional materials, and conference marketing materials.

The Editorial and Design Services staff also coordinates the production of the APA annual convention program book; staff members also edit, design, format, and have printed parts of the program book, the convention program supplement, convention call for programs, convention registration booklet, and multiple convention-related ads. Our work on the convention program is complete, and the convention book was released the first week of July 2008. We will continue work on convention-related projects through convention week. (E&DS supports Council Priorities 1-10, as all of its activities support publishing of information, promotions, etc., that support activities throughout APA.)

## MONITOR ON PSYCHOLOGY EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISING

Members are consistently reporting that they are pleased with the revamped and redesigned *Monitor*. They appreciate the easy-to-read font, bolder graphics, and the new departments. In particular, they especially enjoy "Time Capsule," the monthly look at psychology's past; "Random Sample," which introduces them to a randomly selected APA member; "In Brief," which summarizes new research; and "On Your Behalf," which reports on APA's advocacy activities.

The financial picture for the *Monitor* looks solid even with a slight downturn (10%) in advertising revenue. In the first half of 2008, advertisers began to pull back on their advertising budgets because of economic uncertainty. Historically, the last half of the year produces our largest percentage of advertising revenue, driven by seasonal fluctuations in recruitment revenue. This year we will be watching revenues closely. Postage, paper, and ink costs continue to rise; however, as we anticipated this rise in costs, we budgeted for it.

## GRADPSYCH EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISING

Following the lead of the *Monitor*, *gradPSYCH* is also undergoing a design tweak. Its new look will premiere with the September issue.

On the financial side, *gradPSYCH* is on target to meet budget expectations in advertising revenue and printing expenses. Ad revenue is tracking only 3% behind 2007, and, while printing expenses have increased 10%, as we anticipated this rise in costs, and budgeted for it.

## ADVERTISING AND EXHIBIT SALES

### *Exhibits and Sponsorships*

Exhibit revenue for the 2008 APA Annual Convention is tracking on target, with 2007 revenues at \$411,000. Convention sponsorship revenue is down slightly at \$57,900 (from \$59,500 in 2007). *Convention Program* advertising revenue ended down approximately 10% from 2007 at \$67,000.

### *Online Advertising*

Online (banner) advertising revenue is down slightly because of the economy at \$58,800. Advertising Sales staff is gearing up for the Web re-launch in early 2009.

### *APA Practice Organization Advertising*

In September 2006, the APA Advertising Sales Department contracted with the APA Practice Organization (APAPO) to handle advertising sales on the APAPO Web site, [www.APAPractice.org](http://www.APAPractice.org), in its electronic newsletter, *PracticeUpdate*, and in its print publication, *Good Practice*. In turn, APA Advertising Sales is paid an advertising commission for its services. To date, APA Advertising Sales has been working to create an advertising base for the APA Practice Organization through established advertising contacts in the psychology industry. In addition, they are currently exploring entering into a print management agreement with the APA Practice Organization for the printing and mailing of *Good Practice* magazine.

### *PsycCareers*

In July 2006 the Advertising Sales Office successfully re-launched PsycCareers, APA's Online Career Center, with increased functionality for psychologists and employers, including in-depth career resources, an enhanced job-search engine, e-mail notification when new jobs are posted, and the ability to apply for jobs online. In addition, employers now have the capability to submit recruitment advertising for *Monitor on Psychology* and *gradPSYCH* electronically through PsycCareers. With the help of Membership Marketing to market PsycCareers to the APA membership, to date there are more than 5,000 active resumes, more than 4,700 employers, and over 11,000 registered job seekers.

## MEMBERSHIP AND CONVENTION MARKETING

(All efforts support Council Priorities #1 and #7.)

### *Governance Activities*

**The new Membership Board** held its first meeting at the 2008 Spring Consolidated Meetings. The board developed slates of candidates for election to the board in 2009. Work continued on the top 10 recommendations of the Membership Recruitment and Retention Strategic Plan. The board selected three possible initiatives as the first recommendations to move forward in 2008 to the Board of Directors (BoD), the Finance Committee, and the Council of Representatives (CoR) for approval. The Membership Board collaborated with the Committee on Early Career Psychologists (CECP) to present two sessions at the upcoming 2008 annual convention: a town hall meeting featuring APA

leaders (CEO, president, and president-elect) and a session focused on technology and its impact on mentoring.

**The Fellows Committee** held its first meeting at APA headquarters in March 2008. The committee reviewed 128 initial nominations for fellow submitted by various divisions. Committee member Paul Lloyd, PhD, was elected as chair and Florence Denmark, PhD, as vice chair. Preparations were made for the 2008 August meeting at convention, where the committee will consider appeals and finalize the list of 2008 fellows to be forward to the BoD for election by the CoR.

**The Committee on Early Career Psychologists** met at the 2008 Spring Consolidated Meetings to discuss issues and concerns of early career psychologists. The committee worked on developing convention activities: several sessions (financial planning, life/work balance, race and culture in supervision, and leadership development), a social hour (cosponsored by the APA Insurance Trust), an exhibit booth for early career attendees, and a meeting with early career representatives from various divisions and state psychological associations. The committee is also collaborating with other groups on some convention sessions: a town hall meeting and a session focused on technology and its impact on mentoring with the Membership Board and a session on launching a successful practice with the Committee for the Advancement of Professional Practice (CAPP). CECP also worked on finalizing a new financial planning workbook for early career psychologists (will debut at convention) and worked with the APA Center for Workforce Studies (CWS formerly CPWAR) to finalize the release of the early career survey data to all APA boards and committees.

### *Marketing Activities*

**Convention Campaign:** An integrated marketing campaign consisting of 15 major efforts including direct mail, print advertising, Web, and e-mail campaigns has been executed. This multichannel approach encourages online registration and delivers targeted messages to paid members, early career members, students, and past attendees. The campaign includes an incentive aimed at boosting student and early career registration (a free trip to the 2009 convention in Toronto), targeted e-mails to each segmented group, Listserv postings, and dedicated Web landing pages, direct mail (postcards and self-mailers), and advertisements in the *Monitor* and *gradPsych* (including a series of PR ads featuring member photographs and testimonies about their experiences at convention). To date, more than 110,000 potential attendees have been contacted.

**2008 Student Upgrade Campaign:** Two of three student upgrade efforts have been mailed to about 3,700 student affiliates (new doctorates) inviting them to upgrade from affiliate to full- member status for no cost for the remainder of 2008. To date, 372 upgrade applications (125 online and 247 by mail) have been received. The packages included a congratulations greeting card and an early career focused insert. The upgrade direct mail campaign was supported by ads in the *Monitor* (May, June, July/August) and e-mails inviting the new doctorates to visit the Web landing page and upgrade their membership online.

**2007 Member Card Mailings:** To date, 109,602 membership card packages have been mailed to members, associates, and affiliates as they renew for 2008.

**PsycCareers:** Membership Marketing continues to provide marketing and promotional support to PsycCareers. Newly designed ads ran each month in the *Monitor* (January through July/August), and plans are under way to develop a convention-bag insert and other traffic builders for the PsycCareers

booth in Boston (i.e., convention attendees will be invited to participate in the onsite user survey for a chance to win an iPod).

### *Affinity Program*

Various partners have agreed to participate in the Affinity Pavilion at convention in Boston. New this year, attendees will have the opportunity to sign up for one-on-one sessions with business experts to get personalized advice on such topics as education financing and small business solutions. Partners participating in the 2008 convention include Dell, Bank of America, Alamo, Avis, Subscription Service, and Elavon Credit Card Processing.

### *Service Center*

(The Service Center activities support Council Priorities 1 and 7.)

### *Service Center Operations*

The 2008 peak season processing of dues and subscription orders has started to wind down, APA's having collected dues payments from more than 74% of the billed members. As of June 30, about 28% of the members renewed their dues online, and 46% of the student affiliates renewed online.

The Service Center Operations unit has launched the summer internal briefing and training programs to update our knowledge about programs, products, and services across the association and to enhance customer service skills.

### *Publication Fulfillment*

The Fulfillment Operations unit of the Service Center continues to provide timely fulfillment and distribution of the association's publications to its constituencies. During the first 6 months of 2008, the unit managed the processing of over 20,300 orders valued at over 6.7 million dollars. This is slightly less than the 20,700 order processed in the first 6 months of 2007. Also, effective June 1, 2008, ownership of APA's warehousing and distribution facilities changed from Pitney Bowes Government Solutions to BrightKey. The new owners have decided to maintain all of APA's inventory in the existing location. This change should have no impact on the unit's ability to maintain its current processing standards.

### *Call Center*

Within the Communications unit of the Service Center is its Call Center. The Call Center is the initial point of contact and direct service link to all constituencies who contact the association's main telephone number and/or those who direct correspondence to its fax machines or mailing address. The unit provides direct service to members, subscribers, or book buyers who want to make a payment, place an order, seek assistance, or obtain information. During the first 6 months of 2008, the unit has handled over 60,000 contacts. The unit is enhancing its staff training and development plan to include the development of simulated training modules that staff can access that incorporate actual real-time demonstrations of major and common tasks performed by the unit.

## APA WEB SITE

The APA Web site staff is responsible for managing content and content strategies for the APA Web site. In the first half of 2008, the Web site staff continued to focus largely on the Web re-launch effort, while continuing to provide Web production and administrative support for the current APA Web site to directorates and offices (Council Priority 1).

Milestones of the extensive Web redesign effort (Council Priorities 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9), include:

- **Information architecture.** Navigation Arts, specialists in Web site user experience, developed an extensive system of wireframes as the architecture of the new site. They based this framework on intensive research and discovery, including stakeholder interviews and user testing. Navigation Arts' work is based on best practices, analyses of what members (Council Priorities 1, 7) and the general public (Council Priorities 3, 6) do when they visit the site, and feedback users have provided.
- **Visual design.** Staff worked with Navigation Arts' designers to develop the overall APA brand look and feel of the new site. After completing the high-level design of the homepage and first-tier pages, Navigation Arts worked with APA staff to develop subbranding, including a distinct yet related look for APAPO. Navigation Arts provided a style guide for APA to use going forward in order to maintain the consistency of the new site post-launch.
- **Content migration.** Migration of some 18,000 individual Web pages has begun. Staff continues daily work with Siteworx, the firm implementing the new content management system, as issues are identified and resolved.
- **User testing.** High-level user testing of the search and "My APA" features was conducted, resulting in enhancements to the final architecture. All of APA's various audiences have been tapped during the user testing.
- **Image library.** Staff continues to coordinate with ITS and offices and directorates to develop a shared multimedia library that will allow APA staff to make the best use of association resources. A decision has been made regarding software; purchase and implementation are expected in the second half of 2008.
- **Search engine optimization.** Staff will optimize the new site to increase APA's rankings in Google and other search engines (Council Priorities 1, 3, 6).
- **Content workflow.** Staff has drafted a process for approving and publishing content on the new site. WSO has held several meetings with directorates to describe and explain how the new site will be different and better for both end users and APA staff.
- **Staffing.** As APA moves to a centralized publishing model, several new positions have been added to the WSO, moving one position each from the Education, Practice, Science, and Public Interest Directorates to Public and Member Communications as content specialists. Each of these positions will be charged with ensuring that content

continues to be posted on the new site in a timely fashion and according to the new style guides.

- **Marketing.** Staff put together plans for an exhibit booth offering a “sneak preview” of the new site at the Boston Convention. The booth will feature six computer work stations where convention-goers can see portions of the new site and fill out questionnaires aimed at gathering more information for improvements and enhancements.

*Practice Directorate*

*Katherine Nordal, PhD*  
*Executive Director*

# PRACTICE DIRECTORATE HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT ACTIVITIES FEBRUARY '08 – JULY '08

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report contains selected highlights of Practice Directorate activities from February through July 2008. Further information is available by sending an email or calling the directorate office as indicated below.

### *ACHIEVING PARITY IN INSURANCE COVERAGE OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES*

For additional information, please email the Government Relations Department at [pracgovt@apa.org](mailto:pracgovt@apa.org) or call (202) 336-5889.

### *FIGHTING MEDICARE PAYMENT CUTS THAT ADVERSELY AFFECT BENEFICIARY ACCESS TO PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES*

For additional information, please email the Government Relations Department at [pracgovt@apa.org](mailto:pracgovt@apa.org) or call (202) 336-5889.

### *POSITIONING THE APA PRACTICE ORGANIZATION TO TAKE ON AN ACTIVE ROLE IN HEALTH CARE REFORM*

For additional information, please email the Government Relations Department at [pracgovt@apa.org](mailto:pracgovt@apa.org) or call (202) 336-5889.

### *GAINING CLARIFICATION OF THE APPROPRIATE USE OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING CODES*

For additional information, please email the Government Relations Department at [pracgovt@apa.org](mailto:pracgovt@apa.org) or call (202) 336-5889.

### *AIDING THE PROFESSION'S QUEST FOR PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY*

For additional information about prescriptive authority initiatives, please email the Legal and Regulatory Affairs Department at [praclegal@apa.org](mailto:praclegal@apa.org) or call (202) 336-5886.

### *SEEKING TO ENSURE THE AVAILABILITY OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES FOR VETERANS*

For additional information about the VA Psychology Leadership Conference, please email the Practice Directorate Executive Office at [practice@apa.org](mailto:practice@apa.org) or call (202) 336-5878.

*CONTESTING PROPOSED TITLE RESTRICTIONS RELATED TO PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICE*

For additional information, please email the Legal and Regulatory Affairs Department at [praclegal@apa.org](mailto:praclegal@apa.org) or call (202) 336-5886.

*CONVENING THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE*

For additional information about the State Leadership Conference, please email the State Advocacy Department at [state@apa.org](mailto:state@apa.org) or call (202) 336-5864.

*EDUCATING PSYCHOLOGISTS AND ADVOCATING FOR APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY*

For additional information about the BPA working group on health information technology, please contact the Practice Research and Policy Department at [profdev@apa.org](mailto:profdev@apa.org) or call 202-336-5911.

*HELPING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF LOW-INCOME FAMILIES INVOLVED IN CHILD CUSTODY DISPUTES*

For additional information, please email the Legal and Regulatory Affairs Department at [praclegal@apa.org](mailto:praclegal@apa.org) or call (202) 336-5886.

*EXPANDING PUBLIC EDUCATION ABOUT PSYCHOLOGY AND THE VALUE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES*

For additional information about the APA Public Education Campaign, please email the Public Relations Department at [pracpr@apa.org](mailto:pracpr@apa.org) or call (202) 336-5898.

*AIDING INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES IN THE AFTERMATH OF DISASTERS*

For additional information about the Disaster Response Network, please email the Public Relations Department at [pracpr@apa.org](mailto:pracpr@apa.org) or call (202) 336-5898.

*AFFIRMING THE VALUE OF PSYCHOLOGICALLY HEALTHY WORKPLACES*

For additional information about the Psychologically Healthy Workplace Program, please email the Corporate Relations and Business Strategy Department at [practicemanagement@apa.org](mailto:practicemanagement@apa.org) or call (202) 336-5900.

*ADDRESSING THE HEALTH NEEDS OF RURAL RESIDENTS*

For additional information about the work of the APA Rural Health Committee, please email the State Advocacy Department at [state@apa.org](mailto:state@apa.org) or call (202) 336-5864.

# PRACTICE DIRECTORATE

## HIGHLIGHTS

The Practice Directorate is involved in a broad range of activities on behalf of practicing psychologists and consumers of psychological services. Virtually all of the directorate's efforts reflect the rapidly changing health care system and related opportunities and challenges for professional psychology.

The directorate agenda supports members of the APA and the APA Practice Organization, a companion organization to APA housed administratively in the Practice Directorate. The APA Practice Organization was created in 2001 as a 501(c)(6) organization under IRS rules to enable unrestricted advocacy on behalf of practicing psychologists.

In April 2008, Dr. Katherine Nordal officially began her tenure as executive director of the Practice Directorate. Following are brief highlights of selected directorate activities and significant developments from February 2008 to July 2008.

### *GAINING A LAW THAT REVERSES MEDICARE PAYMENT CUTS FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES AND PHASES IN MEDICARE COINSURANCE PARITY*

One of the APA Practice Organization's top legislative priorities for 2008 has been to reverse steep cuts in Medicare payment for psychological services. Psychology took a major step forward when, on July 15, Congress overrode a presidential veto of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (H.R. 6331).

The new law will restore \$45 million to psychotherapy and related services cut as a result of the five-year review by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, halt the 10.6 percent Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) cut, provide a 1.1 percent Medicare payment update for 2009 and expand federal appropriations for mental health services delivery to residents of rural areas. Further, the APA Practice Organization succeeded in gaining a provision that will phase in Medicare coinsurance parity. Currently, Medicare beneficiaries are responsible for 50 percent of the bill for mental health services, but only 20 percent for other services. Under the coinsurance parity provision, by 2014 mental health services would enjoy the same 80/20 percent split. Additional details about H.R. 6331 are available in the July 2008 issue of the *PracticeUpdate* e-newsletter available at **APApractice.org**.

Also related to Medicare payment, the Practice Directorate has contested Medicare payment limitations on psychologists who bill the program for health and behavior services and testing services in 2008. The Practice Directorate is advocating for the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) to remove "Medical Unlikely Edits" (MUEs) that limit the number of hours of testing services and health and behavior interventions that can be billed per patient per day. For more information, see [http://www.apapractice.org/apo/in\\_the\\_news/practice\\_directorate.html#](http://www.apapractice.org/apo/in_the_news/practice_directorate.html#).

## *ACHIEVING PARITY IN INSURANCE COVERAGE OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES*

The U.S. Senate and House reached an historic agreement in June on the terms for a final full mental health parity bill. The compromise bill is expected to move through both chambers before the August recess.

From the time that the House passed its version of the parity bill in early March (the Senate passed its version, S. 558, last September), the two chambers have been engaged in intense negotiations to reconcile differences between the two versions. The APA Practice Organization was involved throughout these negotiations, along with other key stakeholders from the mental health, insurer and employer communities.

When enacted the new federal parity law will:

- End insurance discrimination against mental health and substance use disorder benefits coverage for over 113 million Americans, requiring full parity coverage with physical health benefits.
- Extend to all aspects of plan coverage, including day/visit limits, dollar limits, coinsurance, copayments, deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums.
- Preserve strong state parity and consumer protection laws while extending parity protection to 82 million more people who cannot be protected by state laws.
- Ensure parity coverage for both in-network and out-of-network services.

## *POSITIONING THE APA PRACTICE ORGANIZATION TO TAKE ON AN ACTIVE ROLE IN HEALTH CARE REFORM*

The APA Practice Organization (APAPO) considers health care reform an important legislative priority and recognizes that there is strength in numbers when working on such a complex and high-profile issue. As a result, we recently joined two new health care reform coalitions. Affiliating with these coalitions is one component of the APAPO's preparations for playing a leadership role once the next session of Congress takes up health care reform.

In April, the APAPO accepted an invitation to be a founding member of Health Care First, a collaboration of consumer and provider associations working to involve additional advocacy organizations in achieving comprehensive reform in 2009. In addition, the APAPO also has signed on as a supporting organization of Divided We Fail. This coalition of more than 80 groups will work to educate the public about the importance of good health coverage as a key component of long-term financial security. Through Divided We Fail, the APAPO will cultivate opportunities throughout the U.S. for psychologists to participate in town hall meetings, press conferences and community forums.

## *CLARIFYING APPROPRIATE USE OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING CODES*

In response to ongoing advocacy by the APA Practice Directorate, in June 2008, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) posted on the agency's Web site questions and answers (Q&As) that clarify how the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT)<sup>®</sup> codes for psychological and neuropsychological testing should be used. APA requested this information after a CMS transmittal issued in 2006 resulted in confusion about Medicare's rules for billing multiple codes when testing is administered by a technician or computer. The Q&As clarify when the professional codes for psychological and neuropsychological testing, 96101 and 96118 respectively, can be used to account

for the integrative interpretation and comprehensive report writing for services administered by a technician or computer.

#### *AIDING THE PROFESSION'S QUEST FOR PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY*

The Practice Directorate and the Committee for the Advancement of Professional Practice (CAPP) continue to help numerous states work toward achieving and implementing legislation that gives qualified licensed psychologists the authority to prescribe psychotropic medications. Support from the national level for state psychological associations includes CAPP grants and close consultation with state psychology leaders.

This year, there were prescriptive authority (RxP) bills pending in seven states: California, Georgia, Hawaii, Mississippi, Missouri, Oregon and Tennessee. Although most bills did not make it out of committee, Missouri's bill was approved and passed out of committee and headed to the Senate floor for consideration and possible vote. However, the legislature's attention was diverted to another legislative priority, resulting in a number of bills -- including the RxP bill -- being stalled in the Senate.

#### *SEEKING TO ENSURE THE AVAILABILITY OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES FOR VETERANS*

In April 9 testimony before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, Randy Phelps, PhD, deputy executive director of the APA Practice Directorate, testified on improving recruitment and retention of psychologists in the Veteran Affairs system. Dr. Phelps shared with the committee current APA initiatives to assist veterans.

Following his April appearance before the Senate, Dr. Phelps was invited to testify before the House Veterans' Affairs Health Subcommittee on May 22. Dr. Phelps built on his earlier testimony by addressing the issues of full clinical privileges for doctoral psychologists in the VA and enhancing access to care in rural areas through prescriptive authority.

The 11th annual Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Psychology Leadership Conference held in May 2008 drew more than 160 VA psychologists, the largest number of conference attendees to date. With its theme, "Integrated Mental Health and Behavioral Health Care: Psychology's Role," participants discussed ways to expand services provided to veterans and how to position new VA psychologists for leadership roles. The annual conference is co-sponsored by the APA Practice Directorate, APA Div. 18 (Psychologists in Public Service) and the Association of VA Psychology Leaders.

#### *CONTESTING PROPOSED TITLE RESTRICTIONS RELATED TO PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICE*

On June 12, the APA sent a letter to the principal policy-making body of the American Medical Association (AMA) strongly opposing a proposed resolution supported restricting the use of "doctor," "resident" and "residency" in medical settings to physicians, dentists and podiatrists.

The APA's letter from President Alan Kazdin, PhD, and Chief Executive Officer Norman Anderson, PhD, discussed psychologists' long history of using the term "doctor" in medical settings and cautioned that applying the restrictions called for in the resolution would confuse patients. The full text of the APA letter is available at

[http://www.apapractice.org/apo/in\\_the\\_news/apa\\_contests\\_proposed.BottomPar.0002.file.tmp/Comment\\_on\\_AMA\\_Resolution\\_303.pdf](http://www.apapractice.org/apo/in_the_news/apa_contests_proposed.BottomPar.0002.file.tmp/Comment_on_AMA_Resolution_303.pdf).

The AMA House did not adopt the proposed resolution.

#### *CONVENING THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE*

The theme of this year's 25<sup>th</sup> annual State Leadership Conference (SLC) was "Leading Change: Advocating for Psychology Practice." The March 2008 event drew more than 500 psychology leaders from states, Canadian provinces and U.S. territories to Washington, DC, for four days of [networking, leadership training and advocacy, and workshops](#). Topical highlights included pay-for-performance, collaborative care, and addressing the needs of returning veterans and their families.

As in past years, the event culminated in SLC attendees visiting their elected officials on Capitol Hill, where they urged Members of Congress and their staff to support full health insurance parity legislation and to eliminate substantial cuts under Medicare.

#### *EDUCATING PSYCHOLOGISTS AND ADVOCATING FOR APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY*

Another of the messages that SLC participants took to Capitol Hill was the need for appropriate privacy safeguards in health information technology (HIT) legislation. The APAPO considers patient records privacy a necessary cornerstone of any congressional bills intended to promote the development of HIT.

In March 2008, the APA Board of Professional Affairs (BPA) formed an HIT working group comprising members of BPA and the Committee on the Advancement of Professional Psychology (CAPP), and other APA members. The working group will advise BPA and other groups on HIT developments and areas of concern to APA members, including implementation challenges. The group also will recommend experts who can represent APA's interests in external groups involved with policy making and strategies to enhance the development and use of HIT.

#### *HELPING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF LOW-INCOME FAMILIES INVOLVED IN CHILD CUSTODY DISPUTES*

Since 2004, the Practice Directorate has operated a Parenting Coordination Program with Family Court of the DC Superior Court. The nation's first program of this type, the initiative provides pro bono services to low-income families involved in child custody disputes, while providing training for closely supervised advanced psychology students at Argosy University. The directorate is involved in discussions with the court about funding this program permanently and is also close to securing funding from the Casey Foundation, in part to help move toward replicating the program in other courts around the country.

Through a newly formed task force of the Board of Professional Affairs' Committee on Professional Practice and Standards, APA is developing its first set guidelines related to psychologists' involvement in parenting coordination. The task force comprises subject matter experts in parenting coordination.

Finally, the Practice Directorate is offering a pre-APA Convention Institute on Parenting Coordination. Presenters include national experts on the unique clinical, ethical and risk management issues facing psychologists who practice in this area.

#### *EXPANDING PUBLIC EDUCATION ABOUT PSYCHOLOGY AND THE VALUE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES*

The APA Mind/Body Health Campaign continues to educate the public about the connection between psychological and physical health and seeks to position psychologists as experts trained to help people understand the connection. The campaign focuses on the role of lifestyle and behaviors in mind/body health.

Among recent campaign activities, the Practice Directorate conducted an interim, mid-year stress survey to take the pulse of America's stress levels. Part of a larger stress conducted by Harris Interactive, it is a precursor to APA's annual Stress in America survey slated for later in 2008.

In addition, the Georgia Psychological Association (GPA) and the American Psychological Association (APA) hosted a pilot Mind/Body Health fair in late March where approximately 750 people learned about healthy ways to manage their stress. The health fair paired workshops by local psychologists including "Money and Stress" and "Managing Workplace Stress" with yoga and cooking demonstrations.

#### *AIDING INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES IN THE AFTERMATH OF DISASTERS*

From January through April 2008, APA's Disaster Response Network (DRN) members responded to 38 local disasters, mostly through their local American Red Cross chapter, local fire and rescue squads and state offices of emergency services. Since May, DRN members from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, Kansas and Nebraska have responded to tornadoes and floods in their states, while California DRN members have been offering assistance in the wildfire evacuations and sheltering in California.

In response to the shootings at Northern Illinois University in February, DRN and APA Public Education Campaign representatives worked together to produce a document for the APA Help Center for consumers entitled, "Managing Your Distress in the Aftermath of Shootings." The material also was posted to the university's Web site .

Following two large-scale international disasters this spring—a cyclone in Myanmar and an earthquake in China—APA members were eager to find out how they could help. In response, the APA Disaster Response Network, in collaboration with the International Affairs office, has developed the APA Statement on the Role of Psychologists in International Emergencies. It can be accessed at: <http://www.apa.org/international/statement08.html>.

#### *AFFIRMING THE VALUE OF PSYCHOLOGICALLY HEALTHY WORKPLACES*

Another of the directorate's outreach activities helps the business community appreciate the value of psychology and the connection between employee health and well-being and organizational performance.

During the March 2008 State Leadership Conference, the APA Practice Directorate presented its third annual Psychologically Healthy Workplace Awards. Five companies received awards for using a diverse array of workplace practices that enhance both employee well-being and organizational performance. Nine companies also received APA's Best Practices Honors, which recognize companies for a particularly innovative program or policy that contributes to a healthy and productive work environment.

Additional details about the PHWP are available at [www.phwa.org](http://www.phwa.org), the Web site of the Psychologically Healthy Workplace Program.

#### *ADDRESSING THE HEALTH NEEDS OF RURAL RESIDENTS*

The Committee on Rural Health (CRH) is planning a joint Primary Care Initiative meeting with the Education Directorate Public Policy Office that will be held during the Fall 2008 APA Consolidated Meetings. With the goal of increasing the number of psychologists in community health centers, this meeting will bring together APA members with expertise in rural primary care with federal agency and community health center representatives.

Meanwhile, the CRH also is working to increase feedback from the Rural Health Coordinator Network. The network currently consists of about forty state, provincial and territorial psychological association representatives who address mental health care access issues for rural populations. The coordinators help promote the practice of rural psychology by working with primary care and state mental health organizations. The CRH has prepared a survey for the Rural Health Coordinators in order to gather information on the work of the network volunteers and to determine current needs.

*Public Interest Directorate*

*Gwendolyn Keita, PhD*  
*Executive Director*

# PUBLIC INTEREST DIRECTORATE HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT ACTIVITIES FEBRUARY '08 – JULY '08

## **PUBLIC INTEREST DIRECTORATE MISSION**

Fulfill APA's commitment to apply the science and practice of psychology to the fundamental problems of human welfare and social justice and the promotion of equitable and just treatment of all segments of society through education, training and public policy.

## **2008 APA CONVENTION: PUBLIC INTEREST DIRECTORATE SPONSORED PROGRAMMING**

For highlights of the rich and varied programming sponsored by all Public Interest offices and governance groups, see: [http://www.apa.org/pi/convention\\_2008.html](http://www.apa.org/pi/convention_2008.html)

# Public Interest Directorate Highlights of Recent Activities February '08 – July '08

## **PUBLIC INTEREST EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

<http://www.apa.org/pi>

### *OFFICE ON WORK, STRESS, AND HEALTH*

<http://www.apa.org/pi/work/>

- Since 1989, APA's work, stress, and health initiative, in collaboration with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and more recently with the Society for Occupational Health Psychology (SOHP), has convened seven conferences on work, stress, and health.
- The most recent was held March 6-8, 2008, in Washington, DC, and attracted nearly 800 participants from 36 countries.
- Planning is underway for the eighth conference to be held March 5-8, 2009, at the Caribe Hilton Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico. A Call for Papers focusing on the global impact and effects of stress in the workplace will be released by late summer 2008. See <http://www.apa.org/pi/work/wsh.html>.

### *TASK FORCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE APA MULTICULTURAL GUIDELINES*

The Task Force on the Implementation of the APA Guidelines on Multicultural Education, Training, Research, Practice and Organizational Change for Psychologists ("the Multicultural Guidelines"), established by Council in August 2005, was charged with formulating recommendations for ways in which the Multicultural Guidelines could be implemented throughout APA and psychology. The Final Report of the Task Force, which recommends methodologies for the application of additional guidelines throughout the field of psychology, is in the final stages of editorial design and development and will be released shortly.

### *TASK FORCE ON DIVERSITY IN COURSE CONTENT, PUBLICATIONS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS*

The Task Force on Diversity in Course Content, Publications and Training Programs was charged by Council with the development of a report on the status of these particular areas within psychology to serve as a basis for identifying and recommending resources needed to enhance diversity in the discipline of psychology. The Task Force held its final meeting in February 2008 during which members crafted a set of guiding principles and finalized a preliminary draft of the Report.

### *GOVERNANCE SUPPORT: BOARD FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND OTHER GROUPS*

The PI Executive Office provided staff support to the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest for their March 28-30 meeting. The Executive Office also provided staff support to the Task Force on the Implementation of the Multicultural Guidelines and to the Task Force on Diversity in Course Content, Publications, and Training.

### *GREEN DOOR TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYEE*

For more than 10 years, the Public Interest Directorate has provided a transitional employment position for clients of Green Door -- a local community program that prepares women and men with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and other mental illnesses to work and live independently in the Washington, DC area. So far in 2008 Public Interest has provided employment to two Green Door Transitional Interns.

### *PUBLIC INTEREST GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OFFICE (PI-GRO)*

<http://www.apa.org/ppo/pi/>

PI-GRO staff promotes psychology in the public interest in Congress and with the Bush administration and administers the APA Congressional Fellowship Program. Highlights of recent policy initiatives in key public interest areas include:

### *AGING*

- PI-GRO staff worked closely with key members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee to successfully secure the inclusion of mental health and aging provisions from the *Positive Aging Act* (S. 982/H.R. 1669) in the Senate draft of the bill to reauthorize the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). This language focuses on the importance of integrating physical and mental health care for older adults. PI-GRO staff continues to coordinate a coalition of mental health and aging organizations working to ensure that this language remains intact as the Congress reauthorizes SAMHSA.
- Observing Older Americans' Mental Health Week in May, PI-GRO joined the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry (AAGP), the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), the Older Women's League (OWL), as well as more than 20 other organizational partners to host a congressional briefing entitled, "*Meeting the Mental Health Needs of an Aging America: Opportunities and Challenges for Federal Policy.*" This event was sponsored in cooperation with Senators Mikulski (D-MD) and Snowe (R-ME). Briefing presenters included APA member Toni Antonucci, PhD; Charles Reynolds, III, MD, AAGP; James Finley, NASW; and Ashley Carson, OWL. Dr. Antonucci, co-chair of the APA Presidential Task Force on Integrative Healthcare for an Aging Population (IHAP), discussed the importance of promoting positive aging through integrated health care and shared the taskforce report with key congressional offices and stakeholder organizations.

## CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

- In anticipation of the reauthorization of the *Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act*, the nation's guiding law pertaining to the treatment of juvenile offenders and the prevention of delinquency among at-risk youth, PI-GRO worked with APA members and Science GRO to develop a set of recommendations to improve this crucial law. These recommendations were sent to key congressional offices in March, and PI-GRO staff will continue to advocate for their adoption during the reauthorization process.
- Working with APA members with expertise on child abuse and neglect, PI-GRO developed comprehensive, APA-wide recommendations in preparation for the reauthorization of the *Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)*, the nation's most important law addressing child abuse and neglect. PI-GRO staff also worked closely with APA members and key congressional staff to draft legislative recommendations addressing the issue of child abuse in certain residential treatment facilities. Legislation to address this important issue, the *Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act (H.R. 5876)*, was introduced on April 23 by Representative George Miller (D-CA), Chair of the House Committee on Education and Labor. H.R. 5876 was approved by the Committee in May, and it is expected to be voted by the full House in June. PI-GRO staff will continue to work to ensure passage of this vital legislation.
- PI-GRO staff has been meeting with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) and Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) staff about APA's upcoming report entitled, "*Resilience in African American Children and Adolescents: A Vision for Optimal Development*," aiming to present the report findings at an issue forum or congressional briefing after the report is released.

## ETHNIC MINORITIES

- PI-GRO staff developed and is distributing fact sheets on the *Impact of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Raids on the Mental Health of Children, Youth and Families* to key congressional members and committees. In addition, PI-GRO staff submitted testimony for a May hearing held by the Workforce Protections Subcommittee of the House Education and Labor Committee entitled, "*ICE Workplace Raids: Their Impact on U.S. Children, Families, and Communities*." Furthermore, PI-GRO staff has been engaged in advocacy efforts involving the *Minority Health Improvement and Health Disparity Elimination Act (S.1576/H.R. 3333)* and the *Health Equity and Accountability Act (H.R. 3014)*, legislation addressing health disparities. PI-GRO staff was successful in securing important legislative language addressing mental and behavioral health in H.R. 3014 and continues to work closely with the CBC Health Braintrust, and the TriCaucus in the House to urge the leadership to include health disparities legislation among their top priorities during the remainder of this congressional session.
- After many years of strong advocacy efforts, the *Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act*, legislation to prohibit the improper use of [genetic information](#) in [health insurance](#) and [employment](#), was signed into law on May 21.
- On April 15, two APA members presented critical psychological research and public policy proposals at the annual CBC Spring Health Braintrust, *Health Equity and Justice Now*, and the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Health Disparities Leadership Summit in Washington, DC. PI-GRO staff worked closely with

the CBC Health Braintrust to ensure that mental health disparities and mental health care disparities were adequately and appropriately addressed during the event. PI-GRO staff, Daniel E. Dawes, JD and APA members Gayle K. Porter, PsyD and Brian Smedley, PhD, were invited to participate as panelists to discuss the intersection of mental health care disparities and health equity.

### *GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PERSONS*

- PI-GRO staff continues to advocate for passage of H.R. 3438, the *Bullying and Gang Reduction for Improved Education Act*, which provides for bullying and gang (as well as drug and violence) prevention and accountability-based programs designed to enhance school safety. In particular, PI-GRO staff worked to integrate language to make the bill more inclusive of LGBT populations. Language from this legislation has been included in the House's draft of the *No Child Left Behind Act* reauthorization bill.
- PI-GRO staff continues to monitor and advocate for the *Military Readiness Enhancement Act* (H.R. 1246), which would repeal the military ban of LGB service members and require the reinstatement of individuals dismissed under the policy.
- PI-GRO staff continues to monitor and advocate on behalf of the *Employment Non-Discrimination Act* (H.R. 2015), which would provide basic protections against workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Passed by the House late last year, movement in the Senate has stalled. PI-GRO staff met with the office of Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) to discuss the creation and agenda of the new Congressional Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Caucus that she co-chairs with Rep Barney Frank (D-MA).
- PI-GRO staff has advocated on behalf of the *Uniting American Families Act* ([H.R. 2221/S. 1328](#)), which would allow GLBT Americans to sponsor their permanent partners from other countries for U.S. citizenship.

### *HIV/AIDS*

- In addition to working with federal government officials, PI-GRO staff is establishing relationships with key HIV/AIDS groups to influence the National AIDS Strategy, which is being developed by prominent national HIV/AIDS groups. The National AIDS Strategy, which will be used during the reauthorization of the Ryan White Care Act, will focus more on prevention and public health issues than on treatment issues. PI-GRO staff has been working to ensure that mental and behavioral health issues are appropriately addressed in developing prevention interventions in this National AIDS Strategy and has been invited to participate on the Steering Committee. APA is currently the only mental health organization represented.
- PI-GRO staff Daniel E. Dawes, JD, represented the American Psychological Association at the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA) AIDSWatch 2008 Steering Committee. Feedback to the Steering Committee included identifying those policy issues that are most feasible, immediate, and resonant to formulate the messages taken to Congress at the national AIDSWatch meeting April 28-30, 2008. PI-GRO staff, in conjunction with the National Minority AIDS Council, presented on the reauthorization of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

(SAMHSA) and critical appropriations issues. PI-GRO staff also engaged in advocacy training for AIDSWatch attendees.

### *INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES*

- Working with the Disability Issues Office and Division 33 ([Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#)), PI-GRO provided comments regarding the clarifications and new requirements to implement the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000. PI-GRO supported expanding the definition of abuse to enable better investigation into practices that may be harmful to people with developmental disabilities but that previously may not have been defined as abuse. PI-GRO also recommended the restoration of elements in the existing “governance and administration” section to assure that there is an appropriate regulatory definition of “interdisciplinary education, research, and public service unit of universities” to protect future disability-specific research, training, and education provided by the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disability.
- PI-GRO staff provided formal comments regarding amendments to Medicaid regulations to define and describe home and community-based state plan services (HCBS). PI-GRO supported new HCBS benefit as a means to expand Medicaid eligibility and to offer the opportunity of living in the community to more beneficiaries. PI-GRO also outlined specific concerns and provided recommendations regarding the current regulatory proposal which may pose a potential risk should states exercise their ability to rapidly reduce benefit levels.
- PI-GRO recommended that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services consider protections that would provide a safety net for individuals to receive adequate care in a facility before their health and well-being become so deteriorated that they become eligible for facility care under the newer stringent needs-based criteria.

### *SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS*

- PI-GRO staff continues to monitor several legislative initiatives concerning funding for child care and investment in early childhood education. PI-GRO staff developed and has been distributing to key congressional members a fact sheet about the importance of quality child care for young children’s development which highlighted the needs of low-income children. In addition, PI-GRO staff has been actively engaged in advocacy efforts along with other child care advocates in an effort to gain a \$75 million increase in funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant program.
- PI-GRO staff has been working to increase flexibility in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program for families who require accommodation due to a disability or for other reasons. For participants facing severe barriers to work, key rehabilitative and supportive services (such as substance abuse and mental and behavioral health treatment) play an integral role in moving participants to work and retaining employment. Flexibility would restore states’ ability to receive credit for investing in the supports necessary to help individuals succeed in the labor market.

## WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES

- PI-GRO staff continues to work closely with key congressional offices to ensure the passage of the legislation that would provide adequate and timely prevention and mental health services for women at risk for or with postpartum depression and postpartum psychosis. PI-GRO staff was actively involved in the drafting of this legislation in 2001 and its passage remains a top legislative priority for the office. After years of legislative efforts, the *Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act* (H.R. 20) was passed by the House of Representatives last fall and similar legislation is scheduled for a vote in the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee in the coming months.
- In response to proposed federal budget cuts to programs aimed at preventing and combating violence against women, PI-GRO staff organized congressional visits in February for APA members to urge Congress to support important Violence Against Women Act programs. On a related front, PI-GRO worked with a coalition of organizations to urge congressional appropriators to fully fund the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act/Battered Women's Shelter Services Program in the Department of Health and Human Services.
- PI-GRO was invited to submit written testimony in preparation for a congressional hearing held on April 23 by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform entitled, "*Domestic Abstinence-Only Programs: Assessing the Evidence.*" PI-GRO's testimony presented evidence from the 2005 Resolution passed by the APA Council of Representatives *in Favor of Empirically Supported Sex Education and HIV Prevention Programs for Adolescents*. The resolution outlined an extensive body of research available about sexual education and related programs and provided recommendations for policy and research activities.

## CROSS-CUTTING INITIATIVES:

### BODY IMAGE/EATING DISORDERS/OBESITY

- PI-GRO staff continues to share psychological research and clinical knowledge with members of Congress on disordered eating and eating disorders and has provided recommendations to key congressional offices on existing and developing future legislation addressing these issues. In addition, PI-GRO staff is working closely with the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families to develop policy priorities and strategies related to the prevention of obesity and disordered eating in children and youth. PI-GRO also continues to provide recommendations to federal agencies regarding obesity and related issues.

### EMERGENCY/DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

- PI-GRO staff continues to share psychological research and clinical knowledge with federal policy makers regarding the mental health consequences of disasters, with particular attention to public interest subgroups, including: children, youth, and families; older adults; individuals with disabilities; ethnic minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons; women; individuals living in poverty; and those who have experienced trauma and abuse. These efforts have included reviewing legislative proposals and drafting legislative language; meeting with congressional offices,

federal agencies, and stakeholder organizations; and recommending APA experts for hearings, briefings, and federal advisory groups and committees.

### *HATE CRIME*

- As a member of the National Hate Crime Coalition, PI-GRO continues to work toward passage of the *Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act* (H.R. 1592) and the *Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act* (S. 1105). These bills would expand federal hate crime law to recognize crimes motivated by actual or perceived race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability of any person. The legislation would also provide assistance to local jurisdictions in the investigation and prosecution of such crimes.

### *HEALTHY PEOPLE 2020*

- Working with BAPPI and PI committees, PI-GRO staff submitted comments and questions to help guide the discussions and presentations for the *Developing the Framework for Healthy People 2020* regional meeting on May 28. Currently, Healthy People 2010 is leading the way to achieve increased quality and years of healthy life and the elimination of health disparities.

### *INTERNATIONAL*

- Working with APA's Office on International Relations, PI-GRO has provided comments on United Nations NGO coalition statements to encourage more inclusive language that fully encompasses APA's comprehensive perspective, including: additional supports for adolescent health; culturally and linguistically appropriate initiatives for racial and ethnic minorities; the incorporation of pediatric treatment, and psychosocial and behavioral interventions for individuals with HIV/AIDS; efforts to combat discrimination and stigma in education and employment for individuals with disabilities; and supports and services for child-soldiers and victims of trafficking.

### *MEDIA*

- PI-GRO staff was invited to give a keynote presentation at the Food Update Conference in Jacksonville, Florida. This conference is a national gathering of food marketers, scientists, and executives that come together to address current issues in the food industry. PI-GRO staff addressed the psychological concerns around food marketing and childhood obesity. In addition, PI-GRO staff participated in a panel discussion at the Federal Trade Commission as part of an FTC Town Hall meeting on M-marketing. M-Marketing ('mobile marketing' using cell phones or Wi-Fi devices) was addressed throughout the two-day meeting from a variety of perspectives. PI-GRO staff discussed the challenges and issues facing children in the current media environment.

### *MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES*

- PI-GRO works with the other APA directorates to share psychological research and clinical knowledge with federal policy makers regarding the mental and behavioral health of service members, veterans, and their families. In particular, PI-GRO focuses on the needs of service members/veterans from the public interest subgroups, including: older adults; individuals with disabilities; ethnic minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons; women and families;

individuals living in poverty; and those who have experienced trauma and abuse. PI-GRO has reviewed legislative proposals; met with congressional offices, federal agencies, and stakeholder organizations; and recommended APA experts for congressional hearings.

- In May, PI-GRO staff worked in collaboration with Education GRO, the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America to co-sponsor a congressional briefing entitled, “*Addressing the Mental Health Needs of Service Members, Veterans, and their Families: Innovative Strategies for Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery.*” This event was hosted in collaboration with Representatives Grace Napolitano (D-CA) and Tim Murphy (R-PA) and the Congressional Mental Health Caucus. Briefing presenters included APA members Bonnie Green, PhD; William Saltzman, PhD; Lt. Col. Jay Stone, PhD; Amy Street, PhD; and Iraq veteran, Tom Tarantino. Briefing presenters spoke about a variety of important initiatives, including the work of the Department of Defense Center for Deployment Psychology; the VA National Center for PTSD and their efforts focused on women veterans; and the National Child Traumatic Stress Network and their work with families of deployed soldiers.

### *TRAUMA, VIOLENCE, AND ABUSE*

- In conjunction with the 2008 Summit on Violence and Abuse in February, PI-GRO hosted a federal advocacy training followed by Capitol Hill visits for 50 Summit participants, providing an overview of the federal legislative process, effective strategies for informing and influencing federal policy makers, and a detailed briefing regarding the *Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)* and the *Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)*. Following the advocacy training, participants visited their congressional offices to discuss the role that psychology plays in prevention and treatment of violence and abuse and urged Congress to fully fund VAWA and CAPTA.

- PI-GRO organized a congressional briefing entitled, “*Trauma, Violence, and Abuse: Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Across the Lifespan.*” Speakers for the event were APA members John Fairbank, PhD; Carolyn West, PhD; Liza Suarez, PhD; Dolores Subia BigFoot, PhD; and Lisa Brown, PhD. APA experts spoke about a variety of trauma issues, including: violence against women, child traumatic stress, elder abuse, and violence and abuse in Indian country.

### *APA CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM*

- The APA Congressional Fellowship Program, now in its 33<sup>rd</sup> year, places psychologists in congressional offices or committees for one as part of the larger American Association for the Advancement of Science policy fellowship program. Over the first quarter of 2008, PI-GRO coordinated the application and selection process. The 2008-2009 class of Congressional Fellows includes Christa McDermott, PhD (Institute of Social Research, University of Michigan); Scott Nolen, PhD, JD (Research Fellow, Columbia University Department of Child Psychiatry); and Mary Polce-Lynch, PhD (Counseling Center and Department of Psychology, Randolph-Macon College). During the 2008 APA Convention in Boston, the fellowship program will have an employer booth in the exhibit hall and will host a roundtable discussion.

## OFFICE ON AGING

<http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/homepage.html>

The Office on Aging, established one decade ago as the focal point for APA activities pertaining to aging, promotes aging issues within APA, among its members, other professionals, policy makers and the public and strives to bring psychological knowledge to bear on issues that affect the health and well-being of older adults and their families.

### *APA/ABA ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY IN OLDER ADULTS PROJECT WORKING GROUP*

Established in 2003, this collaboration between APA and the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging seeks to improve the assessment of capacity of older adults. Over the past year, the Working Group developed the third in a series of handbooks, *Assessment of Older Adults with Diminished Capacity: A Handbook for Psychologists*, available at Convention. It joins the handbooks for lawyers (2005) and judges (2006). Approximately 30,000 copies of the lawyers' handbook have been downloaded from the APA website and it has been presented at National Association of Elder Law Attorneys, National Guardianship Association and National College of Probate Judges' (NCPJ) meetings, as well as at numerous local CLE programs. The judicial handbook was the focus of the 2006 NCPJ conference and consistently receives approximately 1,500 online "hits" per month. In addition, Massachusetts has just adopted a new medical certificate for guardianship based on the model form developed for the Working Group's judicial handbook.

### *INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE FOR AN AGING POPULATION (IHAP) INITIATIVE*

This Initiative continues the efforts of Past-President Dr. Sharon Stephens Brehm's Presidential Task Force. *Blueprint for Change: Achieving Integrated Health Care for an Aging Population* is being disseminated to aging, mental health, health, and consumer organizations nationwide <http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/blueprint.html>. Articles related to the Initiative were printed in the June issue of the Gerontological Society of America's *Gerontology News*, reaching a multidisciplinary audience of 5,000 researchers, educators, and practitioners in the field of aging ([http://www.geron.org/newsletter/June\\_2008.pdf](http://www.geron.org/newsletter/June_2008.pdf)), and the May issue of the American Society on Aging's *Aging Today*, received by 6,000 national, state and local aging service providers (<http://www.agingtoday.org/publications/dbase/AT/AT-293-Kleyman4.pdf>). Fact sheets on integrated health care for older adults are being developed for policymakers, graduate faculty and training directors, and older adults and their families.

### *NATIONAL COALITION ON MENTAL HEALTH AND AGING*

This Coalition of 50 national and state organizations works to improve the availability and quality of mental health services for older Americans and their families. Office Director, Deborah DiGilio, MPH, is currently serving as NCMHA Chair. At its last meeting, NCMHA met with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Division of Partner Relations to discuss education and outreach efforts to Medicare beneficiaries with mental disorders; and Gene Cohen, MD, Director, Center on Aging, Health & Humanities to discuss the *Creativity and Aging Study*, a National Endowment for the Arts multisite national study to measure the impact of community based cultural programs on the general health, mental health, and social activities of older persons.

## SECURING THE INCLUSION OF GEROPSYCHOLOGY IN NATIONAL AGING EFFORTS

- The Office collaborated with the Education GRO to develop a briefing sheet, *Mental and Behavioral Health and Older Americans*, to support efforts to reinstate the dedicated geropsychology funding stream of the Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Program, which was eliminated in 2006.
- The Office is coordinating psychology's participation in the emerging National Alliance on Workforce to Improve the Care of Older Adults, which will focus on workforce issues including: advocacy for improved geriatric competency at all levels; public education on the need to strengthen the workforce providing care for older Americans; encouraging the adoption of new models of care and interdisciplinary care teams; support for recruitment, training, and career development for caregivers; and other activities for systemic quality improvement and reform.
- Office Director, Deborah DiGilio, MPH is a member of the American Society on Aging Mental Health and Aging Network Leadership Council. ASA works to enhance the knowledge and skills of people working directly with older adults and their families.

## OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND RESOURCES

- Deborah DiGilio, MPH, Office Director, authored an article, Addressing the Mental and Physical Health of Older Workers, for the *Journal of Employee Assistance*.
- *Life Plan for the Life Span*, a web-based brochure initially developed for psychologists, has just been revised for use by other professionals, in particular, health and human service and aging network professionals. The availability of this document will be publicized broadly and is viewed as an additional way to build relationships between geropsychology and other disciplines. The brochure translates the wealth of empirical evidence in the aging research literature into practical steps to assist young, middle-aged, and older adults in planning for the variety of challenges that often arise as we age. It addresses the following domains: Health and Health Care, Legal and Financial Matters, Work Life and Retirement, Psychological Issues, and Social Roles and Resources ([http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/lifespan\\_2008.pdf](http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/lifespan_2008.pdf)).
- Educational materials, including the *Geropsychology: It's Your Future* fact sheet [http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/student\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/student_fact_sheet.pdf) and the psychologist version of *Life Plan for the Life Span* ([http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/Life\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/Life_Plan.pdf)) were distributed as part of the Psychology Teachers at Community Colleges' spring mailing to all of its members.
- The *Aging Issues Newsletter*, distributed three times yearly, reports on current APA activities related to aging and provides information on national aging initiatives, publications, conference summaries, as well as general information on health, psychology, and aging. ([http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/2008\\_april\\_newsletter.pdf](http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/2008_april_newsletter.pdf)).
- *APA Sessions on Aging Issues* is prepared by the Office annually prior to Convention in order to promote opportunities for all psychologists to be informed of developments in aging research and geropsychology practice.

- The updated, web-based *Older Adults and Insomnia Resource Guide* joins four other guides that summarize research studies and resources on important topics related to the well-being of older adults (<http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/insomnia.html>).
- The Office has advocated for additional coverage of aging issues in the *Monitor on Psychology*. During this 6-month period, the Office contributed to eight articles.

### *2008 APA CONVENTION PROGRAMMING: CONA 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY*

The Office on Aging and Committee on Aging (CONA) were formally established in 1998 at the urging of 1997 APA President Norman Abeles, PhD. To celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a number of events have been planned for the Convention.

- As part of President Alan E. Kazdin's Grand Challenges Presidential Initiative, CONA has developed, "Responding to the Challenges of Aging: Lessons from Medicine, Psychology, and Law." This Presidential symposium will feature Charles P. Sabatino, JD, Director, ABA Commission on Law and Aging, Robert C. Green, MD, MPH, Boston University Schools of Medicine and Public Health; Sara Honn Qualls, PhD, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs; and Michael Smyer, PhD, Bucknell University, as discussant. Rosemary Blieszner, PhD, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, will moderate. It will be held on August 15<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am-12:50 pm, Boston Convention Center, Room 253B.
- CONA 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium, "Moving Psychology Forward in an Aging Society: Progress and Possibilities" will be held Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-2:50 pm, Boston Convention Center, Room 257B.
- CONA and the Office of Continuing Education will cosponsor an all-day, preconvention, continuing education workshop on August 13<sup>th</sup>. "What Psychologists Should Know about Working with Older Adults" will increase the competencies of psychologists interested in work with older adults.
- CONA is cosponsoring "Best Practices of Integrated Care: Opportunities and Challenges" which will highlight models of integrated care across social status, disability status, age, multicultural representation, and chronic disease.

### *GOVERNANCE SUPPORT: COMMITTEE ON AGING*

The Office provided staff support for the March 28-30 meeting of the Committee on Aging.

### **OFFICE ON AIDS AND END-OF-LIFE CARE ACTIVITIES**

<http://www.apa.org/pi/aids/homepage.html>

### *HIV Office for Psychology Education (HOPE) Program*

In September 2007, the APA Office on AIDS was awarded an additional \$150,000 from the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) to continue the HIV Office for Psychology Education (HOPE)

Program for another year. During the past 6 months, program staff and trainers conducted several distance-learning workshops using APA's WEB-Ex software. Program staff also provided technical assistance to HOPE Trainers as they developed and implemented local continuing education workshops. Since its inception in 1991, the HOPE Program has trained over 28,000 mental health providers.

#### *BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM*

The Behavioral and Social Science Volunteer (BSSV) Program is a national HIV prevention technical assistance program for health departments, community planning groups (CPGs), and community-based organizations (CBOs). On June 30, 2008, the BSSV Program received an additional \$421,000 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to operate the program until August 15, 2009. Additional funding to continue the program is anticipated during the summer of 2009. Since its inception in 1996, over 600 organizations have been served by BSSV Program volunteers. Recently, BSSV Program staff has been working with CDC to develop a Resource Guide for community-based organizations who wish to adapt evidence-based HIV prevention interventions for local populations that they serve.

#### *NIMH FUNDING FOR INTERNET-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAM ON END-OF-LIFE ISSUES*

The APA Office on AIDS and its small business collaborator, eNursing LLC, received \$850,000 from the Small Business Innovations Research (SBIR) Program of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to develop and test a 10-module, internet-based, continuing education program to train psychologists and other mental health providers about working with people near the end of life. Phase I funding provided support to develop a prototype module and establish "proof of concept" for the internet-based program. Phase II funding provided support to develop the other nine training modules and to conduct a large-scale study for the purpose of comparing the relative benefits of the internet-based program with a comparable paper-based, independent study program. During the past 6 months, program staff has completed the study and results are currently being analyzed. Upon final completion of the research study, the APA Continuing Education Program will offer the end-of-life training program on the APA web site and it will be a source of revenue for both APA and eNursing IIc.

#### *NIMH FUNDING FOR CYBER MENTOR PROGRAM*

In March of 2008, the Office on AIDS received \$734,000 to provide 3 years of funding support for a new program called, *Cyber Mentors: A Sustainable Model for Developing Minority HIV Researchers*. This innovative and sustainable research mentorship program is designed to prepare behavioral scientists for successful independent research careers in HIV/AIDS prevention. The 2-year long mentorship program utilizes state of the art distance learning technologies (e.g., webcasts, online classrooms, etc.) to teach mentees how to (1) submit a successful NIH grant application for HIV prevention research associated with communities of color; (2) develop professional relationships that support their research efforts; and (3) facilitate the development of an institutional environment that supports a program of HIV prevention research. Program staff and members of the APA Ad Hoc Committee on Psychology and AIDS (COPA) have recruited and selected an initial group of 15 mentees who are currently being matched with appropriate mentors.

### *SUBMITTED PROPOSAL TO THE PRESIDENT'S EMERGENCY PLAN FOR AIDS RELIEF (PEPFAR) NEW PARTNER INITIATIVE*

During the spring of 2008, members of COPA and staff of the APA Office on AIDS collaborated with the Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA) and the Kenyan Psychological Association (KPsyA) to develop and submit a proposal to the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) New Partner Initiative (NPI), a 5-year unified U.S. Government initiative, directed by the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, and implemented in collaboration with the U.S. Departments of State (DoS), Defense (DOD) and Health and Human Services (HHS), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and other U.S. Government Agencies. The Office on AIDS was invited to submit a full proposal after receiving a highly favorable review of a five-page concept paper submitted to USAID in October of 2007.

The proposal requests funding to build the local capacity of community-based organizations (CBOs) to address the effects of trauma and violence on HIV/AIDS prevention and care among women between the ages of 15 and 50 in the Coast Province of Kenya. The proposed program is also designed to build the respective capacities of SWAA and KPsyA to scale up a culturally-adapted, evidence-based intervention using the existing structure of SWAA in Kenya (SWAK) as well as the national, provincial, district, and local offices in the 41 African countries served by SWAA.

### *PSYCHOLOGY AND AIDS EXCHANGE*

Members of COPA worked with staff of the APA Office on AIDS to develop and produce a theme-based, newsletter focusing on heterosexual HIV/AIDS risk among African-Americans.

### *GOVERNANCE SUPPORT: COMMITTEE ON PSYCHOLOGY AND AIDS*

The Office provided staff support for the March 28-30 meeting of the Committee on Psychology and AIDS.

### **OFFICE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES**

<http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/homepage.html>

The Children, Youth, and Families Office coordinates APA's public interest, health, human welfare, and social responsibility activities in the areas of children, youth, and families.

### *LIAISON RELATIONSHIPS WITH COUNCIL AND DIVISIONS*

The office liaisons with the Council of Representatives' Caucus on Children and Adolescents and the following APA divisions: Developmental Psychology (7); School Psychology (16); Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice (37); Section on Child Maltreatment (37, Section 1); Clinical Neuropsychology (40); American Psychology-Law Society (41); Family Psychology (43); Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology (53); and Society of Pediatric Psychology (54).

### *TASK FORCE ON EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE WITH CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS (EBPCA)*

The Board of Directors established EBPCA in April 2006 and charged the task force with reviewing the extant literature and preparing a comprehensive report on the current state of knowledge

concerning evidence-based psychological practice with children and adolescents. 2006 APA President Gerald P. Koocher, PhD, appointed the following persons to serve on the Task Force: Anne Kazak, PhD, Chair; Gerard Banez, PhD; Kimberly Hoagwood, PhD; Korey Hood, PhD; Thomas Kratochwill, PhD; Luis Vargas, PhD; and John Weisz, PhD. The Board of Directors reviewed the task force report at their June 5-7, 2008 meeting and recommended that the Council of Representatives receive the report at their August 2008 meeting.

#### *TASK FORCE ON RESILIENCE AND STRENGTH IN BLACK CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS (RSBCA)*

The Board of Directors established RSBCA in February 2006 and charged the task force with the identification of factors that contribute to the healthy development of Black children and adolescents in four contexts: families, schools, peer groups, and communities. 2006 APA President Gerald P. Koocher, PhD, appointed the following persons to serve on the task force: Stephanie Coard, PhD, Chair; Anne Gregory, PhD; Yolanda Jackson, PhD; Robert Jagers, PhD; Le’Roy Reese, PhD; Caryn Rodgers, PhD; and Anita Thomas, PhD. There were also three Senior Advisors to the task force: Faye Belgrave, PhD; Robert Sellers, PhD; and Margaret Beale Spencer, PhD. The Board of Directors reviewed the task force report at their June 5-7, 2008 meeting and recommended that the Council of Representatives receive the report at their August 2008 meeting.

#### *PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD) AND TRAUMA IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS*

As part of his Presidential initiative, President Alan E. Kazdin, PhD, established the APA Presidential Task Force on Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Trauma in Children and Adolescents. The broad goal is to identify the key contributions of psychological science’s understanding of PTSD and trauma in youth, to identify “what we know” and “what we need to know” regarding the development and treatment of PTSD in youth following trauma, and to make recommendations that will help to guide future research, practice, and public policy and that may be useful for multiple constituencies, such as parents/caregivers, health-care providers, policy makers, and government agencies who are in a position to help children and their families.

President Kazdin appointed the following persons to the Task Force: Annette M. La Greca, PhD, Chair; Beth Boyd, PhD; Lisa H. Jaycox, PhD; Nancy Kassam-Adams, PhD; Anthony P. Mannarino, PhD; Wendy K. Silverman, PhD; Farris Tuma, PhD; and Marleen Wong, PhD. The task force has determined the purpose and scope of three proposed products and developed outlines for each one.

#### *TASK FORCE ON THE PSYCHOSOCIAL EFFECTS OF WAR ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WHO ARE REFUGEES FROM ARMED CONFLICT RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES*

At its February 2008 meeting, the Board of Directors allocated 2008 discretionary funds to support one meeting in 2008 of this task force. The task force is charged with reviewing the research on the psychosocial effects of war on children and families; identifying areas of needed culturally and developmentally appropriate research; and developing recommendations for culturally and developmentally appropriate practice and programs.

The purpose of the Task Force is to assist psychologists in the United States to meet the challenges of working with children and families who are refugees from armed conflicts residing in the U.S. The following persons were appointed by 2008 APA President Alan E. Kazdin, PhD, to serve on the task

force: Katherine Porterfield, PhD, Chair; Adeyinka Akinsulure-Smith, PhD; Molly Benson, PhD; Theresa Betancourt, ScD; B. Heidi Ellis, PhD; Maryam Kia-Keating, PhD; and Kenneth Miller, PhD.

#### *GOVERNANCE SUPPORT: COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES AND OTHER GROUPS*

The Office provided staff support for the March 28-30 meeting of the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families (CYF), as well as the task forces described above.

#### *DIVERSITY REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY*

Diversity is a longstanding and continuing concern of the Committee. In all its efforts from Committee membership to policy statements, the Committee works diligently to ensure that diversity issues receive the Committee's full attention. For example, CYF's 2008 membership is diverse with respect to ethnicity (i.e., three African-Americans and three European-Americans), gender (two males and four females), and geographic location.

The Committee also advocates for and develops publications, policies, and programs that are appropriate with regard to age and developmental level, culture, ethnicity, language (certain public information materials are available in both Spanish and English), disability, gender, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

#### **DISABILITY ISSUES IN PSYCHOLOGY OFFICE**

<http://www.apa.org/pi/disability/homepage.html>

The Disability Issues Office works to eliminate bias against and to promote equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in psychology education and training, research, and professional practice. The Office serves as an information and referral resource on disability issues; develops and disseminates reports and other written materials on professional and consumer issues; and promotes the development and application of psychological knowledge to address public policy issues concerning people with disabilities.

#### *BARRIERS TO STUDENTS PROJECT*

Earlier this year, the APA Office on Disability Issues conducted an online survey to gather information on the challenges facing students with disabilities in psychology programs. Survey questions addressed disclosure issues, perceived disability awareness among faculty, and access and accommodations. A total of 99 responses were collected. Survey data has been analyzed and coded, and the final report is being developed with its completion anticipated by early fall.

#### *APA TASK FORCE ON GUIDELINES FOR ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES*

Established in 2006, this task force was charged with developing guidelines on assessment and treatment involving persons with disabilities. The task force was funded again in 2007 and held two meetings, once in June and again in November. During the first half of 2008, the Task Force completed its revision of the document in preparation for submission for further review within the APA. The document has since been forwarded to BPA, and COPPS is performing a preliminary review to be completed by the end of July.

## *MENTORING PROGRAM*

The office oversees and provides functional support to its on-line Disability Mentoring Program. Launched in 2002, the program currently supports 78 psychology students with disabilities by providing them with a mentor who has a similar disability. Mentors are APA-member psychologists with disabilities. The mentoring database revised has been updated to include enhanced reporting features, improved mentor-mentee matching capabilities, and compliance with Section 508. It is expected to be relaunched at this year's convention.

## *DISABILITY ISSUES IN APA ADVOCACY*

- The Office remains involved with the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) to advocate for national public policy that ensures the self determination, integration and inclusion of children and adults with physical as well as mental disabilities. Office Director, Anju Khubchandani, serves on the coalition's Rights, Prevention, and International task forces. Major task force activities include the Americans with Disabilities Restoration Act which would reverse Supreme Court rulings that have created a Catch-22 for people with mental or physical disabilities who are discriminated against because of their disabilities, but are then told that they are not sufficiently disabled for protection under the ADA.

## *OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND RESOURCES*

- The Office is developing a theme-based newsletter, *Spotlight on Disability*, created to raise visibility of disability issues, to increase the understanding of applying psychology to disability, and to provide a forum by which psychologists can share their findings and research. In addition to article submissions from APA member psychologists, Office Director, Anju Khubchandani, authored two articles. This inaugural issue will be made available at convention.

## *2008 APA CONVENTION: RESOURCE ROOM*

The Office provides continuous staff support to the Disability Resource Room during each year's convention. The resource room offers the following services:

- Loaner wheelchairs and canes
- Sign language interpreters
- Volunteers
- Program on diskette
- Computer equipped with vocalization software
- Van service, equipped with a wheelchair lift
- Disability-related information and other written materials

For additional information, visit [http://www.apa.org/pi/disability/resource\\_room.html](http://www.apa.org/pi/disability/resource_room.html) or contact Sara Laney at [slaney@apa.org](mailto:slaney@apa.org)

## GOVERNANCE SUPPORT: COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES IN PSYCHOLOGY

The Office on Disability Issues provided staff support for the March 28-30 meeting of the Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology (CDIP).

## OFFICE OF ETHNIC MINORITY AFFAIRS

<http://www.apa.org/pi/oema/homepage.html>

The APA Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs (OEMA) was established in 1979 “to expand the roles of culturally diverse peoples in the profession of psychology.” OEMA engaged in the following efforts during the period of February 2008 – August 2008.

## COMMUNICATIONS

OEMA engaged in the following recent communications and outreach activities:

- Edited and disseminated semiannual issues of its newsjournal, *The Communique*, to over 5,800 individuals, departments/programs/schools of psychology, and public officials and policymakers. The March 2008 issue ([http://www.apa.org/www2/pi/oema/march\\_2008\\_communique.pdf](http://www.apa.org/www2/pi/oema/march_2008_communique.pdf)) included a special section on “A Retrospective of the Communique’s Special Issues” ([http://www.apa.org/pi/oema/special\\_section\\_august%202008\\_communique.pdf](http://www.apa.org/pi/oema/special_section_august%202008_communique.pdf)), and the convention or August issue, that includes a special section on “*Psychology and Racism: Ten Years After the Miniconvention, 1997-2007.*”
- Prepared a *Guide to Ethnic Minority Convention Programs, Activities, Events and Dining in Boston: 2008 APA Convention.*
- Issued the annual issue of *The Pipeline*, the newsletter of the APA/NIGMS Project on minority recruitment, retention and training in the biomedical areas of psychology.
- Served as APA’s primary resource for requests for information and data related to ethnic minority issues.
- Continued to maintain and update the OEMA database of information on over 3,100 psychologists of color, and continued developing the 5th Edition of the *Directory of ethnic minority professional in psychology* as an electronic Web-based document.

## ETHNIC MINORITY RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, AND TRAINING INITIATIVES

Related OEMA efforts include:

- Continued to administer the CEMRRAT Implementation Grants Fund Program (funded in 2008 by APA for \$100,000, including staff costs) and awarded nearly \$70,000 in 2008 CEMRRAT grants for innovative efforts in ethnic minority recruitment, retention, and training.

- Continued to administer its NIGMS funded project on *Expanding Minority Biomedical Research Talent in Psychology* (the "APA/NIGMS Project"), which involves 14 departments/programs of psychology throughout the nation. To date, this project has provided intensive behavioral and biomedical research mentorships for nearly 550 ethnic minority students.
- Continued to provide staff assistance and partial funding to Diversity Project 2000 and Beyond (DP2KB) — a mentoring and professional development program for students of color at community colleges interested in pursuing careers in psychology, which is conducted annually at the APA convention.
- Engaged in early career APA membership retention efforts with 2,500 ethnic minority advanced graduate students through email blasts.

### *PSYCHOLOGY IN ETHNIC MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS (PEMSI)*

This initiative seeks to strengthen both relationships between APA and this sector of postsecondary institutions, as well as teaching and research in psychology at these institutions. Related OEMA efforts included:

- Continued to administer the *Promoting Psychological Research and Training on Health Disparities Issues at Minority Serving Institution Grants (ProDIGs)*, a small grants program that includes a professional development institute opportunity targeted to early career faculty at minority-serving institutions and funded for \$50,000 by funds received from APA's Academic Enhancement Initiative. Coordinated activities related to the announcement of the 2008 ProDIGs request for proposals.
- Developed an e-newsletter targeted to psychology departments at minority serving institutions.

### *PSYCHOLOGY AND RACISM INITIATIVE*

Continued to disseminate resource materials on racism and prejudice.

Continued to administer the APA National Conversation on Psychology and Racism, which to date has involved more than 90 events across the nation.

Per Council mandate, continued to provide staff assistance to CEMA/CIRP Subcommittee charged with follow-up to the APA Report on the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR).

### *SPECIAL PROJECTS*

- Continued to conduct the quarterly OEMA Film Series for APA staff, which professionally moderated by a film professor from Howard University. The film series seeks to promote diversity and cultural competence among staff by focusing on issues of culture, concerns, and experiences of ethnic minority groups.

- Advocated for increased collaboration among the directorates for effecting a more comprehensive, coordinated and strategic approach to ethnic minority training in psychology.
- Provided names and vitae for potential nominees to several NIH Advisory Councils as well as possible candidates as presenters on several Congressional briefings at the request of the Public Interest Directorate Government Relations Office.
- Provided assistance upon request to the Ethnic Minority Council Caucus, the SLC Diversity Delegates, and Division 45 Executive Committee.
- Provided staff assistance related to the development and Council approval of the bylaws amendment creating voting Council seats for the national ethnic minority psychological associations.
- Continue to coordinate the Staff Education Program on American Indian Mascots.
- Continued to administer the OEMA Intern Program, through which students can receive college credit for participating in research, program planning, and public policy activities related to ethnic minority issues in psychology. Recent interns were undergraduate and graduate students from Howard University, George Washington University, and the University of Maryland, College Park.

#### *GOVERNANCE SUPPORT: COMMITTEE ON ETHNIC MINORITY AFFAIRS AND OTHER GROUPS*

OEMA provided staff support for the March 28-30 meeting of the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs, as well as to the Commission on Ethnic Minority Recruitment, Retention, and Training in Psychology Task Force (CEMRRAT2) and Council of National Psychological Associations for the Advancement of Ethnic Minority Interests (CNPAEMI).

#### **LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER CONCERNS OFFICE**

<http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/homepage.html>

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns Office (LGBTCO) works to advance psychology as a means of improving the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people, as a means of increasing understanding of gender identity and sexual orientation as aspects of human diversity, and as a means of reducing stigma, prejudice, discrimination, and violence toward LGBT people.

The APA has established the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns Office because psychology as a science and as a profession has played a central role in policy debates and public discussions both within the social movement to improve the social status of LGBT people and within the organized opposition to that movement and because the APA constituencies concerned about LGBT populations have high expectations for the organization's contributions to the important social issues related to the role and status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in society.

*INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR LESBIAN, GAY, AND BISEXUAL CONCERNS AND TRANSGENDER ISSUES  
IN PSYCHOLOGY*

The Office has continued to provide staff support to the International Network for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns and Transgender Issues in Psychology, in which the Board of Directors authorized APA participation and leadership in June 2004, as a follow up to the international conference sponsored by APA and several other national psychological associations in 2001. The Network is composed of national, multinational, and international psychological associations that are cooperating to achieve the following aims:

- (1) To increase cross-cultural collaboration among psychological researchers and practitioners who are concerned about the mental health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender populations;
- (2) To increase knowledge among psychologists and other mental health practitioners about lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender populations;
- (3) To apply psychological research and mental health practice guidelines that address the needs and concerns of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender populations to international health policy;
- (4) To increase the number of national, multinational, and international psychological associations that formally reject the mental disorder conception of homosexuality and that promote mental health practice that is affirmative of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people.

APA is represented in the Network by Drs. Armand R. Cerbone and Oliva M. Espin with the oversight of BAPPI (Dr. Kristin A. Hancock), CIRP (Dr. Jeanne Marecek), CLGBTC (Dr. Alicia Lucksted), Division 44 (Dr. Maria Cecilia Zea), and Division 52 (Dr. Gloria Gottsegen).

Recent activities focused on the following two program goals:

- The Network has been successful in increasing lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender programs at the 2008 International Congress of Psychology, July 20-25, 2008, in Berlin, Germany. Fifty-eight presenters from 21 countries, will focus on many of the diverse issues affecting the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people world wide. On Thursday, July 24, the International Network will hold an open meeting for congress attendees.
- The Network has established a policy committee that will develop plans for policy initiatives for the Network, including that APA propose that the U.S. National Committee of Psychology, which represents the United States in the International Union of Psychological Sciences (IUPsyS), initiate a policy development process within IUPsyS related to sexual orientation discrimination.

### *OPPOSING DISCRIMINATORY LEGISLATION AND INITIATIVES IN MICHIGAN AIMED AT LESBIAN, GAY, AND BISEXUAL PERSONS*

The LGBTCO will provide consultation to a project of the Rockway Institute/Alliant International University. The project proposes to work with the Michigan Psychological Association and other organizations representing behavioral and social scientists and health professionals in Michigan to increase the involvement of the organizations and their members in efforts to oppose discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in Michigan. The program will identify, train, and connect the organizations and their members with state organizations in Michigan that are involved in opposing discrimination and that can utilize the targeted professional organizations and individuals for media relations, legislative advocacy, and community education. The LGBTCO will assist in (1) identifying/recruiting suitable experts, (2) developing and conducting training, and (3) facilitating deployment of both organizational resources and individual efforts.

### *REVISING AND UPDATING "JUST THE FACTS ABOUT SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND YOUTH: A PRIMER FOR PRINCIPALS, EDUCATORS, AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL"*

The LGBTCO took the lead in revising and updating *Just the Facts about Sexual Orientation and Youth*, a joint publication of 14 education, health, mental health, and religious organizations that assists schools in responding to advocacy for schools to provide information to their students about “reparative therapies” and “transformational ministries.”

### *"ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION & HOMOSEXUALITY"*

The APA Office of Public and Member Communications with the assistance of the APA Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns has published *Answers to Your Questions for a Better Understanding of Sexual Orientation & Homosexuality*. This brochure, in question and answer format, explains the complexity of sexual orientation and homosexuality as a normal form of the human experience.

### *"ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT INDIVIDUALS WITH INTERSEX CONDITIONS" AND "ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS AND GENDER IDENTITY"*

The APA Office of Public and Member Communications, in collaboration with the APA Task Force on Gender Identity and Gender Variance, has published two brochures: *Answers to Your Questions about Individuals with Intersex Condition* and *Answers to Your Questions about Transgender Individuals and Gender Identity*. These brochures, in question and answer format answer basic questions about intersex conditions and transgender individuals and gender identity and list some of the available resources.

### *HEALTHY LESBIAN, GAY, AND BISEXUAL STUDENTS PROJECT (HLGBSP)*

The Healthy Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Students Project continued activities funded by APA’s 5-year, \$1.6 million cooperative agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to build the capacity of youth-serving organizations to prevent HIV among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and questioning youth below the age of 18. The project, now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, has been

continuously funded by the CDC since its inception. The project continues to provide capacity building assistance to education agencies and youth-serving organizations across the country.

The Project has entered into 4-year collaborative relationships with two large local education agencies—the District of Columbia Public Schools and the San Diego Unified School District—and with two state education agencies—the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the Massachusetts Department of Education. Project staff and trainers have begun working with these partners to develop their local capacity to disseminate APA’s professional development workshop, “*Preventing Health Risks and Promoting Healthy Outcomes among LGBTQ Youth: A Training Workshop for School Counselors, Nurses, Psychologists, and Social Workers.*” The project sponsored trainings in Massachusetts in February and North Carolina and San Diego in April.

#### *GOVERNANCE SUPPORT: COMMITTEE ON LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER CONCERNS AND OTHER GROUPS*

The Office provided staff support for the March 28-30 meeting of the Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns. In addition, the Office provided staff support for the International Network on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns and Transgender Issues in Psychology; the Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation; the Task Force on Gender Identity, and Gender Variance; and the Division 19 and Division 44 Joint Task Force on Sexual Orientation and Military Service.

#### **MINORITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (MFP)**

<http://www.apa.org/mfp/>

Established in 1977, MFP is one of the oldest, most prestigious graduate fellowship programs of its kind in the United States. The mission of the MFP is to increase the knowledge of issues related to ethnic minority mental health and neuroscience and to improve the quality of mental health treatment delivered to ethnic minority populations. MFP does this by providing financial support (through federal training grants) and professional guidance to individuals pursuing doctoral degrees in psychology and neuroscience.

#### *TRANSITION PLANNING*

The Transition Planning Committee (approved by Council in August, 2007) met in person in February and via conference call in April to develop future directions for the MFP. The Committee revised the program’s mission and outlined seven training mechanisms for further development. Potential funding agencies for each mechanism were also identified.

#### *ADVOCACY*

In March, MFP (in conjunction with the Public Interest Government Relations Office) met with Dr. Thomas Insel (NIMH Director), Dr. Richard Nakamura (NIMH Deputy Director), and their staff at the National Institute of Mental Health. The group discussed the success of MFP’s current programs and the future of diversity training in psychology and neuroscience at NIMH. Dr. Insel informed the attendees of a workgroup which has been convened to study the issue.

Through efforts led by the Public Interest Government Relations Office, MFP met with staff on Capitol Hill and urged them to support the program in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA) budget. Fellows, advisors, and other supporters urged their Members of Congress to sign a letter in support of the MFP which was distributed to the House Appropriations Committee. As a result, the Committee has reinstated funding for the MFP in the 2009 SAMHSA budget.

#### *PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND NETWORKING*

July 20-26, MFP hosted its sixth annual Psychology Summer Institute in Washington, DC. Twenty-two Predoctoral and early career participants received professional mentoring, career development training, and assistance with technical skills such as grant writing.

On August 13-17, the MFP will hold professional development workshops for 15 new fellows, an orientation for advisors and chairs, symposia on new directions in ethnic minority research and evidence-based practices, and networking opportunities for fellows and alumni.

Fifteen neuroscience fellows and nine Training Advisory Committee members participated in the month-long Summer Program in Neuroscience, Ethics, and Survival (SPINES) at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA.

#### *PROGRAM AND GRANTS ADMINISTRATION*

The MFP submitted a competitive renewal for \$900,000 for the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services program to SAMHSA in March. Every indication points to continuing the program for up to three additional years.

In February and March, 14 psychology and 12 neuroscience applicants were selected as new fellows, the progress of continuing fellows was reviewed, and program planning was discussed at our Training Advisory Committee meetings.

#### **OFFICE ON SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS**

<http://www.apa.org/pi/ses/homepage.html>

The Office on Socioeconomic Status (OSES) directs, oversees, facilitates, and promotes psychology's contribution to the understanding of SES in the lives and well-being of the poor. The Office develops and facilitates relationships and activities to advance psychology as a major force in research, policy, and advocacy related to SES through various activities and programs. OSES manages and supports the activities of the Committee on Socioeconomic Status (CSES).

#### *TASK FORCE ON RESOURCES FOR INCLUSION OF SOCIAL CLASS IN PSYCHOLOGY CURRICULUM*

OSES released a new teaching tool designed to encourage the incorporation of social class diversity into psychology education. Jointly sponsored by Divisions 9 (Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues) and 35 (Society for the Psychology of Women), the *Report of the Task Force on Resources for the Inclusion of Social Class in Psychology Curricula*:

- Documents the need and outlines opportunities for psychology to contribute to raising awareness of social class;
- Includes course syllabi, classroom exercises, scholarly books and articles, as well as examples using fiction and popular media; and
- Is appropriate for use at all levels of psychology education

### *SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS FACT SHEETS*

In an effort to promote the scientific understanding of the roles of SES and poverty in health, education, and human welfare:

- OSES released the first set of four fact sheets on the intersection of socioeconomic status (SES) and the following special interest topics: HIV/AIDS; LGBT; Children, Youth, and Families; and Women.
- Future intersecting special interest topics will include: Ethnic and Racial Minority; Disability; Aging Violence; End of Life; Work, Stress, and Health; International/Global Relations; and Rural (Health).

### *OSES RELATIONS WITH OTHER APA AFFILIATES*

OSES participated in several activities to increase the capabilities of APA affiliates to identify and engage in issues related to SES.

- Monitors from the following Boards and Committees were recruited: BAPPI, BSA, CECP, CEMA, CLGBTC, CONA, CRH, and CYF.
- Monitors from the following Divisions were recruited: 8 – Society for Personality and Social Psychology, 9 – Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, 18 – Psychologists in Public Service, 27 – Society for Community Research and Action, and 38 – Health Psychology.

Monitors function primarily to alert APA affiliates of CSES' actions, programs, and policies that might have implications for their mission, priorities, and responsibilities. They are invited to participate in the annual SES Network Meeting at Convention.

### *INAUGURAL SES LEADERSHIP AWARDS*

SES Leadership Awards recognize the outstanding achievements of emerging and distinguished psychologists and friends of psychology who have made significant contributions to the understanding of socioeconomic status and the lives and wellbeing of low-income groups.

- Recipients of the 2008 Inaugural SES awards include: Edmund W. Gordon, PhD; William M. Liu, PhD; Pamela A. Morris, PhD; Executive Director of Class Action – Felice Yeskel, PhD, EdD.

- The awards will be presented during the SES Network Meeting at the 2008 APA Convention in Boston, MA. The SES Network Meeting will be held on Friday, August 15 from 3:00-4:00pm at the Boston Marriott Copley Place Hotel.

### *OSSES RESPONDS TO REQUEST FOR FUNDING APPLICATIONS*

OSSES developed and submitted two proposals to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- In response to CDC RFA DP08-812, APA proposed to develop the leadership and advocacy capacities of postdoctoral and/or early career behavioral and social scientists through the administration of a national Community Participatory Service Learning Fellowship Program. The aim of the program is to integrate theoretical and research knowledge with real-world applications and community action to forge strategic partnerships, mobilize existing community assets, and initiate or improve the use of evidence-based strategies to impact policies that improve health outcomes and reduce health disparities for socioeconomically disadvantaged communities and populations.
- In response to CDC RFA DP08-815, APA proposed to train behavioral and social scientists to strengthen the capacity of community cancer serving organizations and stakeholders – planning to initiate or improve cancer prevention, early detection, and survivorship that meet the needs of socioeconomically disadvantaged communities and populations – to access, adopt, adapt, and/or utilize evidence-based strategies that address SES related disparities in cancer.

### *SES NETWORK/COMMUNICATION*

The SES Network provides a platform to share information and ideas, raise questions, and identify critical problems and issues related to socioeconomic status.

- Membership of the SES Network has grown to 124 members. Membership includes representatives of various divisions, state associations, committee members, APA staff and other groups.
- OSSES is committed to keeping the network informed of the work of the Office and Committee, responding to initiatives that network members raise, soliciting input on issues that come before the committee, and providing information and opportunities for network members to become more active in APA governance. In addition to the SES listserv and webpage – the inaugural edition of the *SES Indicator*, OSSES newsletter, was released spring 2008.

### *GOVERNANCE SUPPORT: COMMITTEE ON SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS*

OSSES provided staff support for the March 28-30 meeting of the Committee on Socioeconomic Status.

## **VIOLENCE PREVENTION OFFICE**

<http://www.apa.org/pi/preventviolence/>

<http://actagainstviolence.apa.org/>

Established as an office in 2008, the Violence Prevention Office consolidates numerous and long-term APA violence prevention initiatives. The Office disseminates research-based knowledge and information to professionals and the general public on the development of aggression, violence prevention, intervention and evaluation, and positive parenting.

### *PARENTS RAISING SAFE KIDS PROGRAM*

This APA national initiative educates families and communities through partnerships with community-based organizations and agencies and by training professionals and other adults who work with or are in regular contact with families. The parent education program is organized into eight, 2-hour sessions for parents and other adults and is currently implemented in 35 communities in 18 states, including Latino communities. In several of the sites the program is lead by a psychologist member of the Association.

Recent activities include:

- Annual leadership seminar for 42 program coordinators from 18 states – providing in-depth learning about topics related to program implementation and evaluation and encouraging the exchange of experiences with the program in the communities.
- Annual Program Regional Center Coordinators meeting in Chicago on July 1<sup>st</sup> with representatives from 4 (Chicago, Toledo, OH, Miami, and Pleasant Hill, CA) of the 5 centers established by APA to coordinate the implementation and evaluation of the parent training program in their regions. Since their inception in August 2007, the centers have trained almost 300 professionals to implement the APA's program.

## **WOMEN'S PROGRAMS OFFICE**

<http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo>

The Women's Programs Office (WPO) works to improve the health, education, well-being, and status of women psychologists and consumers of psychological services. WPO activities span the science, practice, education, and policy arenas.

### *Leadership Institute for Women in Psychology (LIWP)*

The LIWP seeks to prepare, support, and empower women psychologists as leaders to promote positive changes in institutional and organizational life and increase the diversity, number, and effectiveness of women psychologists as leaders. One of the primary priorities of the Institute is to ensure that leadership training opportunities are available for mid-career and senior women psychologists in all of their diversities, including race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, and disability. LIWP objectives include:

- Ensure that mid-career and senior women in psychology have the knowledge and skills necessary to compete for leadership/management positions in academic and other professional settings.
- Enhance the number and effectiveness of women psychologists holding institutional leadership positions in academic and other professional settings.
- Increase the diversity of women psychologists in institutional leadership positions.
- Create networks of women psychologists in senior management/leadership positions in varied professional settings.

Working with the Committee on Women in Psychology and the LIWP Planning Committee, the Women's Programs Office completed phase one of this initiative on September 26, 2007—hosting focus groups to conduct a qualitative needs evaluation of leadership training needs for mid-career women.

CWP is using the content analysis of the focus group discussions to inform phase two of the project, a quantitative survey of leadership development needs designed to reach a broader group of mid-career and senior women psychologists.

Approximately 70 applicants responded to the call for applications by the May 15 deadline. Of these, 30 women were selected as the inaugural class. The CWP Leadership Institute for Women in Psychology will be held August 12, just prior to the 2008 APA convention in Boston, MA. Partial funding for phase three was received from the Board of Directors (B/D), which supported the LIWP development last year. Additionally, working with Divisions 35, 44, and 45, CWP secured an interdivisional grant from the Committee on Divisions and American Psychological Association Relations (CODAPAR) to fund scholarships for women from diverse ethnic backgrounds, openly lesbian or bisexual women, or women with disabilities.

### *GOVERNANCE SURVEY*

The Governance Survey, which is used to collect demographic diversity data regarding those who serve on APA Council, boards, and committees was redistributed because of a low response rate and was discussed with the Center for Psychology Workforce Analysis and Research (CPWAR) staff. CWP, working with WPO and the CPWAR director, is scheduled to begin revisions to the survey in June for distribution at the Fall 2008 Council meeting.

### *TASK FORCE ON THE SEXUALIZATION OF GIRLS*

The Report of the APA Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls was released February 2007, [and](#) WPO will be working on a curriculum for teachers to address issues discussed in the report. Additionally, the office ordered 3,500 more copies, of which 1,500 were distributed at the National Women's Studies Association's Cincinnati convention in June. WPO looks to secure more external funding to further promote the report.

### *TASK FORCE ON MENTAL HEALTH AND ABORTION*

The Task Force members completed a preliminary draft of the report, which was distributed to outside expert reviewers and all APA boards and committees during the Spring 2008 consolidated meetings. The Task Force incorporated feedback from reviews and submitted the final report to the Board of Directors (B/D) in May 2008. After careful review, the B/D recommended that the Council of Representatives (COR) receive the report. Once the report is received by COR, Task Force members and staff will work with the Office of Public and Media Relations on aspects of a dissemination plan for the report.

### *POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION CONSUMER BROCHURE*

In December 2007, the WPO released “Postpartum Depression,” which details symptoms, risk factors, and solutions, in addition to additional resources for women suffering from postpartum depression. The majority of the initial order of printed brochures has been distributed to various health care providers across the United States. This brochure is available at [http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo/postpartum\\_home.html](http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo/postpartum_home.html)

WPO has disseminated more than 4,000 PPD consumer brochures in response to requests from a variety of providers and organizations ranging from social work graduate students and clinical psychologists who own private practices to small direct service support centers and emergency triage centers, as well as universities; hospitals; medical technology centers; family practices; women’s wellness centers; support groups centers; graduate students; and government health departments.

Additionally, WPO received a \$4,750 grant from the American Psychological Foundation to develop translations of the brochure in Spanish and French, and possibly Chinese. WPO will work with chair-elect Dr. Lydia Buki to conduct focus groups for the Spanish translation of the brochure.

### *WOMEN’S PSYCH-E*

WPO staff wrote and disseminated *Women's Psych-E*, a free monthly electronic newsletter that focuses on psychological aspects of women's health and well-being, research initiatives and opportunities for psychologists, announcements about meetings and conferences, WPO and the Committee on Women in Psychology (CWP) news, and general information about women and psychology. (To subscribe, send an email to the editor, Tanya Burrwell at [tburrwell@apa.org](mailto:tburrwell@apa.org).) Recent issues are available at: <http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo/wpopsyche.html>

### *RESOURCES AVAILABLE*

WPO staff is revising *Women in the American Psychological Association 2008*, which provides data on the numbers of women participating as members and serving in leadership roles in psychology, including in divisions; in state associations; on the boards and committees that make up APA’s governance structure; in the publications process as editors, associate editors and reviewers; and in APA’s central office. The revision is expected to be complete by Fall 2008.

*GOVERNANCE SUPPORT: COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN PSYCHOLOGY AND OTHER GROUPS*

WPO provided staff support for the Committee on Women in Psychology (CWP), which met March 28-30, 2008. The second CWP meeting is scheduled for September 19-21, 2008. Additionally, WPO provided staff support for the Task Force on Mental Health and Abortion and the CWP Leadership Institute for Women in Psychology (LIWP) Planning Committee.

*Publications & Communications*

*Gary VandenBos, PhD*  
*Executive Director*

# OFFICE OF PUBLICATIONS AND DATABASES HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT ACTIVITIES FEBRUARY '08 – JULY '08

The APA Office of Publications and Databases (OPD) produces, disseminates, and archives psychological knowledge. The Office of Publications and Databases continued its purposeful expansion of content, outreach, and sales.

## PsycINFO

- In February, the Archives of the History of American Psychology (AHAP) and APA's PsycINFO collaborated on a large scale digitations project to archive valuable historical psychology-content. Using two state-of-the-art dual camera scanners, APA expects to scan more than 2,500 books for PsycBOOKS and several thousand pieces of gray literature for PsycEXTRA. When the project is completed, PsycBOOKS will double in size, and the PsycEXTRA file will be significantly increased. The materials are being scanned on-site to assure that these often fragile documents are not damaged. AHAP will receive copies of the digitized content, as well as ongoing access to the two databases. APA will begin adding this valuable historical content to the databases in September 2008.
- The APA PsycNET Direct interface became available for public use in May. Individuals can purchase access to all five APA databases on a transactional basis. For PsycARTICLES and PsycBOOKS, users can search free; then, when they discover an article or a book chapter they would like, users can purchase \$11.95 to download the item. Users can also buy "day passes", which are good for 24 hours of searching in one of the other databases, or they can buy a combined day base that permits them to search PsycINFO, PsycEXTRA, and PsycCRITIQUES for 24 hours. A "day pass" for a single database is \$11.95, and the combination day pass is \$24.95.

## APA JOURNALS

- APA Journals and Division 56 finalized an agreement for the publication of *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*. The journal would cover empirical research on the psychological effects of trauma and serve as a forum for interdisciplinary discourse blending science, theory, practice, and policy.
- The P&C Board is pleased to announce these editorial appointments, naming the following to six-year terms to begin in 2009 as the editor-elect year (and 2010 as the beginning masthead year).
  - *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology: Personality Processes and Individual*

- Differences*---Laura A. King, PhD;
- *Psychological Assessment*---Cecil R. Reynolds, PhD;
- *Journal of Family Psychology*---Nadine Kaslow, PhD;
- *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Animal Behavior Process*---Anthony Dickinson, PhD.

The P&C Board is also pleased to announce the following editor appointments:

- *Families, Systems & Health*—Alexander Blount, PhD
  - *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*---Ron Roesch, PhD, Acting Editor
- APA Journals published four special sections and two supplementary issues of journals between February 1, 2008 and July 31, 2008. Some examples include:
    - *Health Psychology*, Volume 27, Number 3, May 2008. Supplemental Issue: “Tobacco and health psychology” (sponsored by the national Cancer Institute of NIH)
    - *Developmental Psychology*, Volume 44, Number 2, March 2008  
Special Section: “New methods for new questions in developmental psychology.  
Section Editors: E. Michael Foster and Ariel Kalil.

## APA BOOKS

- A proud release of APA Books in July, 2008 was the *APA Concise Dictionary of Psychology*, an abridged version of the award-winning and critically acclaimed *APA Dictionary of Psychology*. This dictionary includes 10,000 terms offering clear and authoritative definitions in more than 100 subject areas in the field of psychology.
- APA Books released 27 books and 9 psychotherapy videos between February 1, 2008 and July 31, 2008. APA Books released included the titles *Cultural Competence in Trauma Therapy: Beyond the Flashback* by Laura S. Brown, PhD as well as the fourth edition of *Ethical Conflicts in Psychology* by Donald N. Bersoff, JD, PhD. Psychotherapy video releases included the timely *Working With Veterans* with Gary R. Brooks, PhD and an addition to the multicultural series *Working with Arab Americans* with Dr. Abi-Hashem.
- Magination Press continued to win awards in the first part of 2008. *Lions Aren't Scared of Shots* by Howard J. Bennet and *My Grandpa Had a Stroke* by Dori Hillestad Butler both won Product Excellence Awards from Teachers' Choice. Among the three new Magination Press 2008 releases was the popular *What To Do When You Dread Your Bed* by Dawn Huebner, PhD.

## SALES, MARKETING, AND LICENSES

- Examples of the continued significant consortium database sales growth during the first half of 2008 included a growing global market-place. International consortia sales increased including, SASLI- South African Academic Consortia-PsycINFO, from \$176,000 in 2006 to \$211,000, representing an increase of \$35,000 or 20%; the Max Planck Consortia-German research agency PsycINFO and PsycARTICLES sales, from \$12,000 in 2006 to \$42,000, representing an increase of \$30,000 or 250%.

- In March, sales staff presented at the invitation only SCELC-California Electronic Library Consortia-Vendor Day. Presentations focused on the APA databases and APA PsycNET platform.

*Science Directorate*

*Steve Breckler, PhD*  
*Executive Director*

# SCIENCE DIRECTORATE

## HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES

### FEBRUARY '08 – JULY '08

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The mission of the Science Directorate, under the direction of the Board of Scientific Affairs (BSA) is to **communicate, facilitate, promote** and **represent** psychological science and scientists. In the following, we report on activities under BSA oversight, Science Directorate programmatic activities, and Science Public Policy activities for the period February - July, 2008.

#### *Initiatives under the purview of BSA—*

- **Psychological Science for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (PSY21)** is the BSA/Science Directorate initiative to help psychology meet the opportunities and challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Approved by Council during the August 2004 meeting, BSA and staff have been meeting with various constituencies to plan for the PSY21 activities. One highlight of PSY21 activities is the fourth annual Science Leadership Conference, held in October.
- **Academic Enhancement Initiative (AEI)** activities:
  - Advanced Training Institutes (ATI) – Planning began in the fall of 2007 for the five ATIs taking place during the summer of 2008: one on structural equation modeling in longitudinal research, one on non-linear methods, one on research methods with diverse groups, one on geographic information systems for psychological research, and one on the use of large-scale databases, with funding from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.
  - Summer Science Fellowships – The Summer Science Fellowship program was held June 22-August 2, 2008 at four area universities: George Washington University, George Mason University, the Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Maryland.
  - Advanced Statistical Training in Psychology – The 5th Annual Advanced Statistical Training in Psychology was held at the University of Maryland from July 12-20, 2008.
  - Academic Career Workshops – Workshops in the first half of 2008 took place at the Eastern Psychological Association, Midwestern Psychological Association, Southeastern Psychological Association, Western Psychological Association, Southwestern Psychological Association, and the Rocky Mountain Psychological Association.

- **Science Committees**

- The Committee on Animal Research and Ethics (CARE) continued to work on projects focusing on educating the public about the nature of nonhuman animal research, in general, and in psychology in particular.
- The Committee on Psychological Tests and Assessment (CPTA) continued their participation in projects and activities involving several testing and assessment related issues. Specifically, activities related to the revision of the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*, and the development of a statement concerning the release of test data.
- The Ad Hoc Committee to Advance Responsible Research worked on developing a number of different new initiatives and projects, all of which were geared towards developing resources on the various aspects of RCR.

*Science Directorate Activities—*

- **Communications:**

- Psychological Science Agenda (PSA): The Science Directorate newsletter is distributed electronically each month and sent to over 30,000 subscribers
- The Science Website includes information about people and programs for psychological scientists and students.

- **Student programs** – Dissertation awards, student travel awards, and the Science Student Council all benefit students of psychological science.

- **Testing and Assessment Office-** Science Directorate staff has been monitoring and coordinating activities in response to the U. S. Department of Education’s restructuring of the regulations related to No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation. Staff has also participated in activities related to the on-going revision of the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*, and the development of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards for personnel selection in employment settings.

- **Research Ethics** – Science Directorate staff has been monitoring the changes and proposed changes in regulations for research with human participants and are compiling informational resources.

- **Office for Applied Psychological Science** – The Office’s informal advisory committee worked on developing priorities and initiatives for future years. Staff continued to analyze data from a survey of APA members on the definition and future of applied psychological science. Staff were also involved in coordinating the 2008 Presidential Grand Challenges initiative.

- **Center for Workforce Studies (CWS)** – Continued the development of CWS, published 2007 Salaries in Psychology survey, and 2007-2008 Faculty Salaries results to web. Completed Student Affiliate Survey. Planning Health Service Provider survey. Obtained license for NSF data. A review of the CWS website is underway. New data and graphs related to education, employment and demographics have been placed on the CWS website at <http://research.apa.org> and updates continue.

- **Reference Services** -- Serving the needs of staff, governance liaisons and officers, part of the APA Archives has been opened through the Library webpage on APAInside <http://apacustomin/ics-wpd/searcharchives.htm> . Over 350 agenda books and reports are digitized and searchable through the text for keywords and phrases, names, years, and events. By April 2008 all agendas and minutes of the BOD and Council back to 1950's, BSA, BEA and all their active committees have been digitized.
  - APA Archives manages an impressive collection of photographs related to the history of psychology and APA. Approximately 2000 items are in digital format and have been recently open to the APA staff through APAInside Library webpage <http://apacustomin/ics-wpd/searchphotos1.htm>.

### *Science Advocacy—*

- APA Seeks to Increase Profile of National Institute of Justice Research
- An Interview with National Eye Institute's Dr. Mike Oberdorfer
- NIMH Soon to Release Strategic Plan

# SCIENCE DIRECTORATE

## HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES

Under the purview of the Board of Scientific Affairs (BSA), the Science Directorate has primary responsibility for all association efforts on behalf of its many science-oriented constituencies. Its broad mission is to communicate, facilitate, promote and represent psychological science and scientists. These goals are addressed through programs that promote psychological science in academic and scientific arenas (primarily through PSY21 and the Academic Enhancement Initiative), that address ongoing issues and opportunities (primarily through committee work, task forces and working groups); that communicate activities, issues and opportunities to members and the public (primarily through the newsletter, web site, and Division listservs) through advocacy and public policy initiatives, and to the general public.

Science Directorate Staff:

Steven Breckler, Howard Kurtzman, Virginia Holt, Geoffrey Mumford, Anne Bettsworth, Vijay Chokshi, Carolyn Dang, April Davis, Marianne Ernesto, Ariel Finno, Rennie Georgieva, Dan Hanlon, Brittany Hart, Elizabeth Hoffman, Tanya Jacobsen, Stephanie Johnson, Heather Kelly, Patricia Kobor, Jessica Kohout, Christine Li, LaShawn Lumpkin, Dan Michalski, Sangeeta Panicker, William Pate, Emily Phelps, Daniel Raver, Nicolle Singer, Jay Staton, Karen Studwell, Yelena Suprunova, Kymberly Thornton, Amy Pitta, Kirk Waldroff, Suzanne Wandersman, Marlene Wicherski

### MAJOR INITIATIVES UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE BOARD OF SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS (BSA)

#### *Psychological Science for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (PSY21)*

PSY21, an ongoing initiative in the Science Directorate, is helping to create a foundation to build an effective agenda to support and promote the science of psychology. These activities will advance the science of psychology, provide value to its membership, and attract new members. PSY21 is organized around three areas of emphasis: (1) responsible conduct of research (RCR), (2) culture of service to the discipline, and (3) infrastructure for the science of psychology.

- **Science Leadership Conference (SciLC)** – The Directorate is planning the fourth annual SciLC meeting for October 2008 in Tempe, Arizona. This meeting will focus on innovations in knowledge dissemination for psychological science.
- **Culture of Service Awards** – Nomination were collected for the **Departmental Award for Culture of Service in the Psychological Sciences** and the **Award for Distinguished Service to Psychological Science**. These awards, established by BSA, recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to psychological science through their commitment

to a culture of service and recognize departments of psychology who instill a culture of service in their training of students and mentoring of faculty.

### *Academic Enhancement Initiative*

The Academic Enhancement Initiative (AEI), approved by Council at its August 2000 meeting, began in January 2001. Progress on the AEI projects managed by the Science Directorate is as follows:

- **Advanced Training Institute (ATI)** – ATIs provide training in cutting-edge methods and technologies to psychological scientists.
  - *Structural Equation Modeling in Longitudinal Research*, at the University of Virginia, June 9-13, 2008. John McArdle, a University of Southern California faculty member, and John Nesselrode of the University of Virginia, led this course, which featured a series of lectures and hands on computer workshops on longitudinal methods, modeling, and measurement in contemporary psychological research using SEM.
  - *Non-Linear Methods for Psychological Science*, at the University of Cincinnati, June 9-13, 2008. Organized by Guy Van Orden, this ATI provided a thorough introduction to a variety of non-linear and dynamical methods. Such methods are becoming increasingly prominent within psychology and related disciplines. Specific topics included time series analysis, recurrence quantification analysis, fractal analysis, and dispersion analysis. In addition to lectures and discussion, there was ample hands-on computer time with software for non-linear analysis.
  - A new ATI, *Research Methods with Diverse Racial & Ethnic Groups*, took place at Michigan State University from June 23-27, 2008. Fred Leong led this ATI, which began with a discussion of methods for investigating treatment outcomes in diverse populations. Sessions followed during the week on topics such as quantitative and qualitative methods, the why's and why-not's of web-based data collection, measurement equivalence and invariance across diverse groups, and methods for work in areas ranging from genomics to HIV prevention.
  - *Geographic Information Systems for Behavioral Research*, will take place at the University of California, Santa Barbara, July 16-18, 2008. This special three-day ATI, an expanded version of a one-day course offered in conjunction with the APA Convention in 2007, will introduce GIS and its use in psychological research, with examples from psychologists with active research programs using GIS. The ATI will feature coverage of GIS usage in the health sciences, cognitive science, counseling, criminology, and education.
  - *Using Large-Scale Databases: The NICHD's Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development*, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, August 4-8, 2008. The goal of this course, organized in collaboration with the Research Triangle Institute, is to equip researchers with the skills to access, use, and analyze data from large-scale databases for original research. The ATI has been funded since 2003 by a grant from NIH. This is the last time that this ATI will be offered in its current format.

Information about the ATI workshops is disseminated through a variety of relevant listservs, announcements in the *Psychological Science Agenda* and other APA publications, and on the APA website.

- **Summer Science Fellowships (SSF)** – The SSF is a modification of the Summer Science Institute. Twelve students, all rising seniors in college, were selected in the spring to take part in this 6-week intensive research experience. We were able to recruit 11 faculty members from four Washington DC/Baltimore area universities (Johns Hopkins University, University of Maryland, George Washington University, and George Mason University) who agreed to mentor the SSF students over the summer. In some cases, the students were able to propose research studies, have it approved by the university IRB, and complete the study in the summer. Others were able to make substantive contributions to ongoing research projects in the labs. The SSF students also spend a number of days at the APA headquarters building, learning about careers in psychological science, the importance of science advocacy, and how to gain entrance to graduate school.
- **Academic and Non-Academic Career Workshops** -- To help advanced graduate students and new faculty members learn more about how to find and keep an academic position as well as learn about non-academic positions, Science Directorate staff organized workshops for the 2008 Academic and Non-Academic Career Workshop Series at various scientific conferences throughout the country. Workshops in the first half of the year took place at several of the regional psychological association meetings. Staff is currently planning other such career events that will be held at universities, colleges, and various scientific conferences.
- **Advanced Statistical Training in Psychology (ASTP)** – In spring 2008, seventeen students were selected for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual ASTP, to be held at the University of Maryland in mid-July. The ASTP program is an intensive 9-day hands-on seminar in which advanced undergraduate students who are planning to pursue a graduate degree in psychology learn about statistics and research methods in a dynamic setting that emphasizes hands-on computer skills. This seminar is taught by Brett Pelham (SUNY, Buffalo), with assistance from Keith Maddox (Tufts University) and Mauricio Carvallo (University of Oklahoma). The ASTP targets students from traditionally underrepresented groups in psychology. The definition of underrepresented groups for this program is broad, including students who are members of ethnic minority groups as well as first generation college students and students who have had to overcome other kinds of social or economic barriers on the road to academic excellence.

## COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE BOARD OF SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS (BSA)

### *Committee on Animal Research and Ethics (CARE)*

The Committee continued to work on projects focusing on educating the public about the nature of nonhuman animal research, in general, and in psychology in particular. One project that was completed is the production of the next two segments of the CARE video series. Staff is currently working on developing study guides and the DVDs will be distributed to members of Teachers of

Psychology in Secondary Schools. The Committee is also seeking to become more actively involved in advocacy at the federal level on regulatory issues related to the care and use of laboratory animals.

With support from the Science Directorate as well as partner divisions and corporate sponsors, CARE continued the CARE Imprinting Award in 2008, which is a competitive mentoring program, which offers senior graduate students and post-doctoral students opportunities for career development at the annual APA Convention. The award is intended to enhance participants' professional development through interaction with accomplished researchers other than their advisor and to foster a greater sense of identity with their peers, their field, and with APA.

### *Committee on Psychological Tests and Assessment (CPTA)*

Members of the Committee continued their participation in the ongoing revision of the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*. They also continued to work on the development of a position statement on the release of test data. CPTA participated in APA sponsored advocacy efforts in response to the restructuring of regulations related to No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation; and sponsored a symposium at the 2008 APA convention entitled, “*Standardized Testing: Prospects and Pitfalls.*”

### *Ad Hoc Committee to Advance Responsible Research (CARR)*

The fifth meeting of CARR was held February 2-3, 2008, in Washington, DC. While ensuring that RCR becomes an integral part of education and training in scientific psychology is a long-term goal that the Committee will pursue, in the short-term, the Committee decided to develop a number of different new initiatives and projects, all of which were geared towards developing resources on the various aspects of RCR. At the February meeting, CARR finalized a statement on considerations for responsible authorship. The Committee also recommended to BSA the re-establishment of a committee on human research protections.

The Ad Hoc Committee will hold its next meeting August 12-13, 2008 in Boston, MA. It is composed of six members who broadly represent the various areas of psychological research involving human participants. The mission of the Ad Hoc Committee complements the specialized charge of the Committee on Animal Research and Ethics (CARE).

### *APA Science Student Council (APASSC)*

The Science Student Council (SSC), with nine students representing different research areas, advises the Directorate on student-related issues, including awards and programming at the APA Convention.

The Science Student Council has developed a cadre of programs that are helpful to science-oriented graduate students, including oversight of the Early Researcher Award, which recognizes pre-doctoral level research; preparation of information pieces aimed at graduate students on a wide variety of topics; and development of Convention programming to highlight graduate student research. The SSC is currently planning 2008 Convention programming on such topics as grant-writing, disseminating research, mentorship and professional development. The SSC will also be repeating the successful datablitz session in 2008.

### *Task Force for Increasing the Number of Quantitative Psychologists*

The Task Force's draft report was distributed to the APA governance groups for review and comment at the 2007 fall Consolidated meeting. It is anticipated that the report will be submitted to

the Council of Representatives at their February 2009 meeting. A Task Force supported website devoted to the delivery of information about training opportunities in quantitative psychology is currently operational.

### *Task Force to Recommend Changes to Convention That Would Appeal to Scientists*

The report of the Task Force to Recommend Changes to Convention That Would Appeal to Scientists was reviewed and discussed by the Board of Scientific Affairs, the Board of Convention Affairs and the Board of Directors.

### *Relations with Outside Organizations*

The Science Directorate and BSA maintain regular relations with a number of outside organizations including the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC), American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD), Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences, International Test Commission (ITC), National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR), Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R), Social Sciences Research Council (SSRC), and Society for Neuroscience.

## **OTHER DIRECTORATE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS**

### *Research Ethics*

Over the last several years, oversight of research with human participants has received increased scrutiny by regulators, legislators, and the public, and a variety of changes have been suggested for stricter oversight and enforcement of research with humans. Although many of these changes have been precipitated by lapses in the conduct of biomedical research, they will nevertheless have direct impact on the conduct of behavioral research. Science Directorate staff have been closely monitoring changes and proposed changes in regulation, and have provided comments to several national advisory groups on the ways in which proposed regulations will affect behavioral and social science research. Issues addressed have included requirements for increased accountability, changes in the institutional review board (IRB) system, needs to inform IRBs about behavioral and social science research, accreditation of human participant research programs, and mandatory educational requirements in research ethics for all research personnel.

In November 2007, the Science Directorate sponsored a working meeting titled Defining Vulnerability in Minimal Risk Behavioral Research, which was held at Columbia University. The goal of the meeting was to engage relevant stakeholders in the research enterprise such as researchers, scholars, experts on institutional review board (IRB) and human research protection issues, and regulatory officials in an effort to better elucidate the meaning of vulnerability within the research context. Staff and some of the meeting participants are currently working on manuscripts emerging from the deliberations at the meeting.

Science Directorate Web pages have been updated to include topics of responsible conduct of research (RCR). In addition to information on the welfare of research subjects, issues that are addressed include: Conflicts of interests and commitments, mentor-trainee relationships, publication practices, data management, research misconduct, and collaborative science.

## *Office for Applied Psychological Science (OAPS)*

The Office for Applied Psychological Science (OAPS) provides a home for scientists who work in the many applied areas of psychology. The goal is to develop and implement initiatives that encourage and support applied research in both academic and non-academic settings. Developing support for applied psychological science is one emphasis of the Science Directorate's initiative on Psychological Science for the 21st Century (Psy21).

OAPS staff developed a questionnaire that was distributed and completed by over 400 APA members. The questionnaire explored how psychologists define applied psychological science and also what the future holds for applied psychological science research. The analysis is nearly completed and the results of the questionnaire will be presented in a future PSA article.

OAPS has established a “virtual” advisory committee which consists of seven research psychologists working within various areas of applied psychological science and which generally meets by conference call. The committee provided input and guidance towards the development and implementation of programs and initiatives within OAPS.

OAPS also helped to coordinate and facilitate the 2008 presidential initiative “Grand Challenges: How psychological science informs grand challenges of society”. Staff have been working with Dr. Kazdin to develop publications and support materials pertaining to the Grand Challenges initiative for both scientific and lay audiences. OAPS staff has also helped to organize 2 presidential symposia for the 2008 APA convention: Global Warming: An International Symposium and an Aging Symposium.

Staff will continue to provide presentations at graduate school institutions, governmental agencies, and conferences (two symposia at the 2008 Southeastern Psychological Association conference) discussing educational and career opportunities in applied psychological science. OAPS in collaboration with the Education Directorate has developed a career pathways project (PSSI-Psychological Science in Schools Initiative) that focuses on promoting and teaching the science of psychology at the middle, secondary, and post-secondary levels. In spring 2008, a group of high school psychology students from Prince George’s County, Maryland came to APA for a half-day program pertaining to psychological science.

## *Testing and Assessment*

Staff will continue to collaborate with other APA directorates on assessment related activities associated with educational reform and reasonable accommodation as the U.S. Department of Education restructures regulations related to No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation. Activities related to the revision of the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing* are on-going and are expected to continue through the end of 2011. APA will host the bi-annual meeting of Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation (JCSEE) in September at the APA headquarters office in Washington, DC. APA will also host the bi-annual meeting of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) at the headquarters office in October; and staff continues to participate in activities related to the development of ISO standards for personnel selection in employment settings. Outreach activities involving the National Academies, the U.S. Department of Education, the National Research Council, and other professional organizations focused on testing and assessment are on-going.

## *Student Programs*

In addition to supporting the Science Student Council, the Directorate sponsored a number of student-specific awards, including the Dissertation Research Awards, the Student Travel Awards, and the APF-COGDOP Scholarships.

## *Communications*

- **Psychological Science Agenda (PSA):** The Science Directorate newsletter is distributed electronically and published monthly. It is sent to over 30,000 subscribers and includes information and news in scientific, regulatory and advocacy arenas, as well as regular features - the Executive Director's column, a student-focused column, and Science Briefs. PSA is also available from the Science website at [www.apa.org/science/psa](http://www.apa.org/science/psa).
- **The Science Website** includes information about people and programs for psychological scientists and students. The Science Directorate web site has been redesigned to serve as a stronger outreach vehicle for Science Directorate activities. New web pages have been developed in a number of areas, including research ethics and related issues, student programs, and applied psychological science. These and other web pages are an invaluable resource for psychological scientists and accessible through the Science Directorate homepage ([www.apa.org/science](http://www.apa.org/science)).

## *Scientific Conferences Grant Program*

Through the Scientific Conferences Grant program, established in 1987, the Science Directorate co-sponsors 8-10 scientific conferences each year. The purpose of this program is to promote the exchange of important new contributions and approaches in scientific psychology. It is a competitive peer-reviewed program. Proposals are solicited and reviewed twice a year by a BSA appointed ad hoc Scientific Conferences Review Committee, consisting of six individuals. Grant money ranges from \$500 to \$20,000. Deadlines are June 1 and December 1 of every calendar year. During the 2007 Call for Proposals, a record breaking number of proposals were received.

## *Decade of Behavior*

The Decade of Behavior is a broad-based, multidisciplinary initiative that highlights how research in the behavioral and social sciences addresses societal challenges. The initiative addresses five key themes: health, education, safety, democracy, and prosperity. There are approximately 70 member organizations that participate in the initiative and that span such disciplines as psychology, anthropology, geography, linguistics, nursing, political science, preventative medicine, public health, and sociology. The initiative also includes many affiliates whose organizations are located internationally.

The goal of the initiative is to promote collaboration between organizations representing the behavioral and social sciences and enhance the visibility and importance of these sciences to the general public, policy makers, and other scientific disciplines.

**The Behavior Matters Booklet Series** is a publication that offers a sampling of behavioral research that has led to innovations and improvements in our lives. A new booklet on "Health" was released and the booklet on "Psychology" was released.

**Decade of Behavior Congressional Briefings** feature the recipients of Decade of Behavior Research Awards, presenting material with high policy relevance.

## *Center for Workforce Studies (CWS)*

The staff count is currently six (still to hire: Research Assistants, an Administrative Assistant and additional professional staff). The Internal Workforce Committee meets every other month – bringing ideas/needs from other Directorates to CWS. The CWS website is under review (<http://research.apa.org>).

CWS has developed a national survey of health service provider psychologists; obtained an NSF license to access data specific to psychology to create workforce profiles; and has developed potential funding requests/grant proposals.

CWS staff will present at the 2008 Convention and will staff the CWS booth. APA Boards donated hours to be used at the 2008 Convention for sessions revolving around workforce questions.

The 2007 DES Survey is in the field. Analyses from the latest Graduate Study in Psychology are available from CWS. Results from the annual Graduate Faculty Salary Survey are at <http://research.apa.org>, as are preliminary results for Salaries in Psychology. The 2008 APA Student Affiliate Survey has been closed and data are being cleaned and analyzed.

CWS is responsible for an externally funded evaluation of the SPINES program at the marine biological lab at Woods Hole (program designed for increasing/improving retention of minorities in neuroscience careers)(2001-2005). The final report was submitted. CWS is working with the Minority Fellowship Program at APA to pool data and look at the various programs and outcomes. The Project was refunded at a reduced rate in 2007-2008.

Staff are working on governance surveys with the Women's Programs Office; working with Membership on the Directory Survey, working with Practice on the SPTA survey, with Education to identify data relevant to understanding the pipeline, working with Accreditation and CE surveys, working with Science on IRB/CARE/Applied psychologist surveys, and others.

## **PERSONNEL IN AUGUST 2008**

### *Permanent Staff*

Vijay Chokshi – Research Assistant  
Ariel Finno – Research Officer  
Tanya Jacobsen – Research Associate  
Jessica Kohout, Ph.D., Director  
Daniel Michalski- Research Associate  
William E Pate, II – Assistant Director  
vacant – Research Assistant (3), Administrative Assistant (1)

### *Consultants and Temporary Staff*

Marlene Wicherski – Research Consultant  
Brittany Hart – Summer Intern  
Trenise Boston – Temporary

## REFERENCE SERVICES/LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Serving the needs of staff, governance liaisons and officers, part of the APA Archives has been opened through the Library webpage on APAInside <http://apacustomin/ics-wpd/searcharchives.htm> . Over 350 agenda books and reports are digitized and searchable through the text for keywords and phrases, names, years, and events. By April 2008 all agendas and minutes of the BOD and Council back to 1950's, BSA, BEA and all their active committees have been digitized.

APA Archives manages an impressive collection of photographs related to the history of psychology and APA. Approximately 2000 items are in digital format and have been recently open to the APA staff through APAInside Library webpage <http://apacustomin/ics-wpd/searchphotos1.htm> .

APA Archives website <http://www.apa.org/archives/> is updated regularly, and currently a brief bio of Anne Anastasi with excerpts from her interviews has been published with the help of the APA Historian Dr. Wade Pickren.

Since February 2008, 469 books and videos for the library collection and departments have been acquired. Special attention was given to materials on association management, employee performance and rewards, psychology of the new generation and their needs, and customer service. A number of books are recommended as "Summer Reading" on the APAInside news page.

In support of the research needs of various offices, governance groups, and task forces the Library provided primary and secondary information through reference work and interlibrary loan. Over 300 articles and books were delivered, most of them in electronic format suitable for sharing among group members.

Policy and Planning Board

Alan Kazdin's Grand Challenges initiatives

HOPE Program Curriculum

AIDS/Africa Curriculum Development

Task Force on Resources for Inclusion of Social Class in Psychology Curricula

Parent Education Program

Task Force on Media and Childhood Obesity

Task Force on PTSD and Trauma in Children and Adolescents

Monitor

American Psychologist

General Counsel Office

PsycInfo/APA Books

Psychology in Schools

APA historical collection has been enriched with donation of electronic archives from Divisions 13 and 26. Dr. George Levinger from the University of Massachusetts donated 22 volumes of the Division 9 *Journal of Social Issues* which completed the run of this publication.

The APA Library & Archives staff continues to recommend membership for psychologists, students and the public inquiring information on hot psychology and social topics, obtaining publications from peer reviewed journals, books and videos by recognized academicians and practitioners.

Visitors are reminded that using the Archives, Video or Classic Books Collections as well as the library facilities is free for members.

## SCIENCE ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

### ENHANCING PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH FUNDING

#### *APA Hosts First Friends of NIAAA Meeting*

On January 31, Science Government Relations staff hosted the inaugural meeting of the Friends of NIAAA (National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism) at APA Headquarters. The meeting was well-attended and followed an “if you build it they will come approach,” considering the fact that the meeting actually took place after the first public Friends of NIAAA event, which was a [Capitol Hill briefing](#) on underage drinking research. In addition to local representatives from various scientific and professional societies, APA was delighted that Dr. Ray Anton took the time to fly in for the meeting in his role as President of the Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA). Before the official start of the meeting, Dr. Ting-Kai Li, Director of NIAAA, provided a one-hour briefing on [NIAAA research priorities](#). After Dr. Li left, Geoff Mumford then discussed models that other coalitions are using to enhance the visibility of individual NIH Institutes and engaged the group in a strategic planning exercise to help move this new Friends group forward.

#### *NICHHD Director Addresses Impact of Flat Budgets*

On February 27, the Friends of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) met with NICHD Director Duane Alexander to discuss the impact of the President’s proposed budget on the institute. As reported earlier, the NICHD received flat funding of \$1.254 billion in FY08 and the Bush Administration proposed level funding again in FY09. This will restrict funding to less than 400 competing grants and mean that fewer new initiatives or RFA’s will be forthcoming. It will also lead to a reduction in conference support and travel for agency staff to scientific meetings across the country. Individual investigators can expect funding to be even more competitive, as the institute will have the resources to fund only up to the 15th percentile, and the budgets for individual grants may be reduced by 15 to 20 percent.

On the bright side, NICHD is hoping to move forward with implementing its new research plan on [Down Syndrome](#) that was developed last year, as well as new research on math learning disabilities.

#### *APA Seeks to Increase Profile of NIJ Research*

When Science GRO recently expanded its advocacy efforts by seeking out research funding opportunities for behavioral scientists, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), within the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs, seemed like a logical place to start. NIJ is the research, development, and evaluation arm of the DOJ and funds research on—and evaluations of—a broad spectrum of criminal justice and public safety programs, from crime prevention to prisoner reentry. Under the Administration’s proposed FY09 budget, the NIJ would receive \$34.7 million, equal to its FY08 funding level and a dramatic 32 percent decrease from the FY07 level of \$54.3 million. APA has advocated on behalf of DOJ programs for decades, and will add a focus this year on educating

Congress about the important role of NIH research, as well the need to restore funding cuts to the agency.

### *CNSF Meeting with Rep. Vern Ehlers Regarding FY09 Support for NSF*

Each year the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), of which APA is an active member, meets with Congressman Vern Ehlers (R-MI), a physicist and passionate supporter of science and the National Science Foundation (NSF) in particular. In our February meeting with Rep. Ehlers, he reiterated the crucial role played by scientists in advocating for research on Capitol Hill and getting more involved in the political arena. He also asked for the coalition members' support again this spring in getting other Members of Congress to support increased funding for NSF at the level authorized in the recently-passed America COMPETES Act.

Earlier the same day in the House, Rep. Brian Baird (D-WA), psychologist and Chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee's Research and Science Education Subcommittee (on which Rep. Ehlers is Republican Ranking Member), heard from the NSF Director about the FY09 budget. Chairman Baird questioned why the proposed increase for the NSF Social, Behavioral and Economic (SBE) Sciences Directorate was small compared to other disciplinary directorates, and strongly encouraged NSF to support the SBE sciences with increases similar to other sciences.

### *SPSP Honors APA Advocacy Staff*

Science GRO staff members Heather Kelly and Karen Studwell received Awards for Distinguished Service on Behalf of Social-Personality Research at the annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) conference in Albuquerque earlier this month. In presenting the award, SPSP President Jack Dovidio highlighted their ongoing and often behind-the-scenes efforts to enhance funding for social and personality psychological research at the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. Studwell and Kelly were also recognized for their leadership in defending researchers from congressional attempts to rescind funding from peer reviewed research at these agencies.

### *APA Leads Coalition Efforts to Boost Funding for NICHD*

The Friends of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), chaired by Karen Studwell of APA's Science GRO, continued their advocacy efforts on behalf of a 6.6 percent increase for the National Institutes of Health and the NICHD this month. In March, the Friends submitted [testimony](#) to the House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee supporting their request. In April, the coalition met with 14 members of the House and Senate appropriations staff to reiterate the importance of providing adequate funding for biomedical and behavioral research and the critical role that the institute plays in improving our knowledge of children's health and development, women's health, population and demographics, and medical rehabilitation.

### *APA Provides FY 2009 Funding Recommendations for NSF, NASA and NIJ*

In April, Science GRO staff provided official [written testimony](#) to both the House and Senate regarding Fiscal Year 2009 funding recommendations for the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the research arm of the Department of Justice (DOJ). Science GRO advocates on Capitol Hill for behavioral research at all three of these agencies – both in terms of funding and research

infrastructure needs – and our testimony highlighted the stellar psychological science supported by each. All three agencies saw cuts in funding during the Fiscal Year 2008 cycle, and APA continues to educate Members of Congress about resulting losses in scientific progress, innovation, and mission applications as next year’s appropriations process gets underway.

### *[APA Submits Written Testimony on Federal Health and Education Funding](#)*

APA submitted [testimony](#) to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education on April 28, 2008. Unlike in years past, the Subcommittee did not schedule hearings for public witnesses, but instead invited organizations and individuals to submit statements for the record.

The APA statement called for a 6.5 percent funding increase for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). It also requested \$6 million in funding for the Minority Fellowship Program in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; \$7 million in funding for the Graduate Psychology Education program; and encouraged enhanced data collection on minority training programs at NIH and for surveillance of eating disorders in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### *[Friends of NICHD Highlight Developmental Disabilities Research Progress](#)*

To celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the Friends of NICHD and 22 of its member organizations sponsored a May 22 [congressional briefing](#), coordinated by APA’s Karen Studwell, the current chair of the coalition. The purpose of the event was to highlight the research successes and ongoing progress the institute is making in the areas of intellectual and developmental disabilities. NICHD Director Duane Alexander, MD, spoke first and gave the audience of nearly 100 attendees an overview of the advances the institute has made in addressing disorders such as autism, Down syndrome, and Fragile X syndrome. He was followed by Jana Monaco, a parent of two children with a rare metabolic disorder that caused severe neurological impairments in her son due to a delayed diagnosis. Her daughter benefited from an early diagnosis and interventions and continues to be a healthy five-year-old.

The second panel included [Pat Levitt, PhD](#), Director, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development, who shared the latest genetics findings in autism research. [Steve Warren, PhD](#), Director, Kansas Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center and President of APA’s Division on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, explained that to understand problems that occur in development, we must appreciate the normal developmental process, which is driven by both heredity and the environment and continue to find effective, science-based interventions. [Marsha Mailick Seltzer, PhD](#), Director, Waisman Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, spoke about the long-term impacts of these disorders on the family as parents adjust to a lifetime of caregiving for their children as they grow into adulthood.

### *[An Interview with NEI’s Dr. Mike Oberdorfer](#)*

Science GRO’s Elizabeth Hoffman had the opportunity to speak with Dr. Mike Oberdorfer, Program Director at the National Eye Institute, about how NEI is faring in the NIH budget process. Dr. Oberdorfer directs the Strabismus, Amblyopia and Visual Processing program and the Low Vision and Blindness Rehabilitation program at [NEI](#). Both of these programs fund clinical and behavioral research and might be especially interesting to psychologists who study visual perception, attention,

or rehabilitative health.

*NEI doesn't have a strict pay line, unlike most other Institutes and Centers. Can you explain how the Institute sets its priorities and makes its awards?*

As one of the smaller Institutes, NEI does not set a rigid pay line. If the proposal is strong and favorably reviewed, we try to fund it. We largely fund R01s (Investigator initiated research applications) and R21s (an exploratory grant mechanism). Nonetheless, the priority score and percentile are very important when reviewed well by the Center for Scientific Review (CSR - the first stop in the grant review cycle). The R21s are not percentile ranked. The review panels at CSR are instructed to give special attention to new investigators, but we often give a second look to make sure first time grantees don't fall through the cracks.

*How has NEI been affected by the very lean budget for NIH?*

Hovering around \$660 million, the NEI budget is virtually unchanged since 2004. As with the other NIH Institutes and Centers, a recurring flat budget coupled with increasing research costs that climb about 4 percent each year mean that awards are steadily declining. Many opportunities are emerging in health and disease and you can't grasp all of them, especially with a diminishing budget. So, the negative impact grows every year. The budget situation affects both sustained portfolios and emerging areas. We made 1097 awards in FY07, compared to 1054 this year. This translates to about a 4 percent reduction – roughly equivalent to the annual increases in research costs. In the current budget climate, we are really looking for a maintenance level of funding.

*Has there been a change in behavioral science applications over the years?*

We get inquiries often. Former grantees at NIMH, NINDS, NIA, and elsewhere may find interest in NEI. My advice is to write the strongest application but not worry about crafting your application to favor assignment to one place or another. The three main CSR study sections for my programs are CVP (central visual processing), BDPE (biology and diseases of the posterior eye) and AED (anterior eye disease). A fourth is CP (cognition and perception). Low vision and blindness rehabilitation is assigned all over the map, which is troubling. There are no special emphasis panels anymore so the level of expertise is not always deep enough and strong applications may not get fundable scores. With biomedical and behavioral research growing increasingly innovative and complex, what we need are more special emphasis panels with reviewers crossing multiple disciplines.

*Are there training or retraining programs at NEI of which psychologists should take greater advantage?*

The NEI supports postdoctoral fellowships through the F32 mechanism. Most of our predocs are supported on institutional training grants. We support a limited number of predoctoral fellowships using the F31 mechanism limited to underrepresented minorities or applicants with disabilities. We also support a number of training opportunities using the K award mechanism (physician scientists awards), but since every NIH Institute differs, applicants should call to see what may be of interest and appropriate for their training needs.

*Does NEI have collaborations about which psychologists should be aware?*

Yes. About 0.07 percent of NEI's neuroscience budget, or \$2 million, comes from the NIH [Blueprint for Neuroscience Research](#), a cooperative effort among the NIH Institutes and Centers that support

neuroscience research, including cognitive and affective neuroscience. We also have an ongoing collaboration with the National [Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research](#) at NICHD to fund health assessment research focused on disability. As for interagency partnerships, NEI participates in the [Collaborative Research in Computational Neuroscience](#) (CRCNS) program, a collaboration between NIH and the National Science Foundation that supports innovative computational neuroscience - human, animal, and theoretical. All of the proposals are reviewed at NSF, and review groups are pulled together expressly for this purpose so that there is terrific expertise.

### *U.S. House Votes to Boost Research and Development at NASA*

Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to extend authorization of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) one year. The bill (H.R. 6063) authorized \$20.2 billion for the agency, a full \$2.9 billion over the President's FY 2009 budget request. The authorized level includes \$853,400,000 for NASA's Aeronautics program, home to aviation safety and human factors research. Shortly before the bill went to the House floor, APA Science Government Relations staff sent a [letter](#) to Representatives urging them to support the authorization bill. We also asked members of APA's Public Policy Advocacy Network (PPAN) to support NASA by calling their Representative and urging him/her to vote yes on the bill. Many thanks to all of you who made calls!

APA endorsed the House NASA authorization bill because it restores support for the agency's long-underfunded research programs, including aviation safety and human performance research, much of which is done by psychological scientists at NASA and at NASA-funded institutions. The FY 2009 authorized funding level for Aeronautics, if signed into law, would amount to a 35 percent increase over the allocation for FY 2008. This represents an extraordinary commitment by Congress to restore support for aeronautics research. NASA's FY 2008 allocation diminished the spending power of the aeronautics program by 40 percent compared to 2004, forcing NASA centers to cut jobs and university grants in aeronautics research, especially in the area of human performance and aviation safety.

The Senate may vote on its version of the bill as soon as July.

Science Government Relations' Elizabeth Hoffman will continue to work with the authorizing and appropriations committees in both chambers of Congress to advance behavioral science at NASA.

## **STRENGTHENING THE SCIENTIFIC INFRASTRUCTURE**

### *APA Comments on NIDA Strategic Plan*

On February 6, Steve Breckler, Executive Director for Science, submitted [comments](#) on the draft strategic plan for the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). The comments, compiled by Science Government Relations staff, focused primarily on one of NIDA's four goal areas—prevention—and represented an integration of the views from a number of individual APA members and governance groups. The due date coincided with NIDA's winter Advisory Council meeting. Dr. Volkow's Director's Report, as well as presentations on Mentored Career Development Award Outcomes, Relapse to Food Seeking, and Strategies to Identify and Increase Innovative Research, can all be viewed [here](#).

## *APA Co-Hosts Workshop on Enhancing Diversity in Science*

On February 28, APA collaborated with several other organizations and held a full day workshop for professional association and scientific society leadership to brainstorm opportunities to enhance diversity in science. Dr. Norman Anderson, APA's Chief Executive Officer, participated in the workshop and served as the "idea leader" in the morning session on Mentoring. The Consortium of Social Science Associations, Society for Research in Child Development, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Sociological Association, American Educational Research Association, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, Association of American Medical Colleges, and the Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research, along with APA, co-sponsored the workshop. This planning group represents just a small sample of a growing number of professional associations and scientific societies concerned about building the scientific workforce to respond to global challenges and to the needs of an increasingly diverse population.

Increasingly fewer underrepresented minorities are pursuing careers in science, and leakages in the science pipeline for minority students and professionals happen at various stages, but especially within higher education. Professional associations and scientific societies represent permanent homes for scientists and students of science, many of whom relocate several times throughout their careers. As sources of stability for their members, associations and societies have an opportunity to provide educational and career support that might not otherwise be consistently available. They can also work together to develop common approaches to enhancing educational and career opportunities for vulnerable populations and to help ensure greater participation of underrepresented minorities in science.

The workshop included catalyst panels of experts as well as both small and large group discussions and was designed to generate a shared commitment to the problem, new opportunities for collaboration across diverse organizations and areas of science, and specific action steps, including lobbying efforts, that could be undertaken by the associations and societies to move progress.

The agenda focused on (1) Obstacles to the Recruitment and Retention of Underrepresented Minorities in Science, and (2) Successful Models and Future Initiatives. The morning panel of experts focused on understanding the various obstacles in this area, including those identified in research, in recent court decisions, in the careers of individual scientists, and by university and association leaders. The afternoon panel focused on successful models for overcoming obstacles, drawing upon the perspectives of federal funders, private funders, and program leaders.

With the ultimate aim of arriving at recommendations for action on the part of associations and societies, small groups brainstormed ways that the scientific community can work together to enhance minority training and scientific career development, and offered specific recommendations and calls for action to address the challenges that individuals face in participating in scientific research endeavors. Participants were assigned to one of five groups, each with a specific focus for action: (a) developing program outcomes data, (b) mentoring trainees, (c) retaining students and early career professionals, (d) retaining early through later career professionals, and (e) generating public support.

At the end of the afternoon, the groups were tasked with producing *up to 6* action-oriented steps but many had difficulty constraining their lists to just 6 items!

To view the agenda and other materials, [click here](#).

### *FDA Holds Inaugural Meeting of Risk Communication Advisory Committee*

On February 28, psychological science was well represented as the FDA convened the first meeting of the Risk Communication Advisory Committee, which will be dealing with a number of issues related to provisions of the [Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007](#). APA Fellow [Baruch Fischhoff](#), Howard Heinz University Professor in the Department of Social and Decision Sciences and Department of Engineering and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University, chaired the meeting. Psychologist Nancy Ostrove, FDA's Senior Advisor for Risk Communication, provided an [overview and context](#) for the meeting, and APA member Michael Wogalter provided [commentary](#) at the close of a session on communicating about product recalls. All of the presentation materials are available [here](#).

### *National Academies Assess NIJ*

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) is conducting a two-year, objective assessment of the U.S. Department of Justice's National Institute of Justice (NIJ). The panel is examining the full range of NIJ programs in order to assess and make recommendations for NIJ's short- and long-term strategic planning and budgeting processes and its organizational structure. This comprehensive review will consider the agency's research and dissemination priorities based on the needs of important stakeholders and the limitations imposed by budget constraints.

Science GRO's Anne Bettesworth attended the second meeting of the panel on March 28. The panel heard feedback from former Attorneys General Janet Reno and Richard Thornburgh, as well as from a group of practitioners and a group representing various practitioners' organizations. NIJ staff, also involved, answered questions and provided an overview of the Office of Research and Evaluation and the Office of Science and Technology.

Much of the day's discussion revolved around the organizational location and structure of NIJ, the agency's priorities and how these priorities are set, how funding for social science research can be enhanced, and ways to raise the overall visibility of NIJ. Science GRO will continue to monitor and report on this assessment as it unfolds.

### *NIDA Directors Present Perspectives as the Institute Turns 35*

On May 21, Geoff Mumford, APA's Assistant Executive Director for Government Relations for Science attended the 35th anniversary celebration of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). The event was jointly organized by the Friends of NIDA, the Office of NIH History and the Institute of Behavior and Health, Inc. and was designed to examine the past, present and future of NIDA, guided by all the Directors and Acting Directors who have provided leadership for NIDA over the past 35 years. Sadly, Dr. William Pollin died in January as plans for the event were being finalized, but loving tributes to his legacy were provided by both his wife, Teresa, and his Special Assistant, Dr. Jack Durell. Following those presentations, a panel of historians led by Robert Martensen, MD, PhD, Director of the Office of NIH History, shared their perspectives with the audience of invited guests.

In preparation for the event, each of the NIDA Directors was asked to write a 10-page paper responding to two questions: *What were the most important events during your directorship?* and *What is your vision for the future of NIDA?* Each historian was asked to contribute a 10-page paper on the role of NIDA in the nation's response to the modern drug abuse epidemic and the co-

sponsoring organizations plan to publish that collection of papers when a suitable venue can be confirmed. The event program can be viewed [here](#).

### *Meetings with Senate Staff Regarding JJDPA Reauthorization Bode Well for Science*

In May, Science Government Relations' Anne Bettsworth met with both majority and minority Senate Judiciary Committee staff regarding the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. APA's Science and Public Interest GRO recently submitted recommendations to the Senate Judiciary Committee on the reauthorization of this legislation that guides federal investment in the nation's juvenile justice system. Science GRO's contributions to this effort included a section on strengthening the peer review process and on defining and promoting the use of evidence-based practices. Both of these suggestions were well-taken by Committee staff, who were acutely aware of the need for legislative language that would make the peer review process more transparent and ensure that the best science is being funded by encouraging the use of evidence-based practices. Science GRO will continue to monitor this legislation and advocate for provisions that strengthen scientific infrastructure in the juvenile justice arena.

### *Almost Century Mark for Meeting of NIDA Advisory Council*

On May 14, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) held the 99th meeting of its Advisory Council.

Highlights of Dr. Volkow's Director's Report included items of interest to the behavioral science community. One might wonder what comes of our frequent calls to comment on agency strategic plans; our effort on behalf of NIDA serves as a useful case in point. When we asked for comment on NIDA's strategic plan, the dominant theme across the comments we received related to questions about NIDA's prevention research portfolio. Our APA comments reflected that focus and we are extremely grateful that NIDA heard your concerns. Dr. Volkow has since convened a NIDA Prevention Research Review Working Group, led by APA psychologists Mark Greenberg and Mary Jane Rotheram-Borus. The first meeting of the group is scheduled for September 8-9.

In addition, representatives from the American Psychiatric Association (ApA) presented on the progress of DSM-V. Although it was heartening to see psychologists Tom McClellan, Nancy Petry, and Alan Budney involved in Chuck O'Brien's Substance-Related Disorders Workgroup, it would appear likely that the evolution of these diagnostic criteria would benefit from additional expertise from the psychological science community. The workgroup rosters were recently released; APA members who have suggestions or want to provide input about the rosters should contact ApA directly. The rosters of the Substance-Related Disorders Workgroup and others are available [here](#).

Additional Council Presentations can be found [here](#).

### *APA Helps Honor Leaders of Health Services Research*

On June 9, APA cosponsored a [reception](#) honoring champions of health services research at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Among those honored were Congressman Tom Allen; Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson; Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Dr. Carolyn Clancy; Director of the National Center for Health Statistics, Dr. Ed Sondik; two staff from the Senate Labor, Health and Human

Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, Dr. Sudip Parikh and Lisa Bernhardt; and, two staff from the corresponding Subcommittee in the House, Nicole Kunko and Sue Quantius.

Over 200 guests attended the event to help celebrate Congressional leadership of the first comprehensive comparative effectiveness research legislation introduced in the 110th Congress, the “Enhanced Health Care Value for All Act of 2007” (H.R. 2184).

### *NIMH Soon to Release Strategic Plan*

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is scheduled to release the final version of its strategic plan shortly. We put out a call for public input on a draft version of the plan back in December. We heard from a wide range of individual APA members and were able to share these comments with NIMH Director, Dr. Tom Insel. A common theme that emerged was the inadequate coverage of behavioral research among the Plan’s stated objectives. In our cover letter to Dr. Insel in December, we urged the Institute not to exclude basic behavioral research in the final version of the Plan, just as it does not exclude studies of normal brain function that are conducted solely at the neural level.

We have recently been heartened by Insel’s stated commitment to behavioral research. For example, at a recent meeting of the NIMH Professional Coalition for Research Progress, Insel promoted the importance of discoveries in the brain and behavioral sciences for treating and preventing mental disorders. His discussion of the interplay among genes, circuits, and behavior was enlightening, and we are hopeful that he shares our goal of ensuring that basic behavioral science is supported, funded and lauded. We are also hopeful that the final version of the strategic plan will reflect this commitment. [Click here](#) to read a letter that APA’s Executive Director for Science, Dr. Steve Breckler, sent to Insel regarding his commitment to basic behavioral research.

## **SHARING PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH WITH POLICYMAKERS**

### *Psychologist Jason Kilmer Briefs NIAAA Advisory Council on College Drinking*

On February 7, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) held its winter Advisory Council meeting. In his report to Council, NIAAA Director Dr. Ting-Kai Li reviewed recent NIAAA activities and graciously took the time to publicly [thank APA](#) for its leadership in organizing the November 15 [congressional briefing](#) on underage drinking research and the first [Friends of NIAAA meeting](#) last month. Following the Director’s report, psychologist Jason Kilmer provided the Council with an update on his ongoing College Drinking studies at the University of Washington and Evergreen State College. Dr. Kilmer was kind enough to provide his [PowerPoint slides](#) for reference with the understanding that the data represent preliminary analyses. Next, Dr. Robert Saltz, Associate Director and Senior Research Scientist of the Prevention Research Center at the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, provided a summary of [Interventions to Reduce College Student Drinking and Consequences](#). Finally, Dr. Fulton Crews provided a summary of NIAAA’s Extramural Advisory Board review of NIAAA’s [health services research portfolio](#).

### *NIDA Supported Research Informs Hearing on Sentencing Guidelines*

On February 12, basic science informed policy in an unusual setting - the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs. The hearing, entitled "Federal Cocaine Sentencing Laws: Reforming the 100-to-1 Crack/Powder Disparity," followed a recent ruling by the U.S. Sentencing Commission to reduce the disparity in sentencing guidelines for those convicted of dealing two different forms of cocaine and, in certain cases, to make those reductions [retroactive](#).

While the debate on the rationale for retroactivity may continue, NIDA Director Nora Volkow appeared before the subcommittee to discuss the basic psychopharmacology of the drug. Volkow's [testimony](#), which covered the epidemiology and medical consequences of crack and powder cocaine addiction, also made clear that differences in the subjective effects of alternate forms of cocaine are related to the route of administration (i.e., whether the drug is injected, smoked, or snorted). In a nod to the critical role psychological science has played in helping to stem the tide, Volkow noted that no medication has yet proven effective in treating cocaine dependence, but that several behavioral therapies have. Chairman Biden has introduced legislation (S 1711, the Drug Sentencing Reform and Cocaine Kingpin Trafficking Act of 2007), drawing from NIDA supported research, to reinforce changes to the sentencing guidelines.

### *Second Chance Act Passes Both Chambers of Congress*

On March 12, the Senate cleared the House-passed version of the [Second Chance Act](#), an offender rehabilitation bill that incorporates many treatment provisions rooted in science and based on years of psychological research sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and other divisions of the Departments of Health and Human Services and Justice. That action clears the way for consideration of the bill by the White House. Over the past year, Science GRO made sure that both the House and Senate were aware of the importance of that research. In March 2007, Science GRO helped APA member Dr. Roger Peters prepare [testimony](#) that he delivered before the House Judiciary Committee and facilitated a personal meeting with Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers (D-MI) immediately following the hearing.

Earlier that year, Science GRO had arranged a focused briefing for Senate Judiciary Committee staff on behalf of the Friends of NIDA. This briefing was an extension of advocacy that the Friends had initiated around the release of NIDA's research-based guide entitled "[Principles of Drug Abuse Treatment for Criminal Justice Populations](#)." In October 2006, a copy of the guide was delivered to every Congressperson's office on Capitol Hill.

### *Congressional Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Fair*

On March 12, APA joined over thirty participating organizations in the Congressional Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Taskforce's Annual TBI Awareness Fair. Janet Niemeier, a rehabilitation psychologist at Virginia Commonwealth University's Medical College of Virginia, represented APA and highlighted the contributions of rehabilitation psychologists to developing improved diagnosis, assessments and treatments for patients with TBI. Niemeier's own research is funded by both the National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research and the National Institutes of Health's National Center on Medical Rehabilitation Research, and focuses on improving cognition in TBI recovery. As a participant in the Fair, she spoke to Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), Chairman of the Congressional Brain Injury Taskforce, congressional staff and other attendees about the cognitive,

social, physical, vocational, behavioral and emotional issues that are part of psychological rehabilitation.

### *Big Month for APA Advocacy on Veterans' Issues*

Science GRO took advantage of a number of opportunities in March to advocate for psychological research at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Most prominently, on March 13, Dr. Steve Breckler (Executive Director for Science) presented APA's annual testimony on VA research funding before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Administration, and Related Agencies. He urged Congress to reverse another round of planned Administration cuts to the VA research budget and highlighted the critical roles played by VA psychologists in advancing the science underpinning veterans' health care. During the hearing there was bipartisan support from Representatives for increasing the research account by substantial amounts in Fiscal Year 2009. Both written and oral testimony were submitted on the House side, as well as suggested language on psychological research at the VA for inclusion in the accompanying appropriations reports.

Earlier in the month, the Friends of VA Medical Care and Health Research (FOVA) coalition held its annual briefing with member societies, high level VA Headquarters staff, and congressional staffers from VA authorizing and appropriations committees. Science GRO's Heather Kelly sits on the six-person FOVA Executive Committee. The briefing provided an important forum for discussions with congressional staffers, VA Chief Research and Development Officer Joel Kupersmith, MD, and Michael Selzer, MD, PhD, Director of the VA's Rehabilitation Research and Development program.

Science Directorate staff also had a chance to meet with representatives of the Association of VA Psychologist Leaders (AVAPL) during their annual trip to Washington in March. Based on our discussion with these psychologists, staff are scheduling a meeting with the VA research office to discuss IRB issues and potential changes to the internal VA IRB system.

### *APA Weighs in on Juvenile Justice Reauthorization*

The [Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act](#) (JJDP), the law that guides federal investment in the nation's juvenile justice system, is past due for reauthorization. In order to improve the bill before it is reauthorized, both Science and Public Interest GRO staff sought input from members of the juvenile justice and adolescent development communities. After collecting suggestions, Public Interest GRO drafted and sent a [letter](#) to the chair and ranking member of the relevant House and Senate committees, which included specific recommendations and [legislative language](#). Science GRO's contributions to this effort included a section on strengthening the peer review process and on defining and promoting the use of evidence-based practices.

### *APA Cosponsors Briefing on IoM Report, "Cancer Care for the Whole Patient"*

Congressional staff and members of the health advocacy community gathered on March 31, 2008, for a briefing on "[Cancer Care for the Whole Patient: Meeting Psychosocial Health Needs](#)." APA and thirteen other behavioral science or health organizations cosponsored the Capitol Hill briefing on the recent Institute of Medicine (IoM) report.

Ten and a half million people in the USA are living with a current or past diagnosis of cancer, and 41 percent of all Americans can expect to be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lives, according to the IoM report. The report makes the case that it is not possible to deliver good-quality

cancer care without addressing patients' psychosocial health needs. All patients with cancer and their families should expect and receive cancer care that ensures the provision of appropriate psychosocial health services. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) asked the IoM to study the delivery of psychosocial services to cancer patients and their families and identify ways to improve it. This report recommends ten actions that oncology providers, health policy makers, educators, health insurers, health plans, quality oversight organizations, researchers and research sponsors, and consumer advocates should undertake to ensure that this standard is met.

Briefing speakers included psychologists Robert Croyle, PhD, Director of the National Cancer Institute's Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences and Jessie Gruman, PhD, President of the Center for the Advancement of Health and author of *AfterShock: What to Do When the Doctor Gives You -- or Someone You Love -- a Devastating Diagnosis*; Elizabeth Clark, PhD, Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, completed the panel.

Dr. Croyle explained why the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and NIH's Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research had commissioned the report from the IoM. NCI supports research on health communication and hopes to use the report to guide additional research, especially on ways to improve communication between patients and providers. Dr. Gruman, a member of the IoM panel that produced the report, said that doctors are so focused on eradicating cancer that they sometimes ignore the shock and other emotions that can hinder treatment. Even the best cancer treatment can fail if doctors don't pay attention to the psychological and social needs of patients. Dr. Gruman, a three-time cancer survivor, spoke from data as well as personal experience. Dr. Clark discussed the need to build capacity, both in the private sector and among health professionals, to make more comprehensive cancer care available in areas of the country outside of major university cancer centers. She also discussed the need for people with cancer to get help advocating for better treatment. Dr. Clark developed *The Cancer Survival Toolbox*, a self-advocacy training program for persons with cancer.

### *Friends of NIDA Briefing Focuses on Genetics of Addiction*

On April 8, Science GRO staff, in conjunction with the Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus in the House of Representatives, organized the tenth Friends of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) congressional briefing, titled "[The Genetics of Drug Abuse and Addiction](#)." Research has shown that the causes of drug abuse and addiction are complex, with genetic, environmental, and developmental factors all contributing. Genetics accounts for approximately half of an individual's vulnerability to addiction, including how genes interact with the environment and stage of development. Thanks to recent scientific advances, we are now poised to further untangle these factors and to use that knowledge to better tailor prevention and treatment strategies. In fact, NIDA is supporting research to define and measure aspects of the social environment to understand how genes may mitigate or amplify social influences, known to powerfully affect individual choices and behaviors related to substance abuse.

[Nora D. Volkow](#), MD, Director of NIDA, began the briefing by summarizing the Institute's genetics research portfolio as it relates to addiction and drug abuse. APA member [Caryn Lerman](#), PhD, Mary W. Calkins Professor and Director of the Transdisciplinary Tobacco Use Research Center at the University of Pennsylvania, then discussed emerging research on the role of genetic influences in smoking cessation and response to treatments for nicotine addiction. Finally, [Alexandra E. Shields](#), PhD, Director of the Harvard/MGH Center on Genomics, Vulnerable Populations and Health Disparities at the Institute for Health Policy at Mass. General Hospital and Assistant Professor of

Medicine at Harvard Medical School, addressed challenges translating emerging pharmacogenetic approaches to smoking cessation treatment to clinical practice.

The event was cosponsored by 26 Friends of NIDA scientific and professional organizations and was well-attended by congressional staff. The briefing series, which began in 2005, was designed to educate members of Congress and their staff about substance abuse issues and elevate the profile of the NIDA with policy makers.

### *[NAS Panel Recommends Delaying the National Children's Study](#)*

On May 22, the National Academies of Science released its [review](#) of the [National Children's Study](#) (NCS) Research Plan, offering a summary of the study's strengths and weaknesses and providing a list of 24 recommendations. While praising the study's goals and value as a future research resource for improving child health outcomes, the report also highlighted some notable weaknesses. The multidisciplinary panel, which included developmental psychologist and APA member Nora Newcombe from Temple University, recommended that the NCS delay enrollment beyond the initial Vanguard Centers to provide time for a pilot phase of the study. According to the panel, this delay would allow time to consider more fully the appropriate conceptual framework and specification of hypotheses and measures for the study.

Some of the weaknesses of the study were also highlighted by APA in its official [comments](#) on the NCS last Fall, including: an overrepresentation of hypotheses and measures related to diseases versus healthy development and little attention being paid to outcomes in later childhood and adolescence that might have influenced the selection of additional or alternative exposures as well as issues related to health disparities.

The Panel also had concerns about a number of variables, such as: child mental health disorders, maternal depression, brain injuries, reproductive development outcomes and the social environment in the home, and a particular concern about the set of psychosocial measures. According to the NCS Program Office, some of the panel's recommendations are already being implemented, others will take more time, and still others would not be possible without additional resources, though it is not clear yet which specific recommendations are being implemented.

### *[APA Members and Staff Honored at CPDD](#)*

On June 15, APA member Dr. Hendree Jones received the Joseph Cochin Young Investigator Award at the plenary session of the annual meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The award is given annually to recognize outstanding research by an investigator below the age of 40 in memory of Dr. Joseph Cochin, a highly esteemed leader in drug abuse research and a former Chairman and Executive Secretary of CPDD. Dr. Jones is Research Director at the Center for Addiction and Pregnancy within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

During the same session, Dr. Geoff Mumford, Assistant Executive Director for Government Relations in the Science Directorate, received CPDD's Distinguished Service Award. In presenting the award, CPDD Board member Dr. Bill Dewey cited Geoff's development and organization of an educational briefing series on behalf of the Friends of NIDA coalition and his long term effort to help restore an external panel of drug abuse expertise within the advisory committee structure of the Food and Drug Administration.

## INCREASING THE ABILITY OF APA SCIENTISTS TO ADVOCATE FOR THEIR DISCIPLINE

### *Science GRO Presents Advocacy Plan at AAAS Convention*

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) invited APA's Science GRO staff to participate in a panel on science advocacy at their annual convention in Boston over President's Day weekend. Science GRO's Heather Kelly delivered a talk on "Advocacy in the Trenches: Making the Behavioral and Social Sciences Policy Relevant" and highlighted how APA approaches advocacy on Capitol Hill and within the executive branch agencies. The session was organized by members of AAAS' Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility, and both AAAS staff and scientists at the session were impressed with the extent and sophistication of APA's advocacy efforts.

### *APA Science Directorate Names Incoming Science Policy Fellow*

Erin McMullen Jonaitis, PhD, has been selected as APA's incoming Science Policy Fellow for the academic year beginning September, 2008. She succeeds Deborah Weber, PhD, a neuropsychologist currently placed within the Department of Defense's Counterintelligence Field Activity office. Dr. McMullen Jonaitis' executive branch fellowship placement will be at the National Science Foundation, where she will put her cognitive and developmental science expertise to work in the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate.

### *Advocating on Capitol Hill for Psychological Research at DoD*

On June 4, Debbie Boehm-Davis, PhD, testified before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense on behalf of APA. Chair of the Psychology Department at George Mason University and a Fellow of APA's Division 21, Dr. Boehm-Davis is a human factors psychologist with expertise in human-computer interaction and transportation. For the past several years she also has served on the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board.

Dr. Boehm-Davis testified regarding Fiscal Year 2009 funding for Science and Technology (S&T) at the Department of Defense (DoD), and on behalf of support for psychological research in particular. Her oral testimony highlighted the need for Congress to again reverse proposed Administration cuts to the overall S&T account and to protect behavioral science research programs throughout the agency. Though the President's budget included increases for basic research, it would substantially cut applied research programs that bring this research into applications for military use.

Strengthening APA's ongoing advocacy for increasing DoD's human-centered research programs are the findings of a newly released 2008 report from the National Academies on *Human Behavior in Military Contexts*. The report recommends enhancing funding for research in six areas of behavioral research that traditionally have been supported by the military research laboratories (the Army Research Institute, Office of Naval Research, and Air Force Research Laboratory):

- intercultural competence;
- teams in complex environments;
- technology-based training;
- nonverbal behavior;

- emotion; and
- behavioral neurophysiology.

Dr. Boehm-Davis concluded her testimony by noting another APA concern – the potential loss of invaluable behavioral science programs within DoD’s Counterintelligence Field Activity (CIFA) as it reorganizes and loses personnel strength. APA’s testimony urged Congress to provide ongoing funding in the next fiscal year for CIFA’s behavioral research programs on cyber security, insider threat, and other counter-terrorism and counter-intelligence operational challenges.