Applying Psychological Science, Benefiting Society
Fulfilling APA’s commitment to apply the science and practice of psychology to the fundamental problems of human welfare and social justice and the promotion of equitable and just treatment of all segments of society through education, training, and public policy.

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This report, including links to additional information about our activities, is available online at www.apa.org/pi.

COVER: APA’s Office on Socioeconomic Status organized APA staff participation in the March on Washington at the National Mall, Washington, DC, August 28, 2013, the 50th anniversary of the original March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963. TOP LEFT: Gwendolyn P. Keita, PhD, Executive Director, Public Interest Directorate. TOP CENTER: At the Lincoln Memorial, President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, and former presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton greet marchers. TOP RIGHT (from left): APA staff members Ashley Johnson and Donella Graham; APA member Meg A. Bond, PhD; and APA staff member Tanya Burwell. (Most photos courtesy of Tanya Burwell)
I decided to become a psychologist after taking a psychology class in high school. I was particularly excited to read about the social psychological research, especially on changing racial attitudes.

I grew up in the segregated South in the early 1960s. In those studies on attitude change, I saw a means of changing racist attitudes and behaviors, defeating racism, and establishing true equality for all. I saw hope. This was particularly important as, night after night, we tuned into the news to see hate and violence directed at Black students and White and Black protestors. Real social change, real economic change—these seemed possible, and psychology could contribute in a meaningful way.

As I wrote in “Economic Inequality and the March on Washington” in the November 2013 issue of the APA Monitor on Psychology (www.apa.org/monitor/2013/11/itpi.aspx), we still have work to do. But I continue to look at psychology, and particularly at the work of the Public Interest Directorate, with pride and a sense of what is possible. It is with great pleasure that I share in this brief report some of what we have achieved over the past year. I believe all psychologists, regardless of education, training, or professional area, can be public interest psychologists—I invite you to join us!

In 2013 I was also pleased and gratified to welcome senior staff members David J. Martin, PhD, ABPP, the new senior director of the Office on AIDS, and Judith M. Glassgold, PsyD, the new associate executive director of the Public Interest Government Relations Office and director of Congressional Fellowship. In the short time they have been part of the Public Interest team, it is clear both bring that “Public Interest” commitment to making a difference. I greatly look forward to continuing to work with them.

These pages offer a few highlights only; if you are interested in learning more, please visit, subscribe, follow, like, and share! I personally welcome your questions, input, and ideas. Please feel free to contact me or any one of us for more information, and thanks.

- Visit www.apa.org/pi and office websites
- Subscribe to our newsletter, In the Public Interest—“opt in” at MyAPA (https://my.apa.org)
- Subscribe to the PI blog, Psychology Benefits Society, at http://psychologybenefits.org
- Follow me on Twitter: @DrGwenPKeita

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Promoting Health and Reducing Health Disparities

Funded by a 5-year, $1 million cooperative agreement with the CDC, the LGBT Office launched the Safe and Supportive Schools Project to develop evidence-supported resources for school psychologists and other personnel to implement interventions to improve school climate and health outcomes for LGBT youth.

In May, PI’s Work, Stress, and Health Office, NIOSH, and SOHP convened the 10th international conference—Protecting and Promoting Total Worker Health™—with over 770 participants from 39 countries in attendance.

Office on AIDS Senior Director David Martin, PhD, with COPA and the American Academy of HIV Medicine, edited a special issue of the HIV Specialist highlighting psychological and mental health issues confronting people with HIV/AIDS and the important roles psychology can play in education, prevention, and treatment.

APA’s Health Disparities Strategic Initiative secured $294,900 over 3 years from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to create the APA Best Practices Dissemination Network and an accompanying app focusing on cessation and prevention of tobacco use in health priority populations.

The Office on AIDS and COPA are working with Black Entertainment Television to identify the HIV/AIDS issues most important to teens.

The Office on Aging, with the Administration on Aging and SAMHSA, sponsored a webinar for 800 workers in the areas of aging and health services.

In conjunction with National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week, the Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) Office coordinated APA’s participation in the Speak Up for Kids Campaign in May.

The Office on Aging provided an updated Psychological Services in Long-Term Care Resource Guide to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes.

The CYF Office cosponsored the National Children’s Mental Health Summit on promoting children’s mental health and social/emotional well-being.

The new Ethnicity and Health in America Series, coordinated by the Office on Ethnic Minority Affairs, worked to raise public awareness of the health concerns of America’s people of color.

The ACT Raising Safe Kids Program is implemented in 18 states in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, Greece, Peru, Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador, Japan, and Palestine. ACT reached more than 2,000 parents and trained almost 500 mental health professionals.

Part of the Office on AIDS, the Behavioral and Social Science Volunteer Program provided training to 170 community-based organizations in 2013, and volunteer trainers in the HIV Office for Psychology Education Program conducted 40 training events that reached nearly 1,000 attendees.

The national Socioeconomic Status Related Cancer Disparities initiative, funded by the CDC, concluded its 5-year grant cycle in August, having trained over 500 professionals at 29 professional development training resource workshops for U.S. community-based cancer professionals.

Meade High School students from Fort Meade, MD, visiting APA’s headquarters to view the AIDS memorial quilt and learn about HIV/AIDS, psychology in the public interest, and careers in psychology, December 13, 2013.
Marking the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, the Office on Socioeconomic Status coordinated a social media campaign and organized a staff commemorative march to the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 2013.

The CYF Office, with Task Force on Immigration Chair Carola Suárez-Orozco, PhD, developed “Undocumented Americans,” a video featuring undocumented youth in America sharing their stories and struggles.

In March, Public Interest Communications launched the PI blog—Psychology Benefits Society— which received over 72,000 views by year’s end.

In July, Public Interest Communications produced the “Girls Talk: Sexualization of Girls” video. Views on YouTube topped 20,000 by the end of 2013.

In July, the Minority Fellowship Program hosted its 11th annual Psychology Summer Institute. Thirty-eight predoctoral, postdoctoral, and early career participants (including three grantees from the Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs’ ProDIGS program) received professional mentoring on their projects, career development training, and assistance with technical skills such as grant writing and publishing. They were also able to network with established ethnic minority psychologists and program officials from federal agencies and foundations.

In observance of the 2013 UN World Poverty Day, the Committee and Office on Socioeconomic Status coordinated a social media campaign to generate awareness of global poverty and the structural determinants of poverty.

One postdoctoral and 15 predoctoral psychology applicants were selected as new fellows from a pool of 193 applicants for the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Fellowship. Eight Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) alumni attended the 40th anniversary celebration of SAMHSA’s MFP.

The director of the Office on Disability Issues in Psychology presented on “Supporting Students With Disabilities: Building Inclusive, Sustainable Postsecondary Programs” at the 36th Annual AHEAD (Association on Higher Education and Disability) conference at the University of Delaware’s national conference on disability disclosure in higher education.

The LGBTC Office continued to build the capacity of the International Psychology Network for LGBTI Issues (IPsyNet) and its member psychological organizations.

The Office on Socioeconomic Status released its first research series installment, Examining the Structural Determinants of Poverty, an annotated bibliography, in August 2013.

The LGBTC Office co-led a roundtable discussion titled “Community Psychology and Human Rights: Exploring the Connections” at the Society for Community Research and Action’s 14th Biennial Conference and an open townhall meeting on psychology and human rights at APA’s 121st annual convention.

The Women’s Programs Office received a grant from the Nimick Forbesway Foundation to support production and dissemination of the task force report on the trafficking of women and girls.
The Office on Ethnic Minority Affairs secured funding from NIMH for a 3-year continuation of the Cyber Mentors program, a joint initiative with APA’s Office on AIDS designed to provide mentorship and training to early career psychologists, particularly psychologists of color, who conduct HIV and health disparities research in communities hardest hit by the AIDS epidemic.

APA’s Office on Aging and Office of Continuing Education (CE) developed an online CE offering based on Blueprint for Change: Achieving Integrated Health Care for an Aging Population to provide guidance on how psychologists can work with other health care professionals to ensure effective integrated health care.

The Recovery to Practice project team coordinated with 14 doctoral, internship, and postdoctoral programs to pilot a 15-module curriculum to integrate recovery-based principles with psychological practice. The final curriculum will be available in 2014.

The Office on Disability Issues in Psychology provided services to 86 attendees via the APA Resource Room at the APA convention (e.g., volunteers, accessible van transport, sign language interpreters, wheelchairs, canes, alternate format of the convention program). Nearly 60 volunteers assisted the staff.

The Office on Aging staffed the Working Group charged with updating the Guidelines for Psychological Practice With Older Adults, which were adopted by APA in August. The update reflects the growing body of evidence for effective psychological intervention with older adults.

With staff support from the Office on Ethnic Minority Affairs, the Commission on Ethnic Minority Recruitment, Retention, and Training in Psychology Task Force (CEMRRAT2) disbursed funds to 11 projects and 4 partnership development initiatives, funded through the CEMRRAT Implementation Grants Fund program.

The Office on Disability Issues in Psychology established a Student/Early Career Psychologists With Disabilities Advisory Group to inform the office on pertinent issues facing students with disabilities in psychology training programs.

The Children, Youth, and Families Office updated the Love Doesn’t Have to Hurt Teens brochure, which provides information and resources related to teen dating violence.

The Office on Disability Issues in Psychology revised the Enhancing Your Interactions With Members With Disabilities brochure.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns Office released Web-based information and resources for psychologists and the public on the topics of LGBT Health and LGBT Aging. A CE workshop—“APA Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Reponses to Sexual Orientation: Affirmative Practices”—was offered at the APA convention.

The Women’s Programs Office organized and hosted the 6th APA Leadership Institute for Women in Psychology, ensuring that women psychologists learn the necessary skills to take on leadership positions in the field. LIWP alumna now number almost 200.

New 2013–2014 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services fellows on a site visit at Kulana Hawai‘i, a behavioral health center, in Honolulu, August 2013.
In 2013, the Public Interest Government Relations Office advocated on behalf of psychology and our members on a wide array of issues:

- **Spearheaded efforts** concerning the Positive Aging Act of 2013 (S. 1119), a bill to make mental health an integral part of primary care services for older adults in their communities and other settings, including helping to secure the support of over 50 other national and state-level organizations.

- **Worked closely with the office of Sen. Patty Murray** (D-WA) on the successful introduction of the Children’s Recovery from Trauma Act (S. 380), the press release for which included a quote from APA CEO Norman Anderson, PhD.

- **Organized and hosted**, in collaboration with the National Disability Council (NCD), the National Association of Social Workers, and the Child Welfare League, a congressional briefing featuring APA member Erin Andrews, PsyD, on the recent NCD report on ensuring the rights of parents with disabilities.

- **Sent letters of support** during consideration of the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act (S. 744) urging the adoption of amendments to protect children and LGBT persons in immigration reform legislation.

- **Worked in support of successful passage** of the PEPFAR Stewardship and Oversight Act (S. 1545), which extends the president’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), a program that provides lifesaving treatment and medications for millions of individuals around the world living with HIV/AIDS.

- **Supported successful Senate passage** of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (S. 815) via a letter of support and timely mobilization of APA’s grassroots network around key votes in committee and on the Senate floor, resulting in nearly 1,000 constituent messages.

- **Sent APA’s recommendations for reauthorization** of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, produced in collaboration with APA’s Committee on Socioeconomic Status and Committee on Women in Psychology, to the chair and ranking members of the House Committee on Ways and Means and Subcommittee on Human Resources.

- **Engaged in effective advocacy** concerning the successful enactment of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-4); actions included letters of support to the House and Senate and mobilization of APA’s grassroots network to send nearly 500 messages to their Senate members.

- **Directed and administered** the APA Congressional Fellowship Program, which entered its 40th year. Both fellows followed up their fellowship year with policy-related employment or advocacy.
Like many people, I went into psychology because I wanted to make a difference. A diverse range of experiences over my career widened my perspective on the roles of psychology in public life while also expanding my research and training interests. My involvement in APA governance has been pivotal. Serving as BAPPI chair has given me close-up knowledge of the extensive and important work being done in the PI Directorate by dedicated volunteers and staff who work across research, training, education, and advocacy domains. The heart of the APA mission is to use psychology “to benefit society and improve people’s lives.” The goals are clear, but much work remains to be done. It has been a privilege to have played a small part in these efforts. I come away from this year invigorated and with profound appreciation for public interest psychology and the people and work that make a difference.

Allen M. Omoto, PhD
2013 Chair
Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest