

OEMA COMMUNIQUE



2006 CEMA Members
(l to r) Drs. Alvarez, Dass-Brailsford (Chair), Thomas, Cervantes, Manley, and Franklin

- GOAL I:** *Increase the numbers of ethnic minority psychologists in the profession, as well as in the membership and leadership of the Association, state psychological associations, and APA divisions, and promote activities that increase recruitment and retention of ethnic minorities in psychology.*
- GOAL II:** *Increase efforts to empower ethnic minority psychologists within the Association as well as increase the recognition of the contributions of ethnic minority psychologists inside and outside of the Association.*
- GOAL III:** *Increase the understanding of the need for scientific research on ethnicity and culture.*
- GOAL IV:** *Promote increased multicultural competence in psychology.*
- GOAL V:** *Promote the use of psychological knowledge for the recognition, prevention, and education of racism.*
- GOAL VI:** *Promote and monitor an effective legislative advocacy agenda addressing ethnic minority concerns and their public policy implications -- particularly, in the following domains: Managed care, welfare reform, immigration, anti-affirmative action initiatives, English-only legislation, bilingual education, re-authorization of the Indian Child Welfare Act, and increased ethnic minority training funds.*

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

2007 CEMA Projects/Initiatives of High Priority:

1. Develop a formal implementation plan for the *APA Resolution Requesting the Immediate Retirement of American Indian Mascots, Symbols, Images, and Personalities by Schools, Colleges, Universities, Athletic Teams, and Organizations*, that will include possible collaboration with the APA Committee on Legal Issues (see below), and the APA Office of Public and Member Communications regarding greater attention to and promotion of multicultural competence in APA's media and communications function.
 2. Pursue collaborative projects with the APA Committee on Legal Issues (COLI) and the APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP).
 - A. CIRP collaboration might focus on: (1) addressing psychology's/psychologists' role in the promotion of psychological issues related to human rights and social justice in areas such as Darfur and elsewhere in the world; (2) educating APA members about the processes and programs of the United Nations, and the potential role psychology/psychologists can play; and (3) developing strategic follow-up in support of the UN WCAR Declaration.
 - B. COLI collaboration might center on three important and timely issues: (1) Developing strategies that promote the multicultural competence of psychologists in legal settings; (2) the psycho-legal consequences of immigration on the health, mental health, and well-being of ethnic minority immigrant children, youth, and families; and (3) the civil rights implications of the APA Resolution Requesting the Immediate Retirement of American Indian Mascots, Symbols, Images, and Personalities by Schools, Colleges, Universities, Athletic Teams, and Organizations.
 3. Future Psychology Faculty Initiative
CEMA will continue to pursue the development of a proposal for the establishment of a task force on enhancing the next generation of psychology faculty. The proposed CEMA task force would be charged with shaping the vision for how psychology and/or APA will address the changing make-up of future psychology faculty and its diversity and multicultural competence.
 4. Multicultural Diversity Leadership Plan
 - A. CEMA will continue to promote/encourage the development of an APA Office of Diversity Enhancement as recommended by the 2005 APA Presidential Task Force on Enhancing Diversity report.
-

OEMA COMMUNIQUE

B. CEMA strongly supports the development of an independent resource such as a Cultural Ombudsman or mediator within the APA organizational structure. The ombudsman would be an independent resource who would serve as a facilitator or mediator in situations when there is a grievance or conflict rooted in competing interests of diverse groups

In 2006, CEMA members included three female and three male psychologists of whom two are Asian American/Pacific Islander, two are African American/Black, one is American Indian/Alaska Native, and one is Hispanic/Latino. Additionally, the Committee acknowledged its special obligation to ensure that various constituent groups as well as the diversity within these groups (e.g., nationality, tribe) are represented, and its charge to be sensitive to such concerns. The Committee provided new member orientation training where these and other issues of diversity are presented and discussed. CEMA members whose term ended in December 2006 were **Priscilla Dass-Brailsford, EdD** (2006 Chair) and **Alvin Alvarez, PhD**.

2007 CEMA members: **Lisa R. Thomas, PhD** (chairperson), **Art W. Blume, PhD**, **Karen Y. Chen, PhD**, **José M. Cervantes, PhD** (chairperson-elect), **Anderson J. Franklin, PhD**, and **Jennifer J. Manly, PhD**

The Show Must Go On: The OEMA Film Series

Dennis R. Bourne, Jr.
OEMA Program Officer

The OEMA Film Series was launched on Thursday, November 2, 2006. Each film presentation will include a screening of clips from feature films and documentaries highlighting issues of race and culture followed by candid group discussions on the topics raised. The series seeks to promote greater multicultural competence and understanding among APA staff.

The inaugural presentation featured *Crash*, a jarring portrayal of how lives and attitudes are affected by racism and stereotypes in American society. The movie won the 2006 Academy Award for Best Film. After a segmented showing of the film, a discussion was moderated by Bishetta Merritt, PhD, the Chair of Howard University's Radio, Television, and Film Department. Approximately 50 APA employees attended the presentation.