Launching Careers, Changing Society

2013 was a landmark year. APF celebrated its 60th anniversary and gave grants totaling approximately $700,000, and helped more than 70 graduate students and early career psychologists launch their careers. APF also announced the Campaign to Transform the Future. The campaign will support the many young psychologists and graduate students whose innovative projects have the potential to change the way we think and live in the world.

Decreasing the stigma of mental illness.

Matthew Lebowitz, a fourth-year psychology graduate student at Yale University, received the 2013 APF Violet and Cyril Franks Scholarship for his work to mitigate decreases in empathy and accompanying increases in stigmatizing attitudes among clinicians treating mental illness.

Closing the academic achievement gap.

Yamanda Wright, of the University of Texas at Austin, received the APF Kenneth B. and Mamie P. Clark Grant, for her study of elementary school-age children’s intergroup (e.g. race, gender) attitudes and her work on trying to close the disparities in racial achievement in schools. Her APF-funded dissertation examines the relations among racial mistrust, perceptions of discrimination, and academic achievement for elementary school-age children.

Preventing suicide in adolescents.

Catherine Glenn, PhD is using her $5,000 Lizette Peterson-Homer Memorial Injury Research Grant to understand why the risk of suicide rises so dramatically in adolescence. She plans to use the grant to examine how adolescent-specific neural patterns correlate with suicide risk. She hopes to improve the ability to predict which youth are at greatest risk so that interventions can be targeted.

Helping military families cope with PTSD.

Sarah Campbell, a PhD, student in Clinical Psychology at George Mason University, received the 2013 APF Randy Gerson Memorial Research Grant to study the dynamic processes that contribute to PTSD-related dysfunction in military couples. Specifically, Campbell will use Bowen Family Systems theory to further the overall understanding of the PTSD-related mechanisms (such as emotional reactivity) that lead to distress in these relationships.
First Sparks Foundation Grant Enables Pediatrician Screening for Young Patients’ Anxiety and Depressive Symptoms

Amy Przeworski, PhD, assistant professor of psychology at Case Western Reserve University, received the first annual *John and Polly Sparks Early Career Grant*. The $10,000 grant will enable Dr. Przeworski to examine barriers to screening for anxiety and depressive symptoms in pediatric primary care practices, and will create a screening and prevention program that can be easily implemented in such practices.

The John and Polly Sparks Foundation partnered with APF to empower early career psychologists to produce scientifically-based research and programs that could provide models for broad-based applications in early intervention and treatment for serious emotional disturbance in children.

Drs. Rosalee G. and Raymond A. Weiss Support Research on Sleep and Bipolar Disorder

Drs. Rosalee G. and Raymond A. Weiss have been supporters of APF for close to two decades. They are investing in young psychologists to make sure psychology is at the forefront of building a better future. In 2013, Jessica Levenson, PhD, received the $2,500 *Drs. Rosalee G. and Raymond A. Weiss Research and Program Innovation Grant* to study the sleep and rest activity rhythms of individuals with bipolar II depression. Dr. Levenson’s study has the potential to pave the way for future work on developing treatment strategies to improve mood, physical health, and functional outcomes by modifying and decreasing sleep disturbances.

“It was always in my mind to leave money in my will to the future of psychology, but I realized that while I am still alive I want to experience the joy of helping others to do what I did – to pursue their work and dreams .... APF is the perfect vehicle to support students and young professionals to pursue that path.”

- Dr. Judy Kuriansky
Understanding Sleep and Psychopathology in Youth with Significant Mental Health Problems.
Dr. Timothy Nelson, a pediatric psychologist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, received a Visionary Grant for his research on the intersection between behavior and a child’s physical and mental health. His research will examine the relationship between sleep and psychopathology in youth with significant mental health problems, and will develop a brief sleep intervention to improve both sleep and mental health functioning.

Relating the Psychological Recovery from Recent Disasters to Climate Change.
Dr. Laura Kati Corlew, in collaboration with the East-West Center, received a Visionary Grant to address the psychological recovery from natural disasters as it relates to the increasing risk of disaster from climate change in Hawaii and the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands. Dr. Corlew’s work on the psychology of climate change has been widely recognized.

Understanding Stress and Resilience in Vulnerable Youth.
Farrah Jacquez, PhD, is using her Visionary Grant to conduct a pilot study to identify and measure mental and physical aspects of stress and resilience in vulnerable youth from three diverse communities. Dr. Jacquez hopes to better understand the context of stress and resilience in vulnerable youth by studying their personal experiences with stress, resilience, and health.

Examining Discrimination-Related Stress in Families.
Kymberlee O’Brien, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow at HORIZON Center for Health Equity at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, received a Visionary Grant for her work. She will be testing whether a mother’s stress from perceived discrimination is physiologically, behaviorally, and affectively transmitted to her infant, thus putting the child at greater risk for stress-related health disparities.

Continued on page 5
Supporting Asian and Asian American Children’s Social and Emotional Development

APF awarded Joey Fung, PhD of the Fuller Graduate School of Psychology the 2013 AAPA-APF Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation Fellowship. Dr. Fung studies cultural and familial influences on children’s social and emotional development, with an emphasis on Asian and Asian American families. She is interested in how cultural beliefs about parental control shape parenting practices and in turn impact child adjustment. Her research includes work on patterns of risk and resilience in Beijing migrant children, the dissemination of school-based mindfulness interventions for adolescents, and enhancing interventions for ethnic minority children and adolescents with anxiety.

Resilience and Psychological Growth in LGBTQ Populations.
Nadav Antebi, a PhD student at Columbia University, will seek to identify the processes and mechanisms through which the stress of being part of a minority group may be linked to the development of coping strategies, positive attributes, and psychological growth among LGBTQ populations with his Visionary Grant. Nadav hopes his research will contribute to future strength-based interventions designed to reduce the elevated disease burden among LGBTQ populations.

Helping Children in War Zones.
Jodi Quas, PhD, of the University of California, Irvine, received a $20,000 Visionary Grant to determine what empathy, emotional understanding, and altruism mean to children living in highly volatile, war-torn environments and to evaluate how exposure to violence affects these children’s empathy, altruistic tendencies, and aggressiveness. She plans to use the data as the basis for interventions designed to enhance emotional processes for broader peace-building.

Reducing Intergroup Conflict.
Bernhard Leidner, PhD, is using his Visionary Grant to add to the body of research on justice and intergroup conflict to help bring constructive dialogue to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. Leidner and his team are testing conflict resolution strategies that require both groups to address the justice needs and perspectives of both sides—victims and perpetrators.

“I have been a member of APA for 40 years. I love going to APA meetings now and seeing so many students attending. I’m thrilled to bring in the younger generation and encourage their interest in the field. Giving to APF is a way to ensure a strong future for psychology.”

- Dr. Steven Ungerleider
2013 APF Grantees

Kenneth Abrams, Carleton College
Nadav Antebi, Columbia University
American Psychological Association
Joshua Aronson, NYU Steinhardt
Jean Maria Arrigo
Christopher Baccus, The ASS Social Sciences Academy
Jeffrey Barnett, Loyola University Maryland
Adriene M. Belsz, Pennsylvania State University
James Boswell, Boston University
Charity Brown Griffin, Florida International University
Nora Bunford, The Ohio University
Jacqueline Caemmerer, University of Texas, Austin
Sarah Campbell, George Mason University
Laura Kate Corlew, East-West Center
Rick Cruz, University of Washington
Ewa Czyz, University of Michigan
Audun Dahl, University of California, Berkeley
Patrick H. DeLeón
Gabrielle M. D’Lima, Old Dominion University
M. Brent Donnellan, Michigan State University
Dana Dunn, Moravian College
Sunny J. Dutra, Yale University
Jacquelynne Eccles
Julia Englund, University of South Carolina
Logan Fiorella, University of California, Santa Barbara
Erika K. Fulton, Georgia Institute of Technology
Joey Fung, Fuller Theological Seminary
Dylan Gee, University of California, Los Angeles
Negin Ghavami, University of California, Los Angeles
Catherine Glenn, Harvard University
Gary Glick, University of Missouri
Diane Halpern, Claremont McKenna College
Chi Huang, Palo Alto University
Steven Huprich, Eastern Michigan University
Farrah Jacquez, University of Cincinnati
Adrienne Juarascio, Drexel University
Janie Jun, University of Washington
Justin E. Karr, University of Victoria
Matthew Lebowitz, Yale University
Jennifer Lee, University of Georgia
Debbiesiu Lee, University of Miami

Ji-yeon Lee, Seton Hall University
Bernhard Leidner, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Jessica Levenson, University of Pittsburgh
Lauren Levy, University of Iowa
Elizabeth Loftus, University of California, Irvine
Pan P. Lui, Purdue University
R. Ross MacLean, Pennsylvania State University
Nicole Mahrer, Arizona State University
Lindsay Malloy, Florida International University
Rachel Manes, City University of New York Graduate Center
Adam B. Miller, George Mason University
Akira Miyake, University of Colorado
Monika Mynarska, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University
Timothy Nelson, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Tanya Nguyen, San Diego State University
Kymberlee O’Brien, University of Massachusetts, Boston
Jill Oliveira Gray, I Ola Lahui, Inc.
Jason A. Oliver, University of South Florida
Kathryn J. O’Toole, Loyola University Chicago
Karen C. Pang, University of Washington
Jean Pettifor
Amy Przeworski, Case Western Reserve University
Jodi Quas, University of California, Irvine
Alexandra M. Rodman, Harvard University
Frank Schmidt, Tippie College of Business-University of Iowa
Shelby Scott, University of Denver
Kenneth Sher, University of Missouri
Dean Keith Simonton, University of California, Davis
Jonathan P. Stange, Temple University
Kaye Storm, Stanford University
Dominka Swistun, University of Wisconsin
Goldie VanHeel, Alliant International University
Noreen Watson, Texas Tech University
Erica Weber, University of California, San Diego
Sharon Wolf, New York University
Ana Vanessa Wren, Duke University
Yamanda Wright, The University of Texas at Austin
Chen Yu, Indiana University
Darya Zabelina, Northwestern University
Kristyn Zajac, Medical University of South Carolina
The American Psychological Foundation (APF) provides financial support for innovative research and programs that enhance the power of psychology to elevate the human condition and advance human potential both now and in generations to come.
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