PSYCHOLOGY INTERNATIONAL

Crimean Psychologists Investigate Multi-Ethnic Conflict and Social Change

By Carina Korostelina

Crimea is one of many regions of the former Soviet Union fraught with economic, social, and political instability. Extending southwards into the Black Sea, the Crimean peninsula was once a prime vacation spot for Soviet citizens. It is now an autonomous republic of the Ukraine, struggling with the country's highest unemployment rate, political upheaval, and brewing ethnic tensions. Conflict between Ukraine and Russia continues over the division of the former Soviet Black Sea Fleet which is still based in the Crimean port city of Sevastopol. These tensions made the news in May 1999 when 20,000 Crimean Tatars staged a protest march that provoked a negative reaction by the peninsula's majority Russian population. This situation poses a challenge for psychologists working to find peaceful models of coexistence for the 2.5 million people residing in the 26,000 square kilometers that comprise the Crimean peninsula.

Ethnic Russians make up 64 percent of Crimea's population, 23 percent are Ukrainians, 10 percent Crimean Tatar, and the remaining 3 percent are Belorussian, Armenian, Greek, and German, among others. The Russian majority faces a complicated predicament in an area that was a Russian territory until 1954 but is now part of the Ukrainian State. The Ukrainian population–though sharing Slav ethnicity with the Russians–struggles with the fact that they are a minority in their own land. And even more complex is the situation of the Crimean Tatars, whom Stalin deported en masse

Continuted on Page 2

Interview with H.E. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, Psychologist and President of The Republic of Latvia page 6

Salvadoran AIDS Coalition Wins Appeal to Interamerican Human Rights Commission

By Richard Stern

On February 29, 2000, the Interamerican Human Rights Commission in Washington, DC, ordered the government of El Salvador to begin supplying anti-retroviral medications to 26 Salvadorans living with AIDS. The ruling came in response to a petition filed last September by Jorge Odir Miranda and 35 other Salvadorans. The petitioners are members of a non-governmental organization called *Atlacatl*. The group contacted the Commission again in early January to advise that 10 of the original 36 *Atlacatl* members had died during the previous four months and that urgent intervention was needed to save the lives of the survivors.

The case came to the Commission because the Salvadoran Supreme Court had failed to act on an April 1999 *Atlacatl* appeal that challenged the failure of the government-run health care program–the *Instituto Salvadareño de Seguro Social* (ISSS)–to provide anti-retroviral medications. Although not a cure as such, the anti-retroviral medications significantly strengthen the immune system allowing most people who take them to lead a relatively normal life. The ISSS, which insures 20 per cent of the county's six million inhabitants, including much of the workforce, currently provides only AZT to people with AIDS. Anti-retroviral medications are available to the few people who can afford to buy them privately, at a cost of about $700 a month in a country where the per capita income is still under $300 a month.

Continued on Page 5

Contents

Crimean Psychologists 1

Salvadoran AIDS Coalition 1

APA International Awards 3

Albanian Students 8

PROFILES:

TIEMS 4

Vaira Vike-Freiberga 6

International Snapshots 9

International Meetings Calendar 11

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Crimea, From Page 1

(260,000 people) in 1944 to Central Asia and Siberia. Over the past ten years, approximately half of the deported Tatar population has returned to their "homeland" only to find that they are repeatedly denied citizenship rights and access to education, employment, and housing.

Students at the Laboratory of Social and Ethnic Psychology, located at the National Tavrida Vernadsky University in the Crimean capital of Simferopol, have conducted studies that examine the needs, attitudes, stereotypes, and ethnic perceptions of both the Crimean Tatar and the Russian/Ukrainian Slav populations. Analysis of the perceived stereotypes shows interesting results. Both ethnic groups consider themselves to be easy-going and straightforward and view the opposite group as rough and insincere. The Slavs perceive the Tatars to be artful and hypocritical, and the Tatars consider the Slavs to be scornful and greedy.

Such ethnic tension exacerbates the severe economic conditions on the Crimean peninsula, increasing the potential for further unrest. The Ukraine has been severely crippled by economic crises and a growing burden of debt and the government is ill equipped to constructively handle the deteriorating situation in Crimea. Thus, there is an immediate need to develop local capacities for problem solving and coalition building to counteract divisive factors.

In an effort to begin to meet these needs, Crimean psychologists and sociologists are developing a "Crimean School of Peace" at the National University. The School is partially supported by the United Nations Development Program in Simferopol and the project has recently received the support of the United States Institute of Peace. The School's program is in part based on research that I have conducted, with US Information Agency support, as a visiting scholar at the Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, DC.

The School of Peace will investigate, develop, and monitor constructive procedures and models for dealing with ethno-political conflicts in the Crimea. The program will stress the premise that conflict is an important and necessary element of social change in Ukrainian/Crimean society. The challenge of the conflict lies not simply in containment but in the need for constructive resolution and change by reducing violence and promoting social justice.

The School of Peace will recognize the importance of civil-society contributions, development cooperation, humanitarian aid, peace work, human-rights activities, and the influence of socio-cultural and psychosocial structures and mechanisms of peace making and peace building in the region. The organizers will analyze macro-social and micro-social processes of peace building and will assess the effectiveness of concepts and interventions used in current conflict management.

As a main goal, the School of Peace will design and offer training courses and workshops on peace building and conflict resolution, cross-cultural communication, and negotiation and mediation using new technologies. The project will conduct workshops for social and political science professors as a means of introducing the methodology into the Crimean higher education system. There will also be a separate set of workshops for the leaders of ethnic groups, local communities, and non-governmental organizations. These workshops will train the trainers who will continue the work in higher education institutions and in local communities. The workshop materials will be published as a training handbook that will be used throughout Crimean higher educational institutions.

Another goal of the Peace School will be to identify and support a network of local peace activists who can disseminate knowledge about conflict resolution, negotiation, and mediation. These civil-society actors will be able to play the part

of "insiders" in a variety of peace and conflict-management initiatives. A series of seminars will provide the activists the opportunity to forge trans-cultural links and to discuss conditions for success and ways in which typical difficulties might be tackled.

The School of Peace will also link with multi-national conflict management groups, such as the European Platform for Conflict Transformation and Prevention, to advise political foundations, organize meetings on foreign affairs and security, set up projects in crisis regions in south-eastern Europe, and advise Crimean governmental bodies like the Ministry of Education and the State Committee on Nationalities and Deported Citizens.

Carina Korostelina, PhD, has recently returned to the National Tavrida Vernadsky University, where she is an Associate Professor and a Director of the Crimean Peace School. During her six-month study visit at the Woodrow Wilson Center, she designed the Peace School project in consultation with Leila Dane, PhD, Director of the Institute for Victims of Trauma, Joseph V. Montville, PhD, Director of the Preventive Diplomacy Program of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and scholars at the George Mason University Institute for Conflict Analyses and Resolution. Dr. Korostelina can be reached at carina@crimea.com (e-mail).

APA 2001 International Awards Calls for Nominations

Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology

The American Psychological Association (APA) Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP) is seeking nominations for the 2001 Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology. This award recognizes distinguished and enduring lifetime contributions to the international cooperation and advancement of knowledge in psychology. Candidates may be from any country. Nominations should include: a supporting type-written statement of up to 500 words; a current vita; a list of relevant publications; and letters of support from three to five people familiar with the nominee's work.

APA International Humanitarian Award

APA is also seeking nominations for the 2001 International Humanitarian Award. This APA award recognizes extraordinary humanitarian service and activism by psychologists, including professional and/or volunteer work conducted primarily in the field with under-served populations. "Extraordinary humanitarian services" are defined as professional activities initiated by psychologists, working alone or in association with others, to help alleviate severe stress and restore psychological well-being to a group of people in a variety of difficult circumstances, including but not limited to the following: (1) survivors and/or victims' families following a significant event such as a natural or person-induced disaster, a national or international incident, a civil war, or a forced migration; or (2) a community of any size in which long-term political, economic, social and/or other circumstances have caused severe stress and psychological problems for a substantial portion of that community.

Nominees must be members or affiliate members of the Association. Nominations should provide ample and clear documentation to substantiate extraordinary service that has improved the lives and contributed to the wellbeing of people in either large or small geographic areas anywhere in the world. Documentation should include, but is not limited to, descriptions of the following: (1) the difficult conditions constituting severe threats to the security, stability, welfare, or development of communities; (2) specific actions, including personal risk, taken to improve conditions; (3) demonstrated skills, knowledge, dedication, and persistence brought to bear on work within specific communities; and (4) the social and political activism displayed in rebuilding or transforming communities and/or fostering the empowerment of community members to act on their own behalf.

Applications will be screened by CIRP which will make recommendations to the APA Board of Directors for their designation of the awardee. Applications must include a letter of application, a 500-word narrative description of extraordinary humanitarian services and activism within specified time frames, a curriculum vitae, three letters of recommendation, and other supporting documents deemed essential to a full presentation of the applicant's work.

Nominations and supporting materials for both awards may be sent to the APA Office of International Affairs, 750 First Street, NE, Washington, DC, 20002-4242, USA. The deadline for submission is June 1, 2000.

ORGANIZATION PROFILE: TIEMS

By Kathleen M. Kowalski

The International Emergency Management Society (TIEMS) was founded in 1993 as a non-profit organization with the mission of bringing together users, planners, researchers, managers, technicians, response personnel, and other parties interested in emergency management, to exchange knowledge, experience, and ideas about innovative methods and technologies to improve our ability to manage emergencies worldwide. The Society reorganized in 1996, in recognition of the central role that practitioners and social scientists play in the development of emergency methods and technologies.

TIEMS embraces two major goals. First, it allows individuals who are dedicated to improving emergency management for natural and man-made disasters to interact and share experiences with colleagues from various countries and an array of government and private agencies. Second, The Society facilitates networking for these professionals. These goals are achieved through the on-going development of a world-wide network (http://www.tiems.org) of individuals from various disciplines and, most importantly, through a yearly conference.

The TIEMS annual conferences solicit papers on a breadth of emergency management issues. Conference discussion topics fall into three broad areas–research and development, application, and education and training. The research and development issues include agent-based simulation, artificial intelligence, behavioral aspects, emergency worker occupational safety and health, communications systems, data analysis and decision support systems, information management and technologies, knowledge acquisition and processing, new technologies, organization theory, policy analysis, risk analysis, simulation, societal factors, and systems engineering. The application areas include case studies, industrial and environmental accidents, natural disasters, hazardous materials, human factors, medical technology and emergency management, organizational issues, management approaches, mitigation and preparedness, planning and crisis management, policy issues, regional/local and urban considerations, response and recovery, technological disasters, techniques for emergency and disaster management, terrorist threats, and transportation management. And the education and training agenda covers training and tutoring systems, educational experiences, professional education, degree programs, and international programs.

All meeting submissions are peer reviewed and published in a Conference Proceedings. For the past several years, papers have been selected for special editions of emergency management journals; for example, in 1995, *Safety Science* (20) selected papers for publication.

The annual conferences are devoted to specific themes, such as Bridging the Gap Between Theory and Practice, Globalization of Emergency Management, International Issues Concerning Research and Application in Emergency Management, International Challenges for the Next Decade, and Emergency Management in the Third Millennium. These themes are designed to facilitate cross-disciplinary networking opportunities where nuclear scientists can listen to psychologists, sociologists can share ideas with engineers, and practitioners can discuss emergency management issues with scientists. The diversity of the TIEMS membership and the interaction among disciplines is one of The Society's strengths and consequently leads to improved emergency management worldwide.

The annual conference venues alternate between North America and Europe. Past meetings have taken place in Florida's Hollywood Beach, Nice, Montreal, Copenhagen, Washington, DC, and Delft. Participants from six of the seven continents have attended the TIEMS meetings. TIEMS 2000 will take place May 16-19 in Orlando and TIEMS 2001 will be in Oslo.

Psychologists with an interest in emergency management issues are urged to attend the TIEMS conferences. The Society is encouraging psychologists internationally to develop relationships with emergency managers, academicians, practitioners and others to foster greater understanding of the relationship between human behavior and emergencies. As our colleague Enrico Quarantelli, founder of the first university-based disaster center at Ohio State University, has said, "We are far from certain how much any of us understands about the nature of disasters, the nature of mental health, and the relationship between the two. The initial step is to recognize how significant that relationship may be."

TIEMS members have identified terrorism and the legal responsibility of emergency workers as focal points for future concern. With terrorism on the increase, both response teams and governments are seeking information on innovative methods to manage such man-made disasters. The legal responsibility issue hinges on immunity for emergency workers. Previously, it was common practice to give immunity to fire service and other emergency personnel who frequently put their lives at risk to help others. Since decisions must be made swiftly in hazardous circumstances, mistakes can occur. If immunity is not guaranteed for emergency workers, we risk defensive emergency management–a diversion of costly resources away from emergency intervention toward legal battles.

*Kathleen M. Kowalski, PhD, is a Research Psychologist with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, Pittsburgh Research Laboratory, US Department of Health and Human Services. She is the Secretary of The International Emergency Management Society. Dr. Kowalski can be reached by e-mail (*kek2@cdc.gov*).*

Although cases can only be presented to the Interamerican Human Rights Commission after all resources to justice on a national level have been exhausted, the Commission does recognize that unreasonable delays that may lead to death can constitute exhaustion of legal proceedings. Consequently, the Commission invoked a *medidas cautelaras* (loosely translated "preventive measures"), which functions like a temporary restraining order while the case before the Supreme Court continues in El Salvador. The February 29 Commission ruling ordered the Salvadoran government to "provide medical attention necessary to protect the life and health of Jorge Odir Miranda Cortéz and the other 25 aforementioned people…In particular, the Commission solicits that your illustrious government provide anti-retroviral medications necessary to avoid the death of the aforementioned persons, as well as hospital attention, other medications and nutritional support which strengthen the immune system and impede the development of illnesses and infections." Notified of the decision, Miranda commented, "Thank God that somebody has finally listened to us." On March 15, the Salvadoran government announced it would comply with the Commission's ruling and begin to provide the petitioners with medications within a week.

Odir Miranda is the President of *Atlacatl* and a long-term active and visible spokesperson for the AIDS affected community. As an affiliate of the ISSS, he contributed part of his pension during almost 8 years of employment towards insurance and he is critical and bitter about the ISSS's treatment of him. "I paid a portion of my salary to the ISSS for so many years for health care, and now they are unwilling to complete their obligation to me, mostly because those of us who have AIDS are viewed as easily expendable from the society. Our value is less because supposedly we are bad people for having contracted AIDS." In July 1998, Miranda was hospitalized and severely ill with various opportunistic infections. His weight had dropped to below 90 pounds. After receiving anti-retroviral medications from an anonymous donor in California, Miranda's health improved dramatically. He was able to travel to Washington, DC, the following November to present testimony to the Interamerican Human Rights Commission about discrimination against people living with AIDS in El Salvador.

According to Salvadoran government statistics, 75 percent of AIDS cases occur in the heterosexual population and only 25 percent in the gay/bisexual sector, but almost everyone agrees that this figure significantly underestimates the number of gay men with AIDS. Guatemalan AIDS expert Ruben Mayorga points out that the "machista culture in Central America forces most gays to remain underground–they are too afraid and too repressed to report their actual sexual preference to anyone." Most gay men seeking treatment for AIDS falsely tell their doctors that they are heterosexual to avoid even worse discrimination. Juan Carlos, age 27, told the author, "I know my doctor hates gays and he has even said that he blames them for spreading AIDS here. I told him I was infected by a female prostitute, and at least he treats me better than he treats some of the people he knows are gay."

There are no laws in El Salvador to protect people with AIDS from discrimination. There is a government ombudsmen organization, the *Procuraduria para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos* (Solicitor for the Defense of Human Rights) that evaluates issues related to discrimination. In a ruling issued February 8, 1999, the *Procuraduria* indicated that the ISSS has a responsibility to provide adequate treatment, including anti-retroviral medications, to its affiliates who have AIDS. However, the ruling has no force of law, and not all the 2,700 people with AIDS are insured by the ISSS. Perhaps two-thirds are completely uninsured and receive only sporadic medical attention that does not include either AZT or many of the medications used to treat opportunistic infections.

The decision by the Interamerican Human Rights Commission is legally binding in El Salvador, which has ratified the Interamerican Human Rights Convention. The Commission issues *medidas cautelares* only on rare occasions when a situation of life or death is involved. The decision actually affects every Salvadoran citizen who lives with AIDS. Theoretically, each of them would now be able to receive a favorable decision if they present a case to the Interamerican Commission, but the hope is that the Salvadoran government will simply adopt procedures to provide medications to all people who need them and not continue to delay compliance in the face of the very strong action taken by the Commission. This is what happened in Costa Rica in 1997 when the national Supreme Court ordered the government there to provide anti-retroviral medications to four individuals. Shortly after that, the national health care system began giving the medications to everyone. Eight hundred Costa Ricans now receive anti-retroviral medications. The Commissions decision may also set a precedent in other Latin American countries for people living with AIDS who file similar petitions against their national health care programs. The situation in El Salvador is typical of many Latin countries where only a relatively small percentage of individuals have access to the social health care system.

Richard Stern, PhD, is Director of Agua Buena Human Rights Association in San José, Costa Rica. The Association focuses on the dual issues of confronting discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS in Central America, and supporting them in the struggle to obtain adequate medical treatment. The Association is supported entirely by private donations. His article, "Costa Rican AIDS Patients Coalition Wins Drug Cocktail in High Court Ruling," was published in the spring 1999 issue of Psychology International. *Dr. Stern has lived in Costa Rica since 1988. He can be reached at* rastern@sol.racsa.co.cr *(e-mail).*

INDIVIDUAL PROFILE: VAIRA VIKE-FREIBERGA

In June 1999, Vaira Vike-Freiberga, Professor Emerita of Psychology at the University of Montreal, was elected President of Latvia. Born in that country, she left it at the age of seven as a refugee, and after living for more than a decade in Germany and Morocco, immigrated to Canada where she graduated with a BA in psychology from the University of Toronto and a PhD in experimental psychology from McGill University. Having returned to Latvia upon her retirement in 1998 to become the Director of the newly founded Latvian Institute, she unexpectedly emerged as a candidate for the presidency after other contenders failed to obtain a majority vote in Parliament. As President, Dr. Vike-Freiberga faces a complex inter-ethnic situation–ethnic Latvians constitute a slim majority over Latvia's substantial minority of Russian speakers, many of whom migrated during the 50 years of Soviet rule. Proficient in five languages, President Vike-Freiberga announced her intention to learn Russian while she encouraged Russian speakers to acquire a proficiency in Latvian. Dr. Vike-Freiberga was interviewed by Juris G. Draguns, PhD, a Latvian-born Professor of Psychology at Pennsylvania State University. He first met her at the International Congress of Psychology in 1963.

JGD: You earned your PhD in experimental psychology and are a specialist in cognitive psychology. Can you please tell us something about your research?

VVF: I have always been interested in language and symbolic processes of thought. However, when I started as a graduate student, neo-behaviorism was dominant and there were few tools for the study of these processes. At that time, D.O. Hebb's influence at McGill held sway. Hebb too was interested in what goes on between stimulus and response, but he felt that everything had to be anchored in neuro-processes. Therefore, he favored experiments with animals rather than with humans. I was fascinated by this approach but it wasn't compatible with my interest in the way symbolic material is handled by the brain in thinking processes.

After my PhD, where my specialty was learning and perception, I became interested in paradigms of transfer of learning and schemata of organization in recall. There was a very strict emphasis on the control of stimuli and responses. Those were the days when nonsense syllables were still being used in experimental psychology so as to equalize the material to be learned. It struck me that by doing that, we were eliminating the very thing that was of most interest–what aspects of words that we learn make them easier or more difficult to recall. Rather than trying to eliminate these differences, I thought we should focus on investigating them.

I became interested in various stimulus dimensions of words and the techniques of measuring them, such as frequency of usage, abstractness and concreteness, and degree and nature of emotionality. I also did a fair amount of work on word associations in the French language. As cognitive psychology started to develop as a science, I tried following the approach of Herbert Simon at Carnegie-Mellon and to look at his process models. But there again, I found experimental paradigms and techniques of protocol analysis to be extremely constricting.

JGD: How did you become involved in your other career as a folklore investigator?

VVF: Latvian folklore was a hobby of mine, and I was asked by the Latvian community in Canada to lecture to young people and stimulate their interest and pride in their heritage. As I was doing that, I immersed myself in systematic and more scholarly research. Traditionally, folklore had been studied by anthropologists, ethnologists, and philologists. Psychologists had not been active in this field since Wundt's proposal in his *Völkerpsychologie* to study folkloric materials in order to explore the psychological characteristics of the various peoples of the world.

At about the same period, I became active in multidisciplinary Baltic studies. At the bi-annual conferences of the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, there were always sessions on folklore and literature, and I regularly presented papers on my evolving approach. Eventually, I started participating in other scholarly meetings such as those of the International Ballad Conference. I have also worked with anthropologists at the University of Montreal who were interested in studying myths and I have participated in several special symposia at the annual meetings of the Canadian Anthropological Society.

For many years, I led multiple lives with many parallel activities, and it was only slowly that I managed to integrate it all in the later years of my academic career. With my husband, Imants Freibergs, as collaborator, and with support first from the Canadian Research Council and then from the Social Science Research Council of Canada, we ran an extensive research project for many years. We initiated a long-term project for transcribing a huge body of Latvian folk song texts in a computer-accessible form. My husband, a computer expert, was the moving force in creating the data. I used this fantastic data-base in developing new approaches and methods of analyzing how this material is structured. My aim was to make inferences from the structures revealed in these texts–to offer hypotheses as to the types of mental processes that would allow the creation of texts of that nature.

When I got the call inviting me to move to Latvia in 1998, I was actually in the middle of writing a book, *The Logic of Poetry*, several chapters of which had already appeared as separate publica-

tions. That's the one thing I regret–not being able to finish that project.

JGD: You have been exposed to an uncommon amount of cultural diversity: in a Latvian grade school in a refugee camp in Germany, French primary and secondary schools in Morocco, and later in bilingual Canada. How has this multiplicity of cultures had an impact on you?

VVF: Cultural diversity was imposed on me, often in a painful way, throughout my childhood and adolescence. Having to land in a country where you don't know a word of the language, trying to learn that language, as well as new customs, attitudes, and modes of thought, all this is very stressful. For example, when I arrived in Canada at age sixteen, I discovered that humor is very much based on shared experiences within a culture. Until you are familiar with local events, stereotypes, and even children's literature, it's very difficult to appreciate the humor of another culture. It took me nearly a year before I really felt I could laugh at Canadian-American jokes, or make an occasional remark that made others laugh.

My growing up in a succession of countries has given me a deep understanding and a sensitivity to multi-cultural and multi-lingual situations.

This was a painful thing, because it's shared laughter that one misses the most. As an immigrant, this is what makes for desperate efforts to learn the language and to catch up as quickly as one can on all the cultural background knowledge that the local people possess, in order to become integrated into that society.

JGD: Please tell the readers about the offices you have held in various psychological and scientific organizations.

VVF: I expect I have had more than my fair share of such involvements. In the late 1970s, I was elected to the Board of the Canadian Psychological Association, and then was delegated as a representative to the Social Science Federation of Canada. In due time, I was elected President of both of these bodies – in fact, at the same time, which made for a rather hectic schedule. I was chosen by the National Research Council as Canada's representative on a special panel on human factors working within the NATO scientific program. I eventually became Chairman of that for a year and then I was appointed by the Prime Minister's Office (a Governor-General-in-Council appointment) as Vice-Chairman of the Science Council of Canada. That was a paid position, on a half-time basis, because I was a government employee.

I have also served a two-year term as President of the American-based Association for Baltic Studies. I was still serving as President of the *Academie I* of the Royal Society of Canada (Canada's National Academy), and I was a candidate for the presidency of the International Ballad Commission when I was elected President of Latvia. So I was still in full swing when my being elected President of Latvia brought that aspect of my life to a close.

JDG: You are the first psychologist to be elected head of state. Has your career in psychology made a difference in the discharge of your duties as President?

VVF: My most serious scientific work, involving the gathering of data and performing fancy statistical analyses, had no direct practical applications, but it has given me excellent intellectual training. What has helped me in a practical sense was my brief work as a clinical psychologist, what I learned of abnormal and clinical psychology, and my experience at Toronto Psychiatric Hospital. This was a short period of my life but I did keep in touch with my colleagues in clinical psychology and tried to keep up with the literature. I think that my youthful experience with patients at Toronto Psychiatric Hospital has been of immense benefit to me in understanding neurotic behavior which, of course, we can see all around us every day–starting with our own! My growing up in a succession of countries has given me a deep understanding and a sensitivity to multi-cultural and multi-lingual situations. I find my past practical experience in the democratic governance of a variety of bodies to be a distinctive asset in my present position. But most of all, I am grateful for the life-long training I have had in absorbing large masses of information very quickly and of adjusting rapidly to a wide variety of entirely new situations.

Readers are invited to visit the website of the Chancery of the President at http://www.president.lv

Student Leadership Advances Psychology in Albania

By Anna Kline

Since 1997, a group of young, motivated students, through the Club of Psychology, have been playing a pivotal role in helping to reconstruct psychology in Albania. The main aims of the Club are to: provide awareness within Albanian society about psychology and its role; affirm and integrate the role of psychology in the professional mental health system; provide opportunities for discussion between students and psychologists; develop and nurture a constant collaboration with professional associations and psychologists around the world; conduct psychological research; and develop a national psychological organization.

Psychology in Albania today is a relatively new social science. During the 50 years of communist rule, psychology in any form or practice was strictly forbidden. The repression and eradication of psychological thought created a system of mental health services that relies almost entirely on medication and institutionalized psychiatry rather than on collaborative techniques or therapy. The void left by the communist regime has made it necessary to rebuild psychology from its foundations.

The students are enrolled in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Tirana, which in 1994 opened a Department of Psychology offering places for 35 undergraduate students in psychology. Since then, the Department has continued to grow. This year, approximately 150 students are enrolled in the undergraduate program, and there are plans for a master's degree program. Although the University has made great strides, it still has a long way to go to establish a professional standard. All academic areas are in need, but the lack of coursework development and resource materials such as textbooks, professional journals, and psychometric assessments is especially critical.

The 1994 students are now in their final year and will become the first graduates in psychology in Albania in over fifty years. Their graduation will mark an auspicious beginning for psychology as they take their place in multi-disciplinary teams alongside psychiatrists and social workers. Unfortunately, there are few professionals in the workforce available to guide the students in their practicum placement to formalize their role as psychologists.

Already in their short history, the Club of Psychology has been involved in many new programs including: publication of a professional journal; production of a television series where they and other professionals hold forums on such psychosocial problems as prostitution, prejudice, aggressive behavior, and crime; organization of a round table discussion, in collaboration with the Albanian Center for Human Rights, about the role of the psychologist in Albanian society; and, with the Albanian Center for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims, participating in therapeutic activities with ex-political prisoners and recently with Kosovar refugees.

The recent Kosova crisis offered students an important role. Psychosocial services were a critical part of the emergency programs provided to the refugees and non-governmental organizations hired many psychology students to work with those who had been traumatized by the war. While the students worked, they also were learning and gaining valuable training. The experience of recognizing the refugees' problems and counseling them was the students' first step toward becoming professionals in their field.

After the refugees returned home, students used the knowledge they had acquired to look objectively at the problems in Albanian society. They realized the tremendous need for professional psychological and counseling services to help Albanians cope with dire economic conditions, extreme changes in social life, and their own personal psychological problems. It was the war that brought this need to light and to the attention of dedicated intellectuals and young students who want to help others. It has sparked the hope of a new life filled with opportunity, professional growth, and service to others.

Albanian society now recognizes the necessary role that psychology plays in the life of its members, and believes that more professional work in this field is needed. However, not all of society knows what psychology really means or what a psychologist does. Greater understanding about the field and its benefits will develop among the population as more psychologists enter the field.

The International Rescue Committee (IRC), through its Psychosocial Department, is working closely with the Club of Psychology and the University of Tirana. Founded in 1933, the IRC is a non-sectarian, voluntary organization providing relief, protection, and resettlement services for people fleeing racial, religious, and ethnic persecution, as well as for those affected by war and violence. The IRC's psychosocial priorities in Albania include the training of psychology students by providing the University with resources such as textbooks and journals. They are also working directly with the Club of Psychology by providing resources and books, facilitating seminars by experienced psychologists, and assisting the Club to develop links with psychological associations and societies around the world.

Anna Kline served as the Psychosocial Coordinator with the International Rescue Committee based in Tirana, and is a Chartered Counselling Psychologist with the British Psychological Society. The IRC has set up a book donation program for the Club of Psychology. Readers who wish to help may contact Amazon.Com *on the web and access the Club of Psychology's Wish List by entering the Club's e-mail address (*psychclub_alb@hotmail.com).

Announcements

New Children's Center in Qatar Seeks International Candidates for Directorship: The Shafallah Center for Children with Special Needs in Qatar is seeking a mental health professional with an MS or PhD to serve as Director for two years. The newly established center is a modern, non-profit, private day school providing therapeutic, special education, vocational and recreational services, and health care support systems for children from birth to 18 years of age. The incumbent should have previous experience in running similar centers, current knowledge of developments in special education, and have served in a senior administrative position. The director must be willing to work in a multi-cultural setting and will be involved in the development of the overall program, staff training and recruitment, fund-raising, and legislative activities. The ability to speak Arabic is not required. Salary, housing, and benefits are negotiable. For more information, contact Nawal Al-Hadad, MSOT, OTR, Assistant Director, Shafallah Center for Children with Special Needs, PO Box 4251, Doha, Qatar; (974) 674-256 (telephone); (974) 674-251 (fax).

APA Office of International Affairs Is Now on the WEB: The APA Office of International Affairs launched its new website in March, 2000. The site includes information about the Office's programs and the APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology, electronic editions of *Psychology International*, an expanded international meetings and conferences calendar, and e-mail and web links to national psychological organizations and international societies worldwide. Visit the Office on the web at http://www.apa.org/international (homepage).

Reduced Registration Is Still Available for 2nd International Congress on Licensure: The Second International Congress on Licensure, Certification, and Credentialing of Psychologists will take place in Oslo Norway, July 19–20, 2000. The themes of the Congress include education and training, testing issues, ethical standards, emerging issues, and licensing and regulation around the world. Go to http://www.psykol.no for more information, including a copy of the final announcement, and to register at the lower fee by **May 1, 2000.**

Wisconsin Institute Requests Journal Submissions: The Wisconsin Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies has extended the submission deadline for its 2000-2001 annual journal to May 15, 2000. Manuscripts for the Institute's *Journal for the Study of Peace and Conflict* may be sent to Sharon Roberts, The Wisconsin Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, UWSP LRC, 900 Reserve Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481. Mail three copies or send as an attachment to wiinst@uwsp.edu (e-mail).

Calls for Papers

International Conference on Psychosocial Research in Romania Seeks Presentations: The McDonnell Program for Psychology in Romania and the Department of Psychology of Babes-Bolyai University invite proposals for scholarly presentations at an international, interdisciplinary conference to take place at Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, June 23–27, 2000. This conference, entitled "Stressful Changes: Psychosocial Aspects of Post-Communist Transformations," will address issues related to how mental health and psychosocial adjustments have been affected by socio-political changes in formerly communist countries. Presentations may be in the form of either posters or 30-minute lectures and should be in English. A special session will be held for student presentations. Deadline for submission is **April 30, 2000**. For more information contact: David Manier, PhD, Adjunct Professor, Room 153, Department of Psychology, New York University, Washington Place, New York, NY 10003; dmanier@aol.com (e-mail).

Society for Gestalt Theory Invites Participation in Conference on Creativity: The Society for Gestalt Theory and its Applications (GTA) will hold its 12th Scientific Meeting in Darmstadt, Germany, March 8–11, 2001. The organizers welcome submissions from all scientific disciplines that contribute to the development of Gestalt theory and discuss theories, implementations, or problems regarding the general topic of the conference entitled "Creativity: Conditions–Space for Development–Paths to Future." Presentations may be in the form of research in progress discussions, paper sessions, seminars, workshops, and posters. The deadline for submissions is **May 30, 2000.** For information, contact the Organizing Committee in care of: Prof. Dr. Gisela Kubon-Gilke, EFH Darmstadt, Zweifalltorweg 12, D-64293 Darmstadt, Germany; 49-6151-879858 (fax); gisela.kubon.gilke@t-online.de (e-mail).

Journal Issue on Medical Psychology Around the World Seeks Manuscripts: The *Journal of Clinical Psychology in Medical Settings* will devote a forthcoming special issue to the topic of "Medical Psychology around the World." The guest editor, Danny Wedding, is currently soliciting manuscripts from international psychologists working in medical schools and other medical settings. All authors will be asked to follow a detailed, structured outline, and they must be able to submit the final draft of their manuscript no later than **July 1, 2000**. A model paper describing the state of medical psychology in Thailand will be available for review and guidance. Self-nomination is encouraged. Questions and nominations of potential authors should be sent (via e-mail if possible) to: Danny Wedding, PhD, MPH, Missouri Institute of Mental Health, 5400 Arsenal Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63139; (314) 644-8820 (telephone); weddingd@mimh.edu (e-mail).

Continued on Page 10

Snapshots, From Page 9

Grants and Awards

The Fullbright Scholar Program Opens Competition for 2001-2002 Awards: The Fulbright Scholar Program offers opportunities for lecturing or advanced research in nearly 130 countries to college and university faculty and professionals outside academe in all disciplines and professional fields. Foreign language skills are needed in some countries, but most lecturing assignments are in English. Application deadlines are***:*** **May 1, 2000,** for distinguished Fulbright chairs in Europe, Canada, and Russia; **August 1, 2000,** for lecturing and research grants worldwide; and **November 1, 2000,** for spring/summer seminars, international education and academic administrators, and the German studies seminar. For more information contact: Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES), 3007 Tilden Street, NW, Suite 5L, Washington, DC 20008-3009; 202-686-7877 (telephone); apprequest@cies.iie.org (e-mail); http://www.cies.org (website).

IREX Announces Short-term Travel Grants: Grants for scholarly projects focusing on Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, and Mongolia, are available from the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX). Projects should demonstrate academic merit as well as a positive impact on public, cultural, and historical knowledge of these regions through dissemination of research results. Application deadlines are **June 1, 2000**. Funding is very limited; please contact IREX regarding eligibility before submitting an application at irex@irex.org (e-mail).

APA Division 13 Sponsors Two International Awards: The RHR Award for Excellence in Consultation is presented by APA's Division of Consulting Psychology (13) to a member of the American Psychological Association whose career achievements reflect outstanding service to organizations, public or private, by helping them respond more effectively to human needs. The honor includes a $1,500 check. The RHR International Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award is presented annually to a doctoral student or recent doctoral graduate in psychology. This award recognizes exemplary research that contributes to the theory and practice of consulting psychology. Nominations for either award should be postmarked by **June 20, 2000**. Contact: John E. Deleray, PhD, Chair, Awards Committee Division of Consulting Psychology, 16801 Addison Road, Suite 225, Addison, TX, 75001, USA; 972-713-7587 (telephone).

AAAS Seeks Nominations for International Scientific Cooperation Award: The American Association for the Advancement of Science seeks to recognize an individual or small group working together in the scientific or engineering community for making outstanding contributions to furthering international cooperation in science or engineering. The award is open to all regardless of nationality or citizenship. In addition to the ISC award, the AAAS presents a number of other awards and prizes each year. All nomination materials must be received by **August 1, 1999.** For additional information concerning any AAAS award, contact: AAAS Office of Development, 1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005; 212-326-6659 (telephone); 202-289-4958 (fax); http://www.aaas.org/international (website).

International Foundation Accepts Competitive Grant Proposals: The Johann Jacobs Foundation (JJF), which supports young researchers from developing countries in the field of adolescence and youth related issues, accepts grant proposals for empirical research investigations either in conjunction with dissertation projects or as independent projects. Funds up to $5000 are available for **Dissertation Grants** to pre-doctoral students whose dissertation proposal has the approval of a dissertation mentor or committee. **Young Investigator Grants** are aimed at postdoctoral investigators who are initiating their own research in the field of adolescence and youth. Funds are available up to a maximum of $10,000. Contact the Johann Jacobs Foundation, Administrative Assistant, Seefeldquai 17, P.O. Box 101, CH-8034 Zurich, Switzerland. (+41) 1-388-6123 (telephone); (+41) 1-388-6153 (fax).

Summer Institutes

Adlerian Summer Institute is Accepting Applications: The 33rd Annual Rudolf Dreikurs Summer Institute will meet at the Lyceum Alpinium, in Zuoz, near St. Moritz in Switzerland. The International Committee for Adlerian Summer Schools and Institutes (ICASSI) was founded by Rudolf Dreikurs because of his continuing and ongoing dedication to the task of spreading the teachings of Alfred Adler, not only as a method of psychological treatment, but as a philosophy of life. Participants in the ICASSI program choose from a wide range of courses covering Adlerian theory and techniques, with applications to schools, families, the community, and the workplace. For parents wishing to bring their families there are courses for teenagers and a children's program under the supervision of multi-lingual and multi-cultural leaders. Register before **May 30, 2000**, by contacting Betty Haeussler, 9212 Morley Road, Lanham, MD 20706, USA; 301-595-0669 (fax); PeteHMSU64@aol.com (e-mail); icassi@btinternet.com (website).

Apply now for the 2001 Positive Psychology Summer Institute and Research Awards: The Summer Training Institute in Positive Psychology is seeking graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and first-year and second-year assistant professors in psychology or other social sciences to apply for grants to conduct pilot research in the 2000-2001 academic year. In August 2001, selected applicants will participate in a 10-day summer training institute, all expenses paid, to present their research and interact with other attendees and program faculty. The summer institute and accompanying research awards are sponsored by the Positive Psychology Network at the University of Pennsylvania. The deadline for application is **June 16, 2000.** Application forms and additional information about the institute may be obtained from the Positive Psychology website, http://psych.upenn.edu/seligman/ppsmrinfo.htm or by contacting Carrissa Griffing at griffing@cattell.psych.upenn.edu (e-mail).

International Meetings 2000 Calendar

May 15–19, 2000
3rd International Symposium on Psychiatry and Clinical Psychology Havana, Cuba. Contact: CIMEQ,Calle 216 y 11 B Rpto.,Siboney, Playa Aptdo. 6096, La Habana, Cuba. (53-7) 216087 (telephone); (53-7) 339086 (fax); bcimeq@infomed.sld.cu (e-mail).

May 16–19, 2000
7th Annual Conference of the International Emergency Management Society Orlando, Florida. Contact: http://www.tiems.org/ (website).

May 18–20, 2000
International Symposium on the Contributions of Neuropsychology to the Diagnosis of Mental Illness Madrid, Spain. Contact: Centro LECER, C/ Cerro del Castanar, 25, 28034, Madrid, Spain. 91 394 3110 (telephone).

May 19–21, 2000
World Congress on Psychomotor Education and Therapy Strasbourg, France. Contact: Congress Secretariat, FFP/5, rue Copernic, F-75116, Paris, France 01 45 12 77 (telephone); congress@psychomotricite.com (e-mail).

May 23–26, 2000
30th Annual Information Exchange on "What is New in Organization Development and Human Resource Development" Kaneohe, Hawaii, USA. Contact: The Organization Development Institute, 11234 Walnut Ridge Road, Chesterland, Ohio 44026, USA. 440-729-7419 (telephone); DonWCole@aol.com (e-mail); http://www.members.aol.com/odinst (website).

May 31–June 4, 2000
7th Biennial European Conference on Psychological Research on Adolescence Jena, Germany. Contact: European Association for Research on Adolescence (EARA) c/o Eva Schmitt-Rodermund, PhD, 49-3641-945207 (telephone); rvs@rz.uni-jena.de (e-mail); http://www.uni-jena.de/svw/devpsy/kongresse/eara.html (website).

June 12–14, 2000
International Conference on Psychology: "Psychology After the Year 2000" Haifa, Israel. Contact: c/o Comtec, PO Box 68, Tel-Aviv 61000, Israel. 972-3-5666166 (telephone); 972-3-5666177 (fax); conferen@psy.haifa.ac.il (e-mail); http://psy.haifa.ac.il/confrence (website).

June 18–19, 2000
23rd European Conference on Psychosomatic Research (ECPR) Oslo, Norway. Website: http://www.ecpr2000.com (website).

June 20–24, 2000
International Congress of Cognitive Psychotherapy: Cognitive Psychotherapy Toward a New Millennium Catania, Italy. Contact: Prof. Tullio Scrimali, MD, c/o Instituto di Clinica Psichiatrica, Viale A. Doria, N.6, 95125, Catania, Italy. 39 095 256798 (telephone); 39 095 336999 (fax); tscrima@tin.it (e-mail); http://www.issco.net/iacpcongress2000 (website).

June 22–25, 2000
Annual Meeting of CHEIRON–The International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences Gorham, Maine, USA. Contact: Dr. Benjamin Harris, Department of Psychology, University of Wisconsin–Parkside, Kenosha, Wisconsin 53141, USA. 262-595-2112 (telephone); 262-595-2602 (fax); benjamin.harris@uwp.edu (e-mail); http://www.yorku.ca/dept/psych/orgs/cheiron/cheiron.htm (website).

June 27–July 2, 2000
International Conference on Personal Relationships 2000 (ICPR2000) Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. Contact: Sally Brown, Conference Connections, PO Box 108, Kenmore, Brisbane QLD 4069, Australia. 61-7-3201-2808 (telephone); 61-7-3201-2809 (fax); sally.brown.uq.net.au (e-mail).

July 1–4, 2000
23rd Annual Meeting of the International Society for Political Psychology Seattle, Washington. Contact: Denis Snook, Conference Chair, 27777 Snyder Road, Junction City, Oregon, 97448, USA. 541-688-8754 (telephone); 541-607-8889 (fax); ispp2000@aol.com (e-mail); http://ispp.org/ISPP/meet.html (website).

July 9–14, 2000
6th International Conference on Grief and Bereavement Jerusalem, Israel. Contact: Peltours–Te'um Congress Organizers, POB 52047, Jerusalem 91520, Israel. 972-2-648-1245 (telephone); 972-2-648-1305 (fax); teumcong@netmedia.net.il (e-mail); http://www.teumcong.co.il (website).

July 12–14, 2000
International Conference on Attachment in Infancy and Early Childhood Munich, Germany. Contact: K.H. Brisch, MD, University of Ulm, Frauensteige 14a, D-89075, Ulm, Germany. 49-(0)731-50-27798/26558 (telephone); 49-(0)731-50-26690 (fax); kalle.brisch@medzin.uni-ulm.de (e-mail).

July 12–16, 2000
25th Annual Convention of Economic Psychology (Joint IAREP/SABE Conference) Vienna (Baden), Austria. Contact: IAREP/SABE 2000, Erich Kirchler, University of Vienna, Department of Psychology, Universiatetsstrasse 7, A-1010 Vienna, Austria. 43-1-4277-47880 (telephone); 43-1-4277-47889 (fax); iarep-sabe2000.psychologie@univie.ac.at (e-mail); http://www.univie.ac.at/iarep-sabe2000 (website).

July 13–17, 2000
23rd Annual Colloquium, International School Psychology Association: "School Psychology Around the World: Many Languages, One Voice for Children" Durham, New Hampshire. Contact: Peter Whelley, PO Box 500, Moultonborough, New Hampshire 03254. Ptw@moultonborough.k12.nh.us (e-mail); http://www.nhaspweb.web (website).

July 13–16, 2000
International Conference on Personal Meaning: "Searching for Meaning in the New Millennium" Vancouver, BC, Canada. Contact: Contact: International Network on Personal Meaning (INPM), c/o Paul T.P. Wong, Trinity Western University, Langley, BC, V2Y 1Y1, Canada. 604-513-2034 (telephone); 604-513-2010 (fax); wong@twu.ca (e-mail); http://www.meaining.twu.ca/ (website).

Continued on Page 12

An extensive list of international meetings can be found in the *International Journal of Psychology*, available at many libraries, or at http://www.iupsys.org (IUPsyS Home Page). In addition, your reference librarian should be able to help direct you to other specialized meetings.

International Meetings Calendar, From Page 11

July 16–20, 2000
10th European Conference on Personality Cracow, Poland. Contact: Conference Organizing Committee, Warsaw School of Advanced Social Psychology, Ul. Podlesna 61, Warsaw, 01-673, Poland. ECP10@atos.psychpan.waw.pl (e-mail); http://www.ecop.union.pl/ (website).

July 16–21, 2000
XV International Congress of International Association of Cross-Cultural Psychology: "Cultures and Psychology in 2000" Pultusk, Poland. Contact: Pawel Boski, Institute of Psychology, Polish Academy of Sciences, 01-673 Warsaw/UL, Podlensa 61, Poland. 48-22 6692265 (telephone); 48-22 8340907 (fax); IACCPXV@psychpan.waw.pl (e-mail); http://members.tripod.com/Pawel_Boski/IACCP2000.html (website).

July 16–21, 2000
First Annual Couples Therapy Training Workshop Greek Islands, Greece. Contact: Rita Resnik, PhD, Gestalt Associates Training Los Angeles, 1460 7th Street, #300, Santa Monica, CA 90401. 310-395-6844 (telephone); 310-319-1633 (fax); SweetRita@aol.com (e-mail); http://www.gatla.org (website).

July 17-21, 2000
58th Annual Convention of the International Council of Psychologists Padua, Italy. Contact: Anna Laura Comunian, International Cross-Cultural Psychology Laboratory, Department of Psychology, University of Padua, via Venezia, 8 35134 Padua, Italy. 390-49-8276629 (telephone); 390-49-8276600 (fax); comunian@pscio.unipd.it (e-mail); http://www.unipd.it/ammi/news/ICP.html (website).

July 18–2000
2nd International Congress of Licensure, Certification, and Credentialing of Psychologists Oslo, Norway. Contact: Norwegian Psychological Association, PO 8733 Youngstorget, N-0028, Oslo, Norway. 47-22-424292 (fax); npfpost@psykol.no (e-mail).

July 19–21, 2000
10th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for Comparative Psychology Warsaw, Poland. Contact: Wojciech Pisula, Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Psychology. wojtek@sci.psych.uw.edu.pl (e-mail).

July 20–22, 2000
21st International Conference of the Stress and Anxiety Research Society (STAR) Bratislava, Slovak Republic. Contact: Ivan Sirmany-Schuller, Institute of Experimental Psychology, Dubravska 9, SK-81364, Bratislava, Slovakia. 421-7-594-13-229 (telephone); 421-7-547-75-584 (fax); expssarm@savba.sk (e-mail); http://www.psych.uw.edu.pl/STAR99/ (website).

July 23–28, 2000
XXVII International Congress of Psychology Stockholm, Sweden. Contact: 27th International Congress of Psychology, Box 6911, S-102 39 Stockholm, Sweden. 46-8-736-15 00 (telephone); 46-8-34-84-41 (fax); icp2000@stocon.se (e-mail); http://www.icp2000.se (website).

July 23–August 5, 2000
33rd International Rudolf Dreikurs Summer Institute Zuoz, Switzerland. Contact:International Committee for Adlerian Summer Schools (ICASSI) Contact: icassi@btinternet.com or PeteHMSU@aol.com (e-mail); http://www.icassi.org (website).

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Rettigove 4, 110 00 Praha 1, Czech Republic

September 16-19
International Symposium on Emotion, Creativity, and Art. Perm, Russia. Contact: Leonid Dorfman, Perm State Institute of Arts and Culture, 18 Gazeta "Zveda" Str., Perm 61400, Russia. Telephone: 7 3422 630705; E-Mail: dorf@artpsy.perm.su