

2005 Annual Report of the Public Interest Directorate

The Public Interest Directorate (PI) continues to support and promote efforts to apply the science and profession of psychology to the advancement of human welfare. Additional information about the Public Interest Directorate and its initiatives can be obtained from the PI Web site: <http://www.apa.org/pi>. The following is a summary of the major initiatives launched in the various offices and programs of the Public Interest Directorate.

ACT (Adults and Children Together) Against Violence Program

The third radio campaign was developed and distributed by the Advertising Council to stations nationwide in July. Twenty two current ACT Coordinators attended the 1st ACT seminar in March; 27 new ACT Coordinators were trained in April at the 5th ACT Annual workshop. The ACT Parent 8-week program was created; new materials in English and Spanish were developed and pilot tested in the fall. A Web seminar was conducted in November.

Children, Youth, and Families Office

The Children, Youth, and Families Office supported the work of the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families, the Working Group on Psychoactive Medications for Children and Adolescents and the Planning Committee for an Interdisciplinary Conference on Family School Relations. The office served as an information resource to APA members and the public, developed and disseminated reports and other written materials on professional and consumer issues and promoted the application of psychological knowledge to address public policy issues affecting children, youth, and families.

Disability Issues in Psychology Office

The Disability Issues in Psychology Office continued to oversee the *Toolbox Project* in 2005. The goal of the *Toolbox Project* is to develop evidence-based information and resources identifying the major barriers to training by students with disabilities and how those barriers can be addressed. The project seeks to increase the capacity of educators and directors of training by providing resources that will increase and enhance learning opportunities for students with disabilities.

Executive Office

The Public Interest Directorate Executive Office staff continues to provide staff support to the public interest oversight board, the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI). At its Fall 2005 meeting, BAPPI reiterated its commitment to addressing issues diversity within APA governance and staffing and supporting the implementation of the APA Multicultural Guidelines. BAPPI and the Public Interest Directorate bid farewell to retiring Executive Director Henry Tomes, PhD after 13 years of dedicated service. BAPPI is pleased to welcome Gwendolyn P. Keita, PhD as the incoming Executive Director of the Public Interest Directorate and looks forward to working with her in 2006 and beyond.

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns Office

The Healthy, Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Students Project (HLGBSP) partnered with state and local education agencies to present workshops for school counselors, nurses, psychologists, and social workers. Application was made for a \$1,750,000, 5-year cooperative agreement with CDC to expand the work of the HLGBSP.

The Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns Office supported an international network of psychological associations as recommended in the final report of the 2001 meeting: “Sexual Orientation and Mental Health.”

Minority Fellowship Program

The Minority Fellowship Program supported over 100 Fellows across the disciplines of psychology and neuroscience in 2005. The program hosted poster sessions, symposia, and networking events at the APA Convention and SfN Annual Meeting, and it sponsored its third Psychology Summer Institute. The MFP is supported by training grants from the National Institute of Mental Health (with additional support from NIDA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Office on Aging

The Office on Aging worked to promote the inclusion of mental health issues at the 2005 *White House Conference on Aging*. “Improve recognition, assessment, and treatment of mental illness and depression among older Americans” was the 8th ranked resolution, and “attain adequate numbers of health care personnel who are skilled, culturally competent and specialized in geriatrics” ranked 9th. *Assessment of Older Adults with Diminished Capacity: A Handbook for Lawyers* was published.

Office on AIDS

In August 2005, the APA Office on AIDS and its collaborator, eNursing IIc, was informed by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) that the Phase II funding proposal to develop an internet-based program to educate psychologists about end-of-life issues had been favorably reviewed. In April of 2005, the APA Office on AIDS received a second, one-year

subcontract for \$164,000.00 from ETR Associates, Inc to provided HIV-related technical assistance to community-based organizations (CBOs) serving African-Americans in the western region of the US.

Office on Ethnic Minority Affairs

During 2005 the APA Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs (OEMA) provided staff support to the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs, the Council of National Psychological Associations for the Advancement of Ethnic Minority Issues, the Commission on Ethnic Minority Recruitment, Retention and Training Task Force, (CEMRRAT2) and its Textbook Initiative Work Group, and President Levant's Task Force on Enhancing Diversity. OEMA also administered several programs including: (a) the CEMRRAT implementation grants, (b) the \$1.6 million APA/NIGMS Project, and (c) the Psychology in Ethnic Minority Serving Institutions (PEMSI) Initiative.

Public Interest Policy Office

The Public Interest Policy Office(PIPPO) sponsored congressional briefings to focus on psychological issues across the lifespan -- from the mental health of ethnic minority children facing trauma and disaster to the mental health of older adults.

PIPPO also contributed to the drafting of federal legislation and regulation in such critical areas as Head Start, individuals with disabilities education, media violence, health disparities, welfare reform, violence against women, HIV/AIDS, hate crime prevention, and lifespan respite care.

Women's Programs Office

WPO provided staff support for the Committee on Women in Psychology; Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls; Task Force on Socioeconomic Status; Task Force on Workplace Violence; Task Force on Urban Psychology; and, with Practice Directorate staff, the Working Group to Develop Guidelines for Working with Boys and Men. WPO finalized planning for the

March 2006 Work, Stress, and Health conference. Publications included revisions of Graduate Faculty Interested in the Psychology of Women and the Financial Aid Directory, and the monthly e-newsletter, Women's Psych-E.