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Psychology GIVING

APF Awards \$75,000 to Study Gifted Children

Esther Katz Rosen recognized that misunderstanding gifted children is a problem: talented children often suffer, and society risks losing their potential contributions. In 1974, Dr. Rosen made a large gift to APF to enable researchers to apply psychology to study gifted children, and APF remains committed to this endeavor.

In 2005, APF awarded three grants of \$25,000 each to scholars conducting psychological research on gifted and talented children and adolescents:



**PETER J. MARSHALL,
PH.D.**

Peter J. Marshall, Ph.D., of Temple University, will conduct a one-year study, *Motivational orientation and error monitoring in gifted children: Behavioral and neurophysiological correlates*. Academic achievement in middle childhood is associated with particular patterns of motivational orientation,

especially the tendency to use internal criteria versus external criteria to determine and evaluate success or failure. Dr. Marshall will study these tendencies in gifted children to help understand why some gifted children tend to underachieve in the classroom.



**LAURIE THAYER MARTIN,
ScD MPH**

Laurie Thayer Martin, ScD MPH, of the Harvard School of Public Health, will use two existing longitudinal datasets to look at the occurrence and stability of mental health problems for gifted children and adolescents in her project, *The Mental Health of Gifted Children Across the Life Span*.

Her hope is that by understanding the trajectories of mental health across the life span, and identifying who among the gifted are more likely to have serious mental illness at each stage of the life course, parents, teachers, researchers, and health providers will be better able to guide policies, services, and

programs to prevent serious mental disorders. Dr. Martin's grant is renewable for up to three years.



**BRUCE M. SHORE,
PH.D.**

Bruce M. Shore, Ph.D., of McGill University, and two of his graduate students, Lindsay A. Borovay and Lisa R. French, will examine motivation, learning styles, and whether group- or individual-learning environments best allow gifted students to learn, in their study, *Motivation,*

Learning Preferences, and Inquiry with Gifted Students. Shore, Borovay, and French hope that by reexamining how gifted children learn, educators can redesign educational programs tailored to the interests and learning styles of gifted students. Their grant is renewable for up to three years.

APF launched this grant program in 2004 to stimulate psychological research on giftedness and to attract new scholars to the field. Those who apply must either be established researchers who have not worked in giftedness or experienced researchers in giftedness who work collaboratively with graduate students. By attracting new investigators into the field, APF hopes to fulfill Esther Katz Rosen's bequest to stimulate a greater understanding of gifted children now and well into the future. For more information, please visit www.apa.org/apf/rosengrant.html.

Sbarra investigates coping with chronic pain

Can a spouse determine your ability to manage chronic pain? **David A. Sbarra, Ph.D.**, an assistant professor of clinical psychology at the University of Arizona, has begun a series of studies to investigate this question.



DAVID A. SBARRA, PH.D.

Sbarra received a \$10,000 APF Raymond A. and Rosalee G. Weiss Innovative Research and Programs Grant to study how marital relationships help people cope with their chronic lower back pain (CLBP).

"Pain is such a complex problem and so debilitating that it has a way of entangling us and getting us psychologically stuck," says Sbarra. "For couples who learn to live with and accept pain, what are the interpersonal strategies that seem to work best?" Sbarra seeks to understand how a partner can help patients think more constructive thoughts.

"APF has been very generous in providing money to get this study off the ground," says Sbarra. "This will allow us to take the next step to pursue federal funding from the National Institutes of Health." Figuring out what the "masters of pain" are doing to successfully live with their conditions is an important step toward improving the lives of patients and their families.

This article was adapted from a January 2006 APA Monitor on Psychology article titled, "Weiss Fund recipient David A. Sbarra investigates how couples navigate chronic pain conditions," authored by Erika Packard, APA Monitor Staff.

President's Message



DOROTHY W. CANTOR, Psy.D.
President

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and friends, APF continues to be able to initiate programs that are of vital concern to psychology and psychologists everywhere. In doing so, APF is fortunate enough to be able to collaborate with other groups and organizations that have congruent goals. For example, the Foundation will be convening a one-day summit with the APA Education and Science Directorates, the National Science Foundation, the College Board, and other relevant groups to chart a course for advancing psychology at the high school level.

Another exciting project is currently underway with the American Diabetes Association (ADA). In May, a group of psychologists with expertise in the behavioral aspects of diabetes treatment will convene in Washington, DC, to develop a curriculum to train psychologists to work with diabetic individuals and their families. The curriculum will focus on compliance, which is critical to controlling diabetes and its potential life-threatening side effects. APF and ADA will co-sponsor the planning and development and will seek outside funding for the dissemination of the curriculum.

As a trained cadre of psychologists

becomes available, the ADA will inform physicians and advocate for the inclusion of psychologists in their treatment planning for their patients. Special thanks to Richard Rubin, incoming president of the ADA, who, as the first psychologist to serve in that capacity, has been instrumental in developing this exciting collaboration.

We attribute APF's dynamic work this year and in the years ahead to your generosity. Your gifts allow APF to function on the cutting edge of the field.

Dorothy W. Cantor, Psy.D.

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APF Grants Close to \$100,000 for LGB Research

Wayne F. Placek understood the discrimination and suffering gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals endured in their lives. He participated in Evelyn Hooker's study that determined homosexuality was not a pathological condition, and made a bequest in 1993 for activities to increase the public's understanding of gay men and lesbians.

Since 1993, APF has granted more than \$1 million in Placek research funding; in 2005 alone, APF awarded close to \$100,000. This year's Placek Large Grant recipients are:



GREGORY B. LEWIS, Ph.D.

Gregory B. Lewis, Ph.D., professor of public administration and urban studies at Georgia State University, who received \$50,000 for his proposal, "Increasing public support for same-sex marriage: What can existing data sources tell us?" Lewis will amass and analyze data from 125 general population surveys conducted over the past quarter-century. His goal is to find out why attitudes have changed and how opposition to same-sex marriage can be overcome.



ANN MARIE RYAN, Ph.D.

Ann Marie Ryan, Ph.D., professor of organizational psychology at Michigan State University, who received \$49,732 for her proposal, "Sexual orientation harassment in the workplace." Ryan has been recognized as a prolific researcher in the areas of fairness in employee selection and employee attitude surveying. She will assess the relationship between individual characteristics, work outcomes, and well being through the use of a web-based survey. She is a fellow of APA and a past president of Division 14, the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology.

APF Visionary Circle

Donors join APF's Visionary Circle when they make cumulative unrestricted contributions of \$50,000 or more for the trustees to direct toward innovative projects and research, scholarships, and emerging issues that need psychology's attention.

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Members of the Visionary Circle deserve and receive special recognition opportunities, and we would like to acknowledge their generosity and vision in every issue of our newsletter:

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APF Recognizes Outstanding Accomplishments

Outstanding Achievement



Helen Coons, Ph.D., Founder and President, Women's Mental Health Associates, Philadelphia, and Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Drexel University College of Medicine, was awarded the 2005 Timothy Jeffrey Memorial Award for Outstanding Contributions to Clinical Health Psychology.

Dr. Leapetswe Malete, of the University of Botswana, received the 2005 Henry P. David International Travel Award, which is awarded to

an early career psychologist for participation in an international congress of the individual's choice.

The DePaul University Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) and its director, Sheila C. Ribordy, Ph.D., received the 2005 Harry V. McNeill Memorial Award for Innovation in Community Mental Health.

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APF Promotes Talented Scholars

APF is dedicated to supporting students of psychology at all levels, from their first foray into the discipline in high school to embarking on their careers as psychologists. APF congratulates the following winners:

Funding Education



KELLY BREY LOVE

Kelly Brey Love, of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and **James Appleton**, of the University of Michigan, each received \$500 *Paul E. Henkin Travel Awards* to help defer the costs of attending the APA Convention in Washington, DC. Love's research interests are bullying among school-aged youth and the impact of psychopathology on healthy student functioning. Appleton is interested in student connections with school and engagement.



JAMES APPLETON



YELNA BOGDANOVA, PH.D.

Yelena Bogdanova, Ph.D., of Boston University, and **Kimberly M. Miller, MS**, of the University of Florida, were the winners of the \$2,500 *Henry Hécaen and Manfred Meier Neuropsychology Scholarships*. Bogdanova is examining the nature of numerical cognition and its relation to visuospatial functioning in frontostriatal disease, with focus on selective visuospatial dysfunction in Parkinson's disease and HIV. Miller's dissertation study uses psychophysiological methods to examine potential emotional reactivity deficits in Parkinson's patients in response to neutral, pleasant, disgusting, and fearful pictures.



KIMBERLY M. MILLER, MS



BRIAN SCHOLL, PH.D.

Brian Scholl, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology and Director of the Perception & Cognition Laboratory at Yale University, received the \$2,000 *Robert Fantz Memorial Award*, which recognizes the career of a promising young investigator whose work is in perceptual-cognitive development. Dr. Scholl's current work includes the nature of visual awareness, attention, and learning.



SHEILA CROWELL

Sheila Crowell, of the University of Washington, received APF's \$1,000 *Lizette Peterson Homer Memorial Injury Research Grant*. Crowell's research focuses on the biological and psychological correlates of adolescent parasuicidal (self-harming) behavior.

APF is also pleased to announce the winners of the 2005 APF Council of Graduate Departments of Psychology (COGDOP) Graduate Research Scholarships:



JILLIAN HOLM-DENOMA

Jillian Holm-Denoma, of Florida State University, won the \$3,000 *Ruth G. and Joseph D. Matarazzo Scholarship*. Her primary research interest is the classification and assessment of eating disordered behaviors. She is also interested in identifying genetic vulnerabilities of



JENNIFER MOHAWK

Jennifer Mohawk, of the University of Michigan, won the \$2,000 *Clarence J. Rosecrans Scholarship*. Her dissertation research focuses on interactions between the stress response and circadian rhythms. The aim of her work is to elucidate the role of hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis activation in modulation of recovery rate following a shift of the light:dark cycle.

The following students each won \$1,000 COGDOP Scholarships:



DEANN ATCHLEY

Deann Atchley, of Florida State University, whose research interests include the influence of serotonin on development of activity-based anorexia, an animal model of anorexia, and the influence of ovarian hormones on food intake and body weight regulation in female rats.



DEBBIE TALMI

Debbie Talmi, of the University of Toronto, who is broadly interested in memory mechanisms and the effect of emotion on memory, and is studying these issues through behavior, lesion, and neuroimaging experiments.



ERIC D. JACKSON

Eric D. Jackson, of the University of Arizona, whose research investigates the development of emotional memories and conditioned fear, particularly in humans experiencing stress.



JULIA DMITRIEVA

Julia Dmitrieva, of the University of California at Irvine, whose research focuses on adolescent internalizing and externalizing problem behaviors in the context of immediate social (e.g., peer and family) and cultural influences.



NINA KAISER

Nina Kaiser, of Purdue University, whose research focuses on relations among children's self-perceptions, children's perceptions of their peers, childhood externalizing behavior problems, and in particular, the way in which self-perceptions and self-perceptual accuracy may moderate children's responses to treatment.



KAREN M. RODRIGUE

Karen M. Rodrigue, of the Institute of Gerontology at Wayne State University, whose dissertation research uses MRI to examine the role of vascular health and microvascular function in age-related decline in brain structure and cognitive performance in a lifespan sample of healthy adults.



KRISTEN M. KENNEDY

Kristen M. Kennedy, of Wayne State University, whose dissertation research examines the integrity of the connective white matter fibers in the brain, using diffusion tensor imaging. She plans to relate the age-differences in white matter integrity to age differences in memory and executive functions.



EMILY KUHL

Emily Kuhl, of the University of Florida, who specializes in behavioral medicine with an emphasis on working with cardiac patients. She is currently completing her dissertation, which focuses on the effect of a web-based psychoeducation program for recipients of implantable cardiac defibrillators.



RYAN BOGDAN

Ryan Bogdan, of Harvard University, whose research is focused upon how genetics and stress influence neural and behavioral reward processing.



SARA CHIARA HADEN

Sara Chiara Haden, of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, whose research focuses on risk and protective factors involved in the development of aggressive behavior in children.



SIMINE VAZIRE

Simine Vazire, of the University of Texas at Arlington, whose research examines differences between how people see themselves and how they are seen by others. Specifically, she aims to identify the cognitive processes underlying self- and other-judgment, and examine the motivational and informational sources of differences between self- and other-perception.

The winners of the *APF/Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools (TOPSS) Scholars Student Essay Competition* were **Alyssa Hoyt**, **Mary Altum**, and **Peter Millar**. Each student received a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.

Lastly, the winners of the *APF TOPSS Excellence in High School Student Research Awards*, which recognize outstanding psychology research projects, were: **Erin Choo** (\$1,500), **Christine Therese Schwall** (\$1,000), **Dara Steinberg** (\$500), and **Nova Hinman** (\$250).

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DR. IRENE M. DEITCH – “In honor of Dr. Helen M. Strauss on her 90th birthday (90 years young)”

THOMAS J. DeMAIO, PHD – “In honor of Dr. Barry Anton’s contributions on the APA Board of Directors”

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MRS. ELIZABETH H. MERCK – “In honor of Bettina Hoepfner – congratulations on your NIH Fellowship!”

HAROLD R. MUSIKER, PHD – “In honor of Peter Merenda, PhD”

DR. SUMIE OKAZAKI – “In honor of James M. Jones, PhD, on his retirement from APA”

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