

# PSYCHOLOGY INTERNATIONAL

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## Continuing the International Mission: A Year with the Committee on International Relations in Psychology

by Thema Bryant-Davis, PhD, CIRP Chair



There are several actions of the CIRP committee that deserve mention for the year 2007. At the start of the year, along with continuing our strategic plan, we set three major goals for ourselves. We wanted to start a speaker's bureau for the United Nations APA delegates to utilize for programming, we wanted to advance awareness around the genocide in Darfur, and we wanted to advance international awareness globally through our APA convention programming. I am pleased to say that through the hard work of the committee, our staff persons at APA, and the support and collaboration of other APA governing bodies we have been able to achieve all three goals.

We sent out a call to all Divisions regarding our desire to start a speaker's bureau for the United Nations. We received numerous submissions of psychologists from varying domains and interest areas across APA. These names and credentials have been compiled and we will continue to add to them and make them available to our UN representatives (this information will be available on the web in the new year).

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...CIRP, continued from cover page

Secondly we have been able to raise consciousness about the genocide in Darfur, in three significant ways. First we co-sponsored a program on Darfur with the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs at this year's APA convention. Expertise on this panel included representations from the UN team, grass roots initiatives on the ground in Darfur, and a representative from a Congressional office. This activity led to the second action, which was having an article published in the Monitor about Darfur and the engagement of psychologists in addressing the trauma in that region of the Sudan. Finally and likely of the greatest impact, we were able to co-sponsor with the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs a resolution against genocide that was recommended by the Board of Directors for placement on the February 2008 Council of Representatives agenda for discussion and approval. We are very excited about these advances and hope that upon approval, APA members will use this document to educate and advocate for peace, safety, justice, and reconciliation.

Our third area of success is focused on the breadth and scope of our APA programming in general for the 2007 convention. For the first time in APA history, together with the Office of International Affairs (OIA), we planned for and hosted the convention visits of 22 presidents of national and regional psychology associations who were invited to attend convention by 2007 APA President Sharon Brehm. This landmark event was a success for APA and more than that, was an achievement for the relations of psychologists around the globe. Our special guests were highlighted and honored at the Opening Ceremony and provided an engaging discussion of international psychology in a two hour symposium presented in a filled room. In addition to this program and the Darfur program, our representatives to the United Nations held a powerful and informative symposium on the role of the UN and Non-governmental organizations in addressing violence around the world.

As Chair of the Committee on International Relations in Psychology, it has been a pleasure working with such a committed team as we continue to advance our understanding of psychology from an international perspective. Ψ

## Fulbrighters to be Celebrated at 2008 APA Convention



The broad international outreach begun with APA President Sharon Brehm's invitations to all presidents of national psychology associations to attend convention in 2007 (see <http://www.apa.org/international/pi/807presidents.html>) and will continue in 2008 as President-Elect Alan Kazdin extends a warm invitation to colleagues who have been Fulbright scholars, fellows and students.

On behalf of President-Elect Kazdin, the Office of International Affairs is in the process of extending invitations to those US faculty and students who went abroad as Fulbright scholars or students and to those international colleagues who came to the US as Fulbrighters over the last 10 years.

In addition to the Fulbrighters, colleagues from the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) and the Institute of International Education (IIE) who run the Fulbright programs, and from the Fulbright Academy of Science and Technology (FAST) an international alumni association across the sciences, will be on hand to help explain, celebrate and promote such international collaborative experiences. Ψ

## The Seventh International Conference on Occupational Stress and Health: March 6-8, 2008

The American Psychological Association, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the Society for Occupational Health Psychology, will convene the seventh international conference on occupational stress and health entitled "Work, Stress, and Health 2008: Healthy and Safe Work Through Research, Practice, and Partnerships" Washington, DC, on March 6-8, 2008, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. Continuing Education Workshops will be held on March 5, 2008. Please plan to join us to add your perspective to a rapidly growing area of workplace health research and practice.

For more details, please visit <http://www.apa.org/pi/work/wsh.html>

# UN Report: The 2007 International Day of Older Persons

by Florence L. Denmark, Main APA Representative to the United Nations

The Committee on Ageing\* (COA), in New York, is a Non-Governmental Organization working in tandem with the United Nations (UN) to facilitate the UN in their mission of building a society for all ages, and to promote the infusion of ageing needs within the social and economic policies of member states.

COA's mission is broad and extends outward to creating a global awareness of the opportunities and challenges involved with ageing and inward within the UN, to advocacy for the integration of ageing into policies and programs.

Each year, October 1st is the day set aside by the UN as the International Day of Older Persons (IDOP). In celebration of this day, the Committees on Ageing in New York, Geneva, and Vienna each hold a special program to recognize and generate awareness on issues concerning ageing. In New York, the celebration of the 17th annual UN IDOP was entitled "Addressing the Challenges and Opportunities of Ageing: Empowering Older Persons." This all-day conference considered achievements toward the empowerment of older persons, with specific focus on protection of their rights and participation in society, and the promotion of a positive image of ageing.

The annual IDOP is the major activity of the NY COA, and serves as the first briefing held by the Department of Public Information for the fall. The event enjoys broad sponsorship, including the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). Many international governments, NGOs, UN bodies and private enterprises, working to empower older persons, were identified during this forum.

International presenters from the World's five regions highlighted the objectives set forth in the 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, which supports ways to realize a number of goals, including human rights and freedoms for older persons; security in ageing, especially eradicating poverty in old age and building on the UN Principles for Older Persons; empowering older persons' participation in the political, economic and social aspects of society; and providing opportunities for personal development, self-fulfillment and well-being throughout life.

The IDOP conference was opened by Kiyotaka Akasaka, Under Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, from the UN who read a special message from

Secretary-General to the UN, Ban Ki-moon, that touched on the challenges and opportunities of population ageing and the importance of the adoption of the Madrid Plan. Other opening remarks were made by Srgjan Kerim of Macedonia, President of the UN General Assembly; and myself, as Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing.

Following the introduction, there was a special tribute to Julia T. Alvarez, founder of the IDOP. Ambassador Julia Alvarez, a former Permanent alternate Representative of the Dominican Republic to the UN, was acknowledged for the work she has done to put ageing on the global agenda and personally given tribute by many present, including Erasmo Lara-Pena, Ambassador and Charge 'dAffaires, for the Dominican Republic; and Alexandre Kalache, Director of the WHO Ageing and Life Course Programme, who came in from Geneva for the event. Although Ms. Alvarez was too ill to attend the program, her daughter, a medical doctor, was in attendance at the event and responded on behalf of her mother.

Keynote addresses were given by Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Spain to the UN, Juan Antonio Yanez-Barnuevo; and Robert Vos, the Director of Development Policy and Analysis Division of the Department of Economics and Social Affairs at the UN. Mr. Vos spoke on his recently published work, "World Economic and Social Survey 2007: Development in an Ageing World."

Lunch was followed by a cultural program, featuring the United Nations Chorus, after which, the assessment of the implementation of the Madrid Plan took place. International presentations were made from each of the five UN regions, including Asia (Bangladesh), Africa (Kenya), South America (Columbia), (Europe and North America (Germany), and the Middle East (Lebanon). Richard Blewitt, Chief Executive of HelpAge International, then discussed specific strategies for holding governments accountable to the Madrid Plan. At the close of the afternoon session, Dr. Alexandre Kalache, on behalf of the World Health Organization, launched the WHO Global Age-friendly Cities Guide.

The 17th Annual IDOP was considered a success by attendees, presenters, UN representative, and COA members alike, and received press coverage and recognition from the AARP. The COA plans to continue its work mainstreaming ageing throughout the UN and building networks internationally. Using the IDOP as an annual assessment of progress, COA will hone implementation strategies for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. Ψ

*\* Following the European spelling, an "e" is used in the word ageing in UN contexts.*

# SENIOR DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

## Pole Sitting and Aspirations for 2008

by Merry Bullock, PhD Senior Director,  
APA Office of International Affairs



The end of the year is a time for taking stock and making resolutions. In this issue, the leaders of two of APA's international governance groups – CIRP (the Committee on International Relations in Psychology) and Division 52 (the Division of International Psychology) recap some of the successful initiatives in which they and their members have been involved.

These activities range from developing programs for mentoring, promoting and celebrating individual psychologists to helping foster the contributions of the association and of psychology in the international arena in humanitarian, capacity building and policy activities. In addition to CIRP's and Division 52's activities, many offices and individuals within APA headquarters have been involved in international programs, policies or initiatives. Here is a recap of just some of them.

**Education.** International issues in undergraduate and graduate education, continuing education, outreach and quality assurance are on the table. Some examples of recent and ongoing activities are:

- As follow-up to APA's participation in a project by the American Council on Education to develop guiding principles for internationalizing the undergraduate curriculum, the Board of Education Affairs and CIRP will meet in 2008 to brainstorm how to begin implementing recommendations for developing an internationalized psychology curriculum and how to collaborate with other APA groups working on international curriculum development.
- After a first foray into offering Continuing Education (CE) credit for workshops at international conferences last spring at the MENA Regional Conference of Psychology in Jordan in April 2007, the CE office has begun discussion about mechanisms for APA CE credit for workshops and presentations at international conferences.

- The Spring/Summer edition of Education's newsletter The Educator was devoted to "the globalization of psychology" with a focus on international issues in education. See: [http://www.apa.org/ed/educator\\_home.html](http://www.apa.org/ed/educator_home.html).

**Science.** The Science Directorate is leading APA's participation in a technical advisory group to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), which is the US representative to the International Standards Organization (ISO). The group is concerned with the development of international standards for testing in employment settings that is being proposed as services (such as psychological services) are increasingly coming under the purview of international trade agreements.

**Public Interest.** Offices in the Public Interest Directorate have been collaborating with APA's UN representatives on issues of HIV/AIDS, disability, families, family violence, women's issues and human rights issues. The Government relations staff has provided the UN team with commentary and input on proposed statements to UN commissions. Some specific international initiatives include:

- The Association of Greek Psychologists signed a memorandum of understanding with APA to receive training in the ACT program (Adults and Children Together Against Violence) and came to APA during the summer for workshops so that the ACT program may be offered in Greece.
- The Office on AIDS submitted a concept paper to USAID on a joint project with the Society for Women Against AIDS in Africa and the Kenya Psychological Association on empirically supported HIV/AIDS prevention programs.
- The Offices on Disability Issues and Public Interest Policy worked on international disability issues in the UN system and with international governments.
- APA has been collaborating in a human rights coalition organized by the AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) to ask how science can serve human rights goals.

**Practice.** Staff in the Practice Directorate are working with the World Health Organization on the revisions of the International Classification of Functioning and the International Classification of Disease.

**APAGS.** APAGS developed an edited handbook for international students intending to study in the US that

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promises to be a pragmatic guide for making the most of the graduate experience.

**Publications.** APA publications continue to report high rates of international authorship and readers. APA participates in the Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative (HINARI), a program run by the World Health Organization that provides free or very low cost online access to the major journals from 70 publishers in biomedical and related social sciences to local, not-for-profit institutions in developing countries.

**Ethics.** APA's ethics office has consulted with colleagues from around the world on the form, structure and process of developing an ethics code and implementing its principles.

In addition to specific programs and activities, APA central office supports the international outreach of its Presidents (who are encouraged to and do attend international congresses and national psychology association annual conferences) and APA's representation at the United Nations. During 2007 APA President Sharon Brehm attended conferences and visited in Jordan, Mexico and China, and hosted 22 presidents of national and regional associations of psychology at APA's convention in San Francisco – reinforcing APA's commitment to learning and collaborating with its fellow associations.

One of the results of her efforts is an international listserv for presidents of all national psychology associations to allow an informal discussion of some of the important issues facing the discipline around the world. APA participates with other organizations in celebrating World Mental Health Day (sponsored by the World Federation for Mental Health), the International Day of Older Persons, the International Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse, and other international events to focus on important behavioral issues. APA also joins with fellow scholarly organizations in sponsoring an international conference on workplace health (see <http://www.apa.org/pi/work/wsh.html>), in fostering science for human rights (see <http://shr.aaas.org>) and in sharing ideas and experiences in international outreach, capacity building and membership promotion.

In each of these activities our goal is aspirational – to create the conditions for psychology to become a truly global profession – respecting the importance and unique contributions of local and diverse psychologies while celebrating a common belief that understanding the science and practice of human behavior is crucial for fostering education, productivity, social justice, and health.  $\Psi$

## The British Psychological Society's Annual Conference Welcomes Visitors



The meeting at the APA convention last summer of the presidents of psychology associations around the world raised a host of interesting ideas about current and future directions for psychology.

It also provided an opportunity for the presidents of national psychology organizations to meet in each others' home settings, rather than at the international or regional congresses where they assume a more formal role as delegates to deliberating bodies. The meeting of presidents, and interest in discussing issues common to national associations, led to the formation of a desire to foster more discussion and opportunities to meet.

Next year's Annual Conference of the British Psychological Society will provide one such opportunity. The conference, to be held in Dublin, Ireland (2 - 4 April 2008) will be the first time the BPS conference has been held 'offshore'. The BPS is working closely with the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) to ensure a top notch conference.

The conference (for more information see [www.bps.org.uk/ac2008](http://www.bps.org.uk/ac2008)) will feature a range of keynote speakers talking about the science of well-being (Daniel Kahneman, Princeton), challenges for a global developmental psychology (Christine Liddell, Ulster); disaster, crisis and trauma psychology (William Yule, Institute of Psychiatry), the origin of concepts (Susan Carey, Harvard), therapy and the National Health Service (Lord Richard Layard, London School of Economics) and attention and self-awareness (Ian Robertson, Trinity, Dublin). There will also be an International Presidents' Round Table to discuss how psychology organizations around the world can better work together to forward psychological science and its applications for the common good. Professor Pam Maras, the BPS's president, encourages broad participation at the Conference from colleagues from around the world.

## Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP) Election Results

Each year three members of the Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP) end their term and three new members join the committee, elected by APA's Council of Representatives. For 2008, Guerda Nicolas, PhD, Boston College, Laura R. Johnson, PhD, University of Mississippi and Pamela E. Flattau, PhD., Defense Analysis Institute, Washington DC, will join CIRP's remaining 6 members. The following provide short biographies of these colleagues. Please look for more detailed interviews with them in the 2008 issues of Psychology International.

Dr. Guerda Nicolas, is a licensed clinical psychologist and the Assistant Director of the Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture (ISPRC) along with Dr. Janet E. Helms. She is also an Assistant professor at Boston College in the Lynch School of Education, Department of Counseling, Developmental, and Educational Psychology. She obtained her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Boston University. She



completed her predoctoral training at Columbia University Medical Center and her postdoctoral training at the New York State Psychiatric Institute/Columbia University, Department of Child Psychiatry. As a multicultural (Haitian American) and multilingual psychologist (Spanish, French, and Haitian Creole), her research is reflective of her background and interests.

Her current research projects focus on developing culturally effective mental health intervention for ethnic minority adolescents, with a specific focus on immigrant children, adolescents, and families. In addition, she conducts research on social support networks of Caribbeans with a specific focus on Haitians. She has published several articles and book chapters and delivered numerous invited presentations at the national and international conferences in the areas of women issues, depression and intervention among Haitians, social support networks of ethnic minorities, and spirituality.

Dr. Pamela Flattau earned degrees in experimental psychology from the University of Leeds (B.Sc. Hons.) and from the University of Georgia (MS and PhD). In 1974, the American Psychological Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) selected Dr. Flattau as the first psychologist to hold a Congressional Science Fellowship during which time she served with

the US Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, Subcommittee on Children and Youth. Subsequently, Dr. Flattau joined the staff of the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council, managing a wide variety of studies addressing federal programs and policies affecting the social and behavioral sciences.



Later, Dr. Flattau worked as a policy analyst with the Science Indicators Unit of the National Science Foundation, and also managed her own research consulting firm. Dr. Flattau's primary professional interests include the development and effective use of quantitative and qualitative measures for science and technology policy. She recently authored a report for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy describing the educational and professional outcomes following the enactment of the National Defense Education Act of 1958 (available at: <http://www.ida.org/stpi/pages/about.html>). She joined the Institute for Defense Analyses Science and Technology Policy Institute (STPI) in December 2003 as the Senior Analyst in the Social and Behavioral Sciences and Education. Dr. Flattau participated in the first (Palermo, 2004) and then the second (Istanbul, 2007) World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy planned by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) as a member of the US delegation.

Dr. Laura Johnson is an assistant professor at the University of Mississippi where she teaches multicultural psychology,



intercultural communication, statistics and psychotherapy theories. She also supervises outreach to the international community and conducts research on multiculturalism and minority mental health. Along with her sister, Dr. Julie Johnson-Pynn, she studies youth involvement in environmental programs and how it impacts their personal and social development in different cultural contexts. Since

2000, they have studied at the Jane Goodall Institute's Roots & Shoots global environmental program for youth and have published articles on programs in China and East Africa.

Dr. Johnson has also written a number of book chapters focusing on culture in clinical practice. She recently returned from a National Geographic Society Conservation Trust funded trip to Uganda where she conducted intervention research with youth members of Wildlife Clubs of Uganda.

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Dr. Johnson graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1991 with majors in psychology and anthropology. She studied at Kenyatta University in Kenya and served in the U.S. Peace Corps in Papua New Guinea, where she lived in a remote rainforest and taught health, nutrition and environmental sustainability. In 2001, she won a Fulbright grant to conduct her dissertation research on cultural aspects of depression in Uganda. She received her PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Louisville in 2003 and she completed an internship at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and the Asian Pacific Development Center, where she specialized in refugee mental health. Ψ

## APA Recognizes Psychologists for International Work

The American Psychological Association (APA) gives two awards in recognition of outstanding contributions to international cooperation and advancement of psychology—the Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology and the APA International Humanitarian Award. The 2008 award winners are **Punky Paul Heppner, PhD** and co-recipients **Joseph Prewitt Diaz, PhD** and **Gundelina Velazco, PhD**.

### Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology



**Punky Paul Heppner, PhD**, winner of the Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology, is a counseling psychologist who is recognized for his contributions to our understanding of problem-solving appraisal and coping, his research collaborations with scholars around the world, his mentoring of international students in cross-national research, and his facilitation

of international relationships and exchanges in counseling psychology. Dr. Heppner has been the recipient of three Fulbright Fellowships.

### APA International Humanitarian Award

APA chose two recipients for the award for 2008: **Joseph Prewitt Diaz, PhD** and **Gundelina Velazco, PhD**. Dr. Prewitt Diaz is recognized as an international expert in the areas of disaster mental health, international humanitarian relief and development, and in designing and implementing psychological support programs in areas affected by both natural disasters and armed conflicts. He began his international humanitarian work in 1999 when he joined the Central America delegation of the American Red Cross. In

2002 he assisted the Indian Red Cross in developing a national strategy for disaster mental health. This included training mental health professionals to become disaster mental health specialists and the programs he designed have been used as



models throughout the world. In 2005 Dr. Prewitt Diaz became the Senior Advisor for psychological support for the American Red Cross International Services. Dr. Prewitt Diaz holds the rank of Officer in the Emergency Management structure of the American Red Cross and the rank of Senior Mission Coordinator with the US Air Force Rescue Coordination Center.

Dr. Velazco is a member of the British Psychological Society and the former chair of the Psychology Department of De La Salle University in the Philippines, where she was also the director of Institutional Testing, Evaluation, and Research. From 1996-1998 she served as a consultant to the Philippines Department of Social Welfare and Development whose social workers she trained. From her international research, fieldwork, and counseling work, she became interested in the psychology of traumatized children and in dealing with the problems of different types of children at risk. In 1999, Dr. Velazco decided to devote her career fulltime to working with street children and victims of child sexual abuse and exploitation. She has designed and directed training programs for workers handling children at risk, headed international research projects, and designed products and materials suitable for particular groups of children in different parts of the world. She is currently the Director of Aftercare for Justice for Children International (JFCI), a US-based NGO working towards the abolition of child exploitation and trafficking.



All award recipients will be presented with their awards at the 2008 APA Convention in Boston. Ψ

## APA Travel Awards

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.apa.org/international/awards/travel.html>

## Division 52 Report: Reflections on 2007

by Michael J. Stevens, PhD, DHC,  
President, Division 52

I am honored to have served as President of APA's Division 52 – International Psychology in 2007. I have deeply appreciated the encouragement and support of colleagues and friends. I was very fortunate to have followed in the steps of outstanding past-presidents who guided Division 52 from its birth to its maturity and on whose vision and legacy I drew throughout the year.

Division 52 has seen tremendous growth over its brief history. My mission, as president, was to consolidate the Division's gains while enlarging the scope of its contributions to international psychology. Let me highlight some notable accomplishments in 2007, the tenth anniversary of Division 52, and identify a few goals for 2008 and beyond.

### The State of the Division

Division 52 is one of the few APA divisions not to have suffered a downturn in membership over the past several years. At present, Division 52 has slightly more than 900 members. Our international and student affiliates have increased appreciably, which is critical to the diversity and future of the Division. We have distributed a survey to assess the needs of our early career professionals, whom we are committed to mentoring as future leaders of Division 52 and international psychology, generally. Our efforts to recruit new members will soon include an online powerpoint template that can be used by Division 52 members attending conferences to inform others of the opportunities available with membership in Division 52.

Division 52 is stable financially because of income generated from dues and investments as well as thoughtful expenditures. However, because of rising costs, the Division has been increasingly constrained in financing worthy projects, such as producing an educational video with interviews of international psychologists and co-sponsoring conferences relevant to international psychologists. Consequently, Division 52 agreed to raise dues in 2008 by \$5 across all membership categories, except for international affiliates. The Division's decision will provide fiscal leverage in advancing its agenda into the foreseeable future.

### Presidential Initiatives

2007 was a year not only for a number of presidential initiatives, but also for heightened visibility, expanded networking, and enhanced diversity in terms of membership and appointments to leadership positions on Division 52 committees and task forces. With regard to visibility, Division 52 has taken an active role in supporting or providing input on important action items proposed within the APA system. Four, in particular, commanded our attention as



international psychologists: *Resolution on Emancipating and Rehabilitating Enslaved Persons and Prevention of Future Slavery* (draft submitted to the APA Council), *Ad-Hoc Task Force to Investigate the Merits of Adopting an Evidence-Based Practice Policy for Applied Psychologists* (proposal submitted to the APA Council), *Resolution in Support of Education for a Sustainable Future* (proposal submitted to the APA Council), and *Resolution Against Genocide* (will come before APA council for approval in February 2008). In addition, two unique Division 52 international projects were prominently featured in the Monitor on Psychology: the Adopt-a-Psychologist Program and Mentoring Program, both designed to facilitate ongoing collaboration with psychologists from around the globe.

As for networking, Division 52 has agreed to work closely with the International Section of Division 17 (Counseling Psychology) on joint conference programming both at the upcoming International Counseling Psychology Conference and at future APA conventions, as well as to cooperate on projects of mutual interest, such as internationalizing the psychology curriculum. In a related vein, Division 52 has connected with Division 2 (Teaching) through the joint Task Force on the Internationalization of the Teaching of Psychology, whose purpose is to develop collaborative international networks and co-sponsor conference symposia and workshops in this emerging area. Of course, Division 52 continues to work closely with CIRP and the Office of International Affairs (OIA), and is taking unprecedented steps to establish bi-directional ties with APA directorates on matters that have an international focus. Division 52 also maintains a speaker exchange with the Society for Cross-Cultural Research and seeks to expand such exchanges with other national and international organizations in psychology and related disciplines.

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The following presidential initiatives are of special significance:

**Conference Sponsorship.** Division 52 was a cooperating organization for the July 2007 China-U.S. Conference: Youth At-Risk in Beijing and Shanghai. The conference aimed to initiate partnerships with the Chinese youth-at-risk network. The U.S. Steering Committee and Global Interactions, Inc. are planning a China-U.S. Summit on Partnerships in April 2008. Division 52 is invited to work with teams of Chinese from universities, organizations, and schools to arrange visits with U.S. partners and form new partnerships that address China's at-risk youth.

**Endorsement of the Social Psychology Network.** Division 52 has endorsed the Social Psychology Network (SPN), a scientific and educational organization that serves psychologists worldwide. The SPN boasts an interactive directory of psychologists from 35-plus countries, source material in 15 languages, and over 1,000 links to web sites outside the U.S. With representatives from eight other divisions, Division 52 moved at the February 2007 Council meeting that APA support the SPN financially.

**Extra-APA Connections.** Division 52 supports an initiative to broaden the Division 52 membership base and partner with state, regional, and international psychology associations. In August 2007, the Division 52 Outreach Committee and Past-President networked with leaders of the International Council of Psychologists in San Diego to strengthen existing ties and explore future joint ventures.

**Promoting Psychology.** Division 52 received an interdivisional grant to establish a nationwide speakers bureau that will bring experts on international psychology to present at nearby high schools, colleges and universities, and community groups. The Speakers Bureau reflects a recommendation of the APA Policy and Planning Board to enhance the visibility psychologists and psychological knowledge.

**Ethics in International Context.** In consultation with the Ethics Office and OIA, the newly established Ethics Committee is addressing ethical challenges faced by U.S. psychologists engaged in international scientific and applied practice. Data are being gathered from APA members on ethical dilemmas encountered in international contexts. These data will clarify the needs for guidance that arise as psychologists interpret ethical principles and standards in international settings.

#### **The APA Convention in San Francisco**

The 2007 APA convention was an unparalleled success for Division 52. The Division's convention and hospitality-suite programs were highly informative and very well-attended, as were the awards ceremonies that honored those whose contributions to the Division and/or to international psychology were unusual and outstanding. Division 52's

tenth anniversary meeting was meaningful and memorable thanks to the creativity, energy, talent, and dedication of our membership.

In addition to programming and awards ceremonies, highlights of the convention include Division 52 approval of a new mission statement:

Division 52 seeks to develop a psychological science and practice that is contextually informed, culturally inclusive, serves the public interest, and promotes global perspectives within and outside of APA. In addition, Division 52 established an Early Career Professionals Committee and formed a task force to explore the merits an online or print journal.

#### **2008 and Beyond**

Looking ahead, there are two emerging areas of importance in which Division 52 is invested: internationalizing the psychology curriculum and advocacy. Both reflect the globalizing of psychology and the importance of becoming proactively engaged in this juggernaut. In addition to producing an educational video with interviews of international psychologists, Division 52 is committed to conference programming that advances the internationalization of the undergraduate and graduate psychology curricula. Such a conference recently took place at St. Francis College in New York City. Follow-up conference proposals will be submitted to regional, national, and international venues, and an edited book on internationalizing the psychology curriculum is in the planning stages.

I believe that Division 52 has attained a level of maturity commensurate with taking on an advocacy role. As socially responsible international psychologists, we should embrace advocacy as a means to further social justice. If Division 52 is to assume an advocacy role, it must first identify its international legislative and policy priorities in order to establish a clear focus for future advocacy efforts. Second, Division 52 must learn effective advocacy strategies that will empower it to influence federal legislative and international policy-making processes. I cannot imagine a more auspicious time to be an international psychologist – to network and advocate with colleagues at home and abroad on the myriad challenges that we face in an ever more interconnected and hard-pressed world. Division 52 is indispensable in identifying, understanding, and meeting these global challenges and I am confident it will do so!  $\Psi$

# COLLABORATE!

## Research on Icelanders' Psychological Help Seeking Patterns

by **Stefanía Ægisdóttir, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Counseling Psychology and Guidance Services, Ball State University**

*In recent years there has been a tremendous increase in international work and collaboration between psychologists in the United States and scholars around the world. International collaboration on research projects and training initiatives can be extremely rewarding and can move the field forward as scholars from different regions of the world share theories, methodologies, interventions, and research results that may aid theory development and tools of the profession. With increased technology the ease in collaboration is greatly enhanced. In this article, Stefania Ægisdóttir shares her experience of collaboration with a counseling psychologist in Iceland on a funded study on psychological help seeking in Iceland. She describes some of the challenges, opportunities, and insights this collaboration has offered.*

Being a native Icelander who has lived, studied, and worked in the U.S. since 1993, my ties and interest in the Icelandic people and in the development of psychology in Iceland has remained strong. During my graduate studies I managed to perform a couple of cross-cultural comparative studies on counseling expectations between Icelandic and U.S. participants. Since then, I have been especially interested in psychological help seeking behavior of Icelanders with the hope that research in this area might influence Icelandic authorities in enhancing their emphasis on psychological services in the country.

Having a research plan in mind, but not a clear idea about its feasibility due to long distance and cost, in the spring of 2005 I called my friend and former classmate from the University of Iceland Dr. Sif Einarsdóttir. She is currently an associate professor at the University of Iceland. We discussed this research idea with enthusiasm. She agreed to collaborate and also encouraged me to apply for funding from the federally governed Icelandic Research Fund (RANNIS). We successfully received this funding for a three year research project.

### Challenges

Embarking on a large research project conducted in one country and primarily directed from another has many challenges. Some of these challenges were expected and some were not. We were well prepared to deal with difficulties in translating and adapting the instruments that we used and in determining the best fitting means of data collection methods and procedures. While this type of planning and preparation took a lot of thought and time its predictability made these difficulties easy to handle. Some challenges, however, were unexpected and therefore more difficult. Operating in two very different time zones often made it hard to coordinate different schedules. Working from the US, I had forgotten about the frequent holidays in Iceland, which caused some



Reykjavik, Iceland

delays in the project and required patience on my behalf. Another interesting challenge for me had to do with work expectations and time orientation. Having been trained in the U.S. and being more accustomed to the U.S. future orientation and work environment, I wanted to plan ahead and know exactly what would happen next and in what order. It was a challenge for me to reconcile this orientation with the more relaxed attitude among my Icelandic counterparts who wanted to simply address issues as they came along. There were pragmatic challenges as well. It was sometimes difficult to direct the project over the phone and over email, because it made me feel less in control. I had to recover within myself the old Icelandic attitude of “þetta reddast einhverveginn” – that is, “things will somehow work out well.”

Operating on a budget in two different currencies (U.S. expenses and Icelandic expenses) posed another challenge. The exchange rate fluctuations during the time of the project

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Stefanía Ægisdóttir

resulted in my repeatedly looking at the money market pages! To stay within the budget limits, I had to reexamine and rework the budget and be extremely flexible. Beyond budgetary matters, coordinating communication between the institutions involved careful attention. The institutions in Iceland and the US have different perspectives and organizational cultures; they use their own language of communication, and have their own set of working rules. Sometimes I felt caught in the middle, and served in the role of translator for documents and contracts for signatures, and the role of expediter in explaining different organizational cultures, regulations, and habits to make each party comfortable with the transactions.

#### Rewards

The rewards of this collaborative work are numerous. In the end they have far surpassed the challenges. The collaboration between me and my colleague, Sif, and the support from the organizations involved have given us an opportunity to perform a large-scale study that is meaningful to us and that we hope will have valuable implications for the Icelandic people. Additionally, throughout this collaboration, I have had the opportunity to travel, meet, and work with talented Icelanders, two of whom are now studying counseling psychology in my department in the US.

During this process I have been able to nurture old friendships from Iceland and plant seeds for future professional collaboration. Also, I was able to involve other psychologists in the translation of instruments and have had the opportunity to exchange exiting ideas that have resulted in other collaborative work. In addition to the many interpersonal rewards, I have learned much about myself. I have been reminded of many cultural characteristics of the people



Sif Einarsdóttir

and land that I had “repressed” having lived abroad for so long. Finally, now, when I look at the data we have collected these last two years, I see that we have been able to adapt the U.S. instruments we used to be culturally valid in assessing Icelanders psychological help seeking attitudes and tendencies. And, unexpectedly through this process, ideas have emerged on how to improve the original U.S. versions for future research in the U.S.

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, collaboration between psychologists around the globe is an extremely valuable experience professionally, personally and for the psychology profession. Collaboration across countries and cultures not only broadens one’s personal horizon and worldview, but also aids the development of new theories and methodologies. By sharing ideas, interventions, theories, worldviews, and habits, new ideas and perspectives will develop. I encourage anyone embarking on collaboration and work overseas to nurture his or her patience and humbleness and enjoy the ride. Ψ



*Faculty and students from Assumption University. Beginning fourth from the left, front row: Vorapot "Tom" Ruckthum, PhD, Dean of the Graduate School of Psychology. To his right, Gerald Koocher, PhD and Christine Noriko Bierdrager, PhD (APA member and graduate of California School of Professional Psychology, Fresno).*

## Past President Gerry Koocher Speaks at International Conferences

**Gerald Koocher, PhD, Dean of the School for Health Studies at Simmons College and 2006 APA President**

Last year, I accepted an invitation to keynote the annual conference of the Australian Psychological Society (APS), scheduled for September, 2007. In planning the trip I booked tickets on Thai Airways and arranged a stop-over to visit Bangkok, Thailand as a tourist. I wondered whether I could make contact with any colleagues in Bangkok to learn a bit about psychology practice as I passed through. After searching the online APA directory I made contact with Christine Noriko Bierdrager, PhD, a 1996 graduate of the California School of Professional Psychology (Fresno), who teaches in the Graduate School of Psychology at Assumption University in Bangkok ([www.au.edu](http://www.au.edu)) and volunteered to give a talk for their students and faculty as I passed through.

Dr. Bierdrager put me in touch with Vorapot ("Tom") Ruckthum, PhD, Dean of the graduate program at Assumption, and I enjoyed a wonderful afternoon and evening with their students and faculty. The students represented a significant number of nationalities and were quite impressive

in their skills and range of interests. Although the use of psychological services has gained only an early foothold in the country, there is a growing interest and great potential for Thai psychology. Our Thai colleagues were very interested in contacts with American scholars and practitioners and would certainly welcome other visitors.

At the Australian Psychological Society meeting in Brisbane I spoke on ethical challenges and the roles of invisible psychologists, those who work out of sight of people affected by their efforts (e.g., in advertising, jury selection, security, and other fields). I also participated in a panel discussion addressing issues related to work in detention centers. In addition to concerns shared by the APA in opposing any participation in torture, cruel, degrading, and inhumane practices, our Australian colleagues have additional concerns regarding immigration detention centers in their own country. Both APA and the APS have similar positions opposing the use of psychologists in inappropriate interrogation and detention circumstances.

One particularly interesting aspect of attending the APS convention included observing their election of officers which took place at the convention using live and mailed written ballots. I learned a new English vocabulary word: "scrutineer." During the ballot counting the scrutineers observe, and when necessary challenge, the counting of the

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ballots. The experience made me feel glad that APA uses an outside firm to do this work for us independently.

Both my Thai and Australian colleagues proved amazingly warm and hospitable. I strongly urge my colleagues to consider timing trips abroad to coincide with local or national professional meetings (see the international meetings calendar page: <http://www.apa.org/international/calendar.html>) and to include contacts with local psychologists. American psychology is highly respected abroad, and contacts with psychologists from the United States is generally welcomed. Ψ

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Apply for the Frances M. Culbertson Travel Grant

The American Psychological Foundation's (APF) Culbertson Travel grant supports women from developing countries who are in the early stages of their careers by providing travel funds to attend international regional conferences in psychology. Recipients of the grant also receive a two-year affiliate membership in the American Psychological Association.

#### Amount

Reimbursement for registration and travel expenses up to US \$1,500.

#### Eligibility

Applicants must be women from developing countries who are no more than ten (10) years post-doctoral degree. Preference is given to applicants attending the following conferences:

- International Council of Psychologists (ICP),
- Biennial Regional Congress of Psychology,
- International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS), and
- International Association of Cross-Cultural Psychology (IACCP).

#### Applications Procedures

Submit a completed application online at <http://forms.apa.org/apf/grants> by February 15, 2008.

Applications materials must include:

- A completed application form;
- Current vita; and
- One letter of recommendation from a supervisor certifying present position.

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS Represent APA and Psychology at the United Nations in New York

APA is seeking psychologists in the greater New York area to serve as NGO representatives at the United Nations. As one of many Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) whose goals overlap with those of the UN, APA has consultative status with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI), the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

APA's volunteer team of psychologists at the United Nations works to identify issues, organize programs, and draft statements to bring a psychological perspective to UN policies and programs.

For more details and information on these positions, please visit <http://www.apa.org/international/un/call-2008.html> or email the APA Office of International Affairs at [international@apa.org](mailto:international@apa.org).

### 2nd ASEAN Regional Union of Psychological Societies Congress February 11-13, 2008

ASEAN Regional Union of Psychological Societies is the collaboration of the psychological associations/societies from ten ASEAN countries. The union aims to create mutual exchange and learning in the field of psychological science and to develop academic and professional standards as well as practical applications for the betterment of societies.

The union is planning its 2nd Congress on **February 11-13, 2008** at Maha Chulalongkorn Building (Room 105), Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. The Congress's main theme for the present meeting will be "Psychology for the Well-being of Humanity" with the aim of creating awareness for the importance of psychological science in enhancing the well-being of humanity in the time of increasing violence and conflicts. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.psy.chula.ac.th/arups2>.

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...Announcements, continued from page 13

## Scholar Rescue Fund Fellowships

The Institute of International Education's Scholar Rescue Fund (SRF) provides fellowships for established scholars whose lives and work are threatened in their home countries. These fellowships permit professors, researchers and other senior academics to find temporary refuge at universities and colleges anywhere in the world, enabling them to pursue their academic work and to continue to share their knowledge with students, colleagues, and the community at large. When conditions improve, these scholars will return home to help rebuild universities and societies ravaged by fear, conflict and repression. During the fellowship, conditions in a scholar's home country may improve, permitting safe return; if safe return is not possible, the scholar may use the fellowship period to identify a longer-term opportunity.

### How the Scholar Rescue Fund Works:

- \* Professors, established researchers and other senior academics from any country, field or discipline may qualify. Preference is given to scholars with a Ph.D. or other highest degree in their field; who have extensive teaching or research experience at a university, college or other institution of higher learning; who demonstrate superior academic accomplishment or promise; and whose selection is likely to benefit the academic community in the home and/or host country or region. Applications from female scholars and under-represented groups are strongly encouraged.
- \* Fellowship recipients are expected to resume their teaching, lecturing, research, writing and publishing at an academic institution outside the region of threat.
- \* Fellowships are awarded for visiting academic positions ranging from 3 months to one calendar year. The maximum award is US \$20,000, plus health insurance.
- \* Fellowships are disbursed through host academic institutions for direct support of scholar-grantees. In most cases, host campuses are asked to match the SRF fellowship award through partial salary/stipend support, research materials, medical insurance, and other in-kind assistance.
- \* Applications are accepted at any time. Emergency applications receive urgent consideration. Non-emergency applications will be considered according to the following schedule:

#### Winter 2008:

Applications received by January 15; decision by March 1.

#### Spring 2008:

Application received by April 1; decision by June 1.

To apply, please download the information and application materials from: <http://www.iie.org/programs/srf/apply.htm>.

For universities and colleges interested in hosting an SRF scholar, please visit: <http://www.iie.org/programs/srf/host.htm>. We welcome your questions and comments. Please contact us at:

IIE Scholar Rescue Fund Fellowships  
809 U.N. Plaza  
New York, New York 10017  
Tel: (USA) 1-212-984-5486  
Fax: (USA) 1-212-984-5353  
E-mail: [SRF@iie.org](mailto:SRF@iie.org)  
Web: [www.iie.org/SRF](http://www.iie.org/SRF)

\*If you are a scholar from Iraq, or seeking support on behalf of an Iraqi scholar, please direct all questions or queries to: [IraqSRF@iie.org](mailto:IraqSRF@iie.org).

## American Red Cross Tsunami Recovery Program Conference

The American Red Cross Tsunami Recovery Program will host a two-day conference to discuss lessons learned in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami in the area of psychosocial response. This conference seeks to bring together leaders in international psychosocial support efforts from the academic, UN and NGO communities in order to reflect on how recent efforts to respond to the mental health and psychosocial needs of disaster-affected individuals have informed our common understanding of psychosocial programming. In addition to sharing lessons learned and key accomplishments, three common topics will shape the direction of our discussions:

How best can international psychosocial programs accurately and rigorously assess the impact and efficacy of program interventions?

Given the broad and sometimes nebulous scope of psychosocial programs implemented internationally, how can (or should) our industry clarify a common understanding of what constitutes psychosocial programming – or, can we arrive at a commonly accepted and specific definition of our field?

In light of current trends towards sectoral integration in international relief and development efforts, how are psychosocial interventions best suited to be incorporated in an integrated response?

The conference will be held at American Red Cross national headquarters in Washington, DC from January 30-31, 2008. The conference is organized as a two-day event using a combination of formal presentations and group discussions to inform participants of recent developments or accomplishments by organizations in the field of psychosocial

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response. Confirmed Plenary Speaker: Dr. Michael Wessells (Inter-Agency Standing Committee).

For more information please contact Ann Marie Colucci at [colucciam@usa.redcross.org](mailto:colucciam@usa.redcross.org).

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## **6th Conference of the International Test Commission July 14-16, 2008--Liverpool, UK**

Please visit [www.itc2008.com](http://www.itc2008.com) for more information.

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## **2008 International Counseling Psychology Conference March 6-9, 2008--Chicago, Illinois**

This is the fifth time the profession of counseling psychology has hosted its own conference. Unlike previous conferences reflecting a national perspective, this is the first counseling psychology conference promoting an international focus. In an attempt to internationalize the conference, program proposals on international topics and by scholars from countries around the world are of particular interest.

Poster sessions are in a format that allows for extended discussion of the presentation with the author. They include illustrative materials placed on a poster with tables, graphs, and data. All research must be complete upon submission for consideration. Research papers are reports or empirical studies presented by the primary researcher. All research must be complete upon submission for consideration. Round table discussions are opportunities for informal discussions and exchange of ideas between the audience and one or two presenters. Presenters are chosen for their expertise in a particular area of current interest to members. Symposia are focused panel discussions and/or formal paper presentations in which participants present their views about a common topic or theme. The format of a symposium usually contains an introduction and background on the topic by the chairperson to facilitate the ensuing discussion. Participants then present their viewpoints, followed by interchange among participants and between the audience and participants.

Working groups will provide opportunities for participation in small work groups. The purpose of these groups is to give participants the opportunity to focus on a challenge or issue facing the field of counseling psychology.

Workshops are programs designed to teach direct skills and practical applications of theory and research findings. Workshops combine theoretical and experiential approaches to help participants increase their understanding and skills in a particular area of current interest in counseling psychology.

The three primary sponsoring organizations of the event are:

The Society of Counseling Psychology, Division 17, of the American Psychological Association (APA), the Council of Counseling Psychology Training Programs (CCPTP), and the Association of Counseling Center Training Agencies (ACCTA).

For more information, go to [www.internationalcounselingpsychologyconference.org](http://www.internationalcounselingpsychologyconference.org). Ψ

## **29th International Congress of Psychology (ICP) July 20-25, 2008**

The International Congress of Psychology is the largest international conference in psychology and covers all areas of psychological science. The conference takes place only once every four years in a different country under the auspices of the International Union of Psychological Science ([www.iupsys.org](http://www.iupsys.org)). From July 20 to 25, 2008, we expect more than 6,000 psychologists from more than 70 countries to meet in Berlin, Germany, for ICP 2008.

**Invited Program:** The Invited Program of ICP 2008 has already been finalized and contains Invited Addresses and Invited Symposia from more than 300 renowned international colleagues. The Invited Program can be obtained from the congress website.

**Controversial Debates:** They will focus on topics that are both inherently important and interesting to all psychologists, and are intended to capture exciting recent developments in our field. The debates will take place once a day at a prominent time slot and will be chaired by some of the best psychological scientists in the world (for more information, please see [www.icp2008.org](http://www.icp2008.org)). If you have any further questions about ICP 2008 please contact:

**Barbara Schauenburg (Secretary General)**  
[barbara.schauenburg@psychologie.hu-berlin.de](mailto:barbara.schauenburg@psychologie.hu-berlin.de)

**Heike Wieters (Organizing Team)**  
[heike.wieters@staff.hu-berlin.de](mailto:heike.wieters@staff.hu-berlin.de)



## Profile: Psychology in Cyprus

by Marios N. Adonis, PhD; Maria Karekla, PhD; Marios Constantinou, PhD  
University of Nicosia

Even though psychology is considered to be a relatively young field around the world, in Cyprus psychology is in its infancy. It was not until the early 1970s that the first individuals who studied psychology abroad returned and introduced this field to the island of Cyprus (Tziongouros, 2007). The first psychologists in Cyprus were people who specialized in other mental health professions (e.g. psychiatry) and had received further education in the field of psychology.

The history of Cyprus, as well as that of psychology in Cyprus, were marked by the 1974 Turkish invasion and subsequent occupation of approximately one third of the island. These events left Cyprus a divided country where almost half the population became refugees and where every family lost a loved one or had family members missing. Feelings of insecurity and the loss of lives no doubt led to an increased interest in the field of psychology in the years following and to an increase in the number of people who became interested in the study of psychology.

It is important to note, that until very recently (1991), there was no post-secondary education in Cyprus. Individuals interested in studying beyond the high-school level had to go abroad. Consequently, in the 1970s and 1980s there were many individuals studying psychology abroad in countries such as Greece, England, the USA, the USSR, and others. Most of these individuals received a Bachelors degree, or the equivalent, and returned to Cyprus to practice.

With the return of these psychologists to Cyprus, there began to be a need for an organization among them. Psychologists needed to make their specialization known to the public and they wanted the government to acknowledge what they had to contribute to mental health by offering positions for psychologists (Tziongouros, 2007). In 1980, 21 psychologists formed the Cyprus Psychologists Association (CYPISA), a professional body designed to help the field of psychology move forward. According to Tziongouros (2007), from its early conception CYPISA's goal was to promote the field of psychology by: (a) Establishing the legal parameters of psychology as a mental health profession and promoting the interests of psychologists; (b) Educating the public about the role, expertise, ethics, and methods used by psychologists and promoting the services provided by psychologists by establishing high standards of professional education and practice within its members; (c) Developing, promoting, using, and applying the science of psychology; (d) Contributing and participating in political planning and the development of



public policy in issues relevant to the field of psychology; (e) Providing expert advice to individuals interested in the field of psychology and providing valid information to its members regarding their professional roles and responsibilities; (f) Developing and enhancing communication between members of the association and colleagues abroad; and (g) Contributing to the safe guarding of the public's interests as consumers of mental health services.

CYPISA, as well as psychology in Cyprus, have had a bumpy road in their development. One of the challenges that arose and still continues is that, because of a lack of undergraduate and graduate education opportunities in Cyprus, most psychologists in Cyprus have studied abroad within a variety of different "school cultures". Although this might appear as a positive facet that would enrich the field of psychology, such variability has proved a challenge to a coherent psychology in Cyprus. For one, there is no uniform philosophy of teaching psychology across the world nor is there an internationally agreed upon curriculum of study to become a practicing psychologist. This has meant that Cypriot psychologists who have studied all over the world (e.g. Australia, USA, numerous countries in Europe, ex-Soviet countries etc) have very different approaches to psychology and its practicing ethics and specialization, which can lead to confusion debate about procedures in Cyprus. For example, in the United States, an Educational psychologist is defined as someone with expertise in a theory-based subfield of psychology that is concerned with "the theory, methodology, and application to a broad spectrum of teaching, training, and learning issues" (APA, 2007a). In contrast, in the United Kingdom educational psychology is defined as a more applied field in which educational psychologists "tackle the problems encountered by young people in education, which may involve learning difficulties and social or emotional problems. They carry out a wide range of tasks with the aim of enhancing children's learning and enabling teachers to become more aware of the social factors affecting teaching and learning" (BPS, 2007). The equivalent of the UK educational psychologist is a school psychologist in the US, where "School Psychology is composed of scientific-practitioner psychologists whose

major professional interests lie with children, families, and the schooling process and psychologists engage in the delivery of comprehensive psychological services to children, adolescents, and families in schools and other applied settings" (APA, 2007b).

A second issue is that there are no internationally agreed upon criteria for the licensing of practicing psychologists. In some countries individuals may become practicing psychologists with a Bachelors degree, in others with a Masters degree in applied areas, and in yet other countries a PhD in an applied field and licensing are required. In Europe there is currently an effort to form common criteria and standards for the training and education of applied psychologists under the EuroPsy program, which will recognize qualified individuals as "Registered psychologists" (EFPA, 2007). The EuroPsy criteria are currently being piloted in several European countries with the goal of developing European Union legislation that will serve as a set of minimum educational requirements for psychology practitioners across all the EU member states. The current consensus is formulated around a three phase model in which phase one is the Bachelor's degree with a minimum duration of three years, phase two is a Master's degree with a minimum duration of two years, and phase three is at least one year (1500 hours) of supervised practice.

From its inception, one of the priorities of CYPISA was to set legal standards for the practice of psychology and establish the provision of high quality services to the public. CYPISA's hard work seemed to pay off in 1995, when the first law establishing the minimum qualifications for practicing psychology was voted by the Cyprus parliament. This law stated that in order to practice psychology, one needed a minimum of a two-year Masters degree in an applied field of psychology and nine months of practicum experience. There were some ambiguities in the law - it did not explicitly state how much experience should be included in the nine months of practicum (presumably one could become licensed with 100 hours in nine months or 1000 hours); additionally, it did not explicitly specify how to "count" practical training of foreign degrees, and it allowed for "grandfathering" of individuals who did not meet the criteria but had been practicing psychology until 1995.

As it turned out, the law was never put into effect as a result of a variety of problems created by lobbyists. The efforts of CYPISA to establishing minimum standards continued and finally in 2004, changes to the 1995 law were passed along with a new effort to put the law into effect. The 2004 law now explicitly states that for an individual to practice the profession of psychology and to become licensed, he/she needs to obtain a Bachelor's, or equivalent, degree in Psychology and a graduate degree (consisting of a minimum of three year training, which includes a minimum of 1500 hours of supervised practice) in an applied field of psychology. A number of grandfathering provisions allowed for individuals already practicing psychology for certain amount of years, prior to the date to which the law came into effect, to become

licensed. The grandfathering allowed for the licensing of individuals provided that they had a Masters' degree in Psychology (any specialty) or had a Bachelors degree and were practicing psychology for five years prior to 1996, the date when the first law of 1995 was supposed to enter into effect (reference: The (amending) law for the registration of professional psychologists, 2004).

In January 2005 the Council for Registration of Professional Psychologists (CRPP) was formed and given the mandate by the Council of Ministers to evaluate applications of psychologists who wished to obtain a practitioner's license. For the first time there was a feeling that the practice of psychology would be regulated and the public would be protected from unqualified individuals. Since the formation of the CRPP in 2005 until April 2007, 149 applications were submitted, 81 psychologists (54%) were licensed, 12 (8.5%) were licensed under supervision, 21 applications (14%) were rejected and 35 applications (23%) were still pending (Georgiadis, 2007).

However, even though there were numerous "grandfathering" provisions to the 2004 Law a significant number of individuals who wished to become practitioners were not eligible under the new law. Individuals holding Bachelor's degrees in psychology and/or graduate degrees in non-applied fields of psychology were precluded from practicing psychology. The new law raised a number of objections among those who were not qualified to practice psychology that culminated in the formation of a second psychological association in Cyprus that is lobbying for the reduction of the standards. The new organization has a significant number of members (given that psychology is one of the most popular subjects studied at the undergraduate level and individuals holding Bachelor's degrees have found a niche) and has been successful in convincing the former Minister of Health, certain political parties, and numerous Members of Parliament to be in favor of an amendment to the current law. The aim of this group is to lower the criteria for obtaining a practicing license to the bachelor's level.

One unfortunate consequence of the actions of this group is that many psychology students are beginning to question whether it is worth pursuing graduate education. Students have seen individuals who have completed years of graduate training and espoused highest ethical standards being "punished" and presented in the media in Cyprus as elitists and interested only in becoming rich by keeping the competition low. They have also seen qualified individuals by-passed for jobs, especially well-paying government jobs at hospitals in favor of persons with lower qualifications. The public has also become quite confused by the situation and there is concern that mistrust in psychologists will develop as a result.

The battles within psychology are especially unfortunate because they keep the profession from attending to other

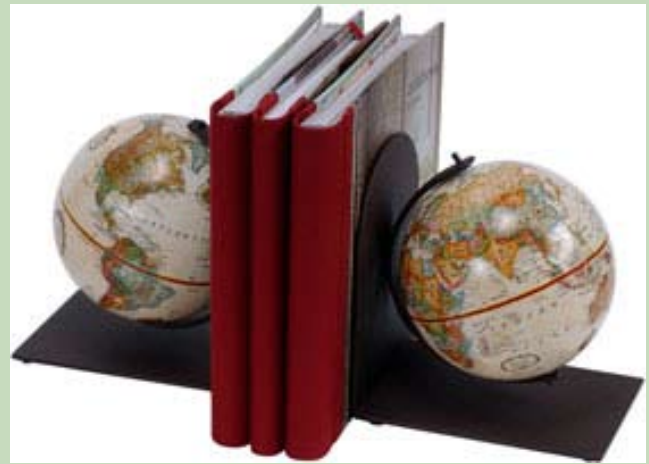
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issues that threaten it. For example, standards for school counseling are low (school teachers of various disciplines may offer counseling services after a month-long seminar) and psychology teachers do not need to be trained in psychology (for example psychology classes are taught by Greek Literature teachers). Clearly, a need for well qualified school psychologists and teachers of psychology is not obvious.

Because psychology does not have a strong coherent organization, opportunities for the discipline are weakening. Psychology positions are scarce within the social services department of the Cyprus government because only social workers and sociologists are hired. Currently, the Ministry of Health is planning to create the first inpatient childhood psychiatric clinic and proposes that the clinic should be staffed by numerous psychiatrists and only one child psychologist. Additionally, in no hospital in Cyprus is a psychologist hired as part of the interdisciplinary team or primary care. It is unfortunate that these legitimate battles for Cyprus psychologists are overshadowed by conflict about levels of qualifications. The strength of any discipline rests in its ability to forge a set of values, expectations and training that reflect its shared knowledge base and expertise. The concern now in Cyprus is that political forces will allow acceptance of standards that do not sufficiently protect the public and develop the discipline.  $\Psi$

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