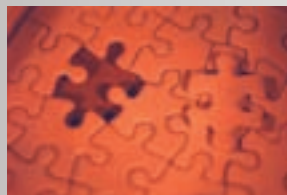


The Psychological Science Agenda



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APA Member Targeted by Congress Showcases Research on Capitol Hill

by Heather Kelly

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On June 26, APA's Science Government Relations Office brought in Hillary Anger Elfenbein (Haas School of Business, University of California at Berkeley) to present her National Science Foundation (NSF)-supported research on Capitol Hill. The event was the 13th annual Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) exhibit and reception for members of Congress and their staff, and APA chose Elfenbein as our exhibitor this year to showcase her stellar research on cross-cultural expressions and understanding of emotion. Elfenbein was one of nine scientists (including two psychologists) whose peer-reviewed, funded NSF research projects were targeted for "de-funding" by two Republicans in May as the House debated the NSF reauthorization bill. Thanks to strong advocacy from APA's Science Government Relations staff, APA members, and a host of other scientific organizations and individual scientists, both amendments were defeated on the House floor.

Before the reception, Elfenbein had a chance to thank Rep. Brian Baird (D-WA) personally for his support and management of the House floor debate from the Democratic majority. Baird, a psychologist and Chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee's Subcommittee on Research and



Hillary Anger Elfenbein with Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA).

Science Education, engineered a brilliant defense of peer review and the individual scientists involved. Elfenbein also met with staffers from her home district, represented by Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA), and she discussed her research with the Director of NSF (Arden Bement, PhD), the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health (Thomas Insel, MD) and a number of members of Congress who stopped by the exhibit, including Reps.: Lois Capps (D-CA), William Clay, Jr. (D-MO), Bob Etheridge (D-NC) and Patrick Kennedy (D-RI). ■

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

STEVEN BRECKLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR SCIENCE

Translational Psychology

Writing in the June, 2006 issue of the Monitor on Psychology, I suggested that psychology is translational science. Our discipline has always incorporated a flow of scientific discovery from bench to bedside. The basic research of psychology has long played a central role in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease. And beyond health-related matters, psychology enjoys fantastic translation in areas such as human factors, education, organizational behavior, decision-making, environmental design, and social influence.

I wrote that Monitor piece because of growing concern in the basic research community of psychology about the emerging priority of translational research at NIH. Rather than seeing this new priority as somehow representing a threat to psychology, we need to recognize that psychology is the model of translation.

Commenting in the February issue of the APS Observer, Peter Vernig also called our attention to the tradition and value of translational



research in psychology. Vernig was extolling the virtue of translational research in psychology, focusing especially on the value for students in clinical psychology to be involved in translational studies.

I would like to suggest that the discipline of psychology embrace translational research in a far more ambitious way. It is easy to find instances of basic research in psychology that has been translated into successful application and intervention. It may or may not be recognized as translational research,

but that's what it is. What is missing, I think, is an organized effort to celebrate psychology's success at translation – to recognize translational psychology as an important, valued, and proper sub-discipline of psychology.

A great example is the December 2006 *American Psychologist* article by Tashiro and Mortensen. These authors focused specifically on the conceptual and methodological challenges of translating social psychology to improve psychotherapy. Translational research is elevated from a side-benefit of an individual study to an organized and coherent effort in its own right.

It is not always obvious to the lay public, to federal funding agencies, to legislative leaders, or even to ourselves that psychology is translational science. We can address this by recognizing translational psychology in more formal ways. We could start, for example, by dedicating sections of our journals to translational research. Tashiro and Mortensen's article is an

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Announcing the 2007 APA Dissertation Research Awards

The Science Directorate of the American Psychological Association sponsors an annual competition for dissertation research funding. This award program assists science-oriented doctoral students of psychology with research costs by awarding 30-40 grants of \$1,000 each, and several larger grants of up to \$5,000. Awards are provided to students whose dissertation research clearly reflects excellence in scientific psychology.

Dissertation research in any area of psychology is eligible for the award, although not more than three applications per year may be forwarded by each psychology department. Eligible students must have had their dissertation proposals approved by their dissertation committees prior to the application deadline, but must not yet have received their doctoral degree. Award recipients will be listed in an upcoming issue of *Psychological Science Agenda*.

The deadline for Dissertation Research Award application packets to arrive at the Science Directorate is **September 14, 2007**. More information about this exciting opportunity can be found at: www.apa.org/science/dissinfo.html

Psychology Graduate Students Win Safety Award

by Stephanie Johnson

Congratulations to a team of psychology students from George Mason University who recently won a \$2500 prize from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-sponsored Airport Design Competition for Universities. This was the first year of this design competition. Its goal was to challenge students to focus on ways to improve the safety of the nation's airports through three challenge areas: Airport Operation and Maintenance, Runway Safety/Runway Incursions, and Airport Environmental Interactions.

FAA personnel and members of partnering organizations (American Association of Airport Executives, Airport Consultants Council, Airports Council International-North America and National Association of State Aviation Officials) served as resources to design teams. The George Mason team was able to beat out several other teams that consisted of graduate students in engineering programs.

Under the direction of Raja Parasuraman, professor of psychology at George Mason University, doctoral candidates Carl Smith and Peter Squire and master's students Jane



Peter N. Squire, Raja Parasuraman, Carl F. Smith (left to right) accept the FAA sponsored Airport Design Competition for Universities award at the 2007 Airport Executives annual meeting.

Barrow, Kevin Durkee and Jennifer Moore designed a system to reduce runway accidents and safety issues called "Runway Incursion Monitoring and Direct Alert System." This system utilizes digital wireless transmissions to send an audible alert to pilots and ground operators on the airfield to prevent accidents. They also performed a human factors evaluation to ensure that the technology

could be used effectively by pilots and other personnel. Peter Squire developed much of the technological implementation of the system while Carl Smith was instrumental in the design and management of the project.

On June 12, Carl Smith and Peter Squire presented the award-winning

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Early Researcher Award applications Due in September!

Graduate students should keep **September 14, 2007** in mind as the new academic year begins. It is the deadline date for submissions for the 2007 Early Researcher Awards. These awards, sponsored by the APA Science Student Council, recognize outstanding student researchers who are currently early in their graduate training (i.e., this should be recently completed research, within approximately twelve months preceding the submission deadline). The Council is unable to accept submissions from advanced graduate students for research completed earlier in their graduate training. Submissions for research in progress will also not be accepted.

Strong preference will be given to students who demonstrate outstanding research abilities earlier in their graduate training (i.e., up to and including master's thesis or equivalent), and who show a considerable level of independence in conducting their research.

Up to three awards will be given in 2007, drawn from basic science, applied science, and/or interdisciplinary science areas. **Each recipient will receive an award of \$1,000.**

If you have any questions, please send an email to the Science Directorate: science@apa.org (or telephone at 202-336-6000).

From the Science Student Council



The Science Student Council is a group of nine graduate students who spend a couple of weekends a year with the Science staff, advising us on programs and activities that would benefit graduate students in psychological science. This month, and every month for the next year or so, the students will present useful information that other graduate students need to know! Visit the Science Student Council page (www.apa.org/science/apasscweb.html) to learn more about the activities of the SSC.

Front row – Marcy Boynton, Suzi Dean, Kelly Dunn, Janet Tomiyama (chair). Second row – Paul Poteat, Jennifer Brielmaier, Camilla Hileman, Felix Thoemmes, and Marc Berman.

Getting the Most out of APA: APA Resources for Graduate Students in Psychological Science

by Kelly E. Dunn

The APA is committed to providing its members with a variety of resources specifically designed to foster a strong and worthwhile graduate and post-graduate experience. With such a large membership, identifying the array of student resources within the organization may seem challenging; this is especially true for science-oriented students, who may not be as interested in the clinical-practice resources that APA offers. In fact, APA provides multiple resources to advance the professional development of psychological scientists. There are several ways to take advantage of these opportunities.

Utilize the APA Science Student Council. The APA Science Student Council (SSC) is composed of nine science-oriented graduate students representing a broad range of psychological science disciplines. The council works with the APA Science Directorate to provide a variety of resources specifically for science-oriented students. These resources include convention programs to advance graduate student scientific research, important resource guides for student researchers (e.g., NRSA funding tips, information on peer

reviewing) and a science-student listserv. In addition, the SSC also chooses the recipients of the Early Researcher Awards, annual awards that provide funding to graduate students who are in the beginning stages of their scientific career and are conducting important scientific research. You can email the SSC directly at scistudent@apa.org or visit us on the web at www.apa.org/science/apasscweb.html

Join a division. There are currently fifty-six divisions within APA, each one representing a distinct domain within the discipline. Divisions generally represent and provide concentrated attention to more specific interest areas within psychology than APA as a whole, thereby providing a more personalized learning experience. In addition, many sponsor specific and exclusive activities, such as listservs or independent meetings. This provides an opportunity to foster research collaborations and identify potential areas of employment within a specific field. Above all, joining a division is a great way to connect with a network of individuals sharing similar research interests. www.apa.org/about/division.html

Become an advocate. APA recognizes

the necessity of and strongly promotes continuous scientific research and lobbies hard for federal funds to be allocated for the advancement of psychological science. While the status of federal funding may seem distant and inconsequential to students when completing a thesis, the reality is that APA's constant vigilance in this area is a benefit to all scientific endeavors. For those interested in pursuing a position in academic research, a complete understanding of federal funding issues is essential. A great way to become familiar with this topic is by subscribing to the free online newsletter *Science Policy Insider News* (SPIN). This bulletin provides updates on federal funding issues most likely to influence scientific research initiatives, along with pro-active strategies by which to manage funding outcomes. www.apa.org/ppo/spin

Take advantage of the APA Science Directorate. The APA Science Directorate has compiled a number of resources for science-oriented students. These opportunities include convention travel and dissertation research awards for students conducting significant and progressive scientific research. The Science

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Congressional Briefing on Co-Occurring Substance Use and Mental Illness

By Anne Bettsworth

On June 27, 23 scientific and professional organizations of the Friends of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) sponsored the eighth in a series of educational briefings on Capitol Hill. Organized by APA Science Government Relations staff, the briefing, titled “Double Jeopardy: When Addiction and Mental Illness Coexist,” drew a standing-room-only crowd of nearly 200 people, including staff from 60 different House and Senate offices.

The event received tremendous support from the mental health community on Capitol Hill, evident by the endorsement and co-sponsorship of three relevant congressional caucuses: the Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus, the Mental Health Caucus, and the newly-formed Drug Policy Caucus. Congresswoman Grace Napolitano (D-CA), co-chair of the Mental Health Caucus, spoke about her strong commitment to improving the lives of those struggling with mental disorders.

The focus of the briefing was co-occurring mental disorders and substance use, and that research increasingly supports studying and treating co-occurring disorders together, with both medication and behavioral therapies. Estimates show that as many as six out of ten people who have substance use disorders also suffer from mental illness. Researchers in the health care community are looking closely at the following three scenarios: that substance use disorders can cause a mental illness; that mental illness can lead to substance use disorders; and that substance use and mental disorders are caused by other common risk factors. Genetic vulnerabilities and environmental causes are both risk factors that predispose or trigger mental illness and drug abuse. Each set of disorders



Patrick Flynn, Nora Volkow, William Dewey, Brittany Calomeris, Basil Calomeris

may involve similar brain regions and developmental alterations.

Nora Volkow, Director of NIDA, began with a presentation on the Institute’s work in this crucial area. She noted that although researchers have not conclusively found causation between drug abuse and mental illness, across the line there is a significant association between the two diseases. Volkow emphasized that it has been found that people who suffer from mental disorders are significantly more at risk of suffering injuries or dying from drug-related incidents. For example, people with depression are 40 percent more likely to develop lung cancer than the average person, while schizophrenics are at double the risk. In addition, 60 percent of deaths of those with co-morbid disorders occur due to poisoning when attempting to self-medicate.

Following Volkow was a presentation by Patrick Flynn, Professor of Psychology and Deputy Director of the Institute of Behavioral Research at Texas Christian University. He

described the two distinct treatment systems for co-occurring substance use and mental disorders. Flynn suggested that the health care system should provide integrated treatment for both drug abuse and mental illness so that both conditions receive necessary attention and support. He spoke of developing a treatment plan which is long-term, accessible, and uses funding from both populations of the psychiatric patient community – those who are drug dependent and those who are mentally ill. Flynn additionally noted that the community must ensure that treatment centers are available in all communities, especially rural areas, and not solely in areas with large universities, which is where coverage is now primarily based.

The final speakers were Brittany and Basil Calomeris, who shared the story of their family’s personal struggle with a co-occurring disorder and the arduous journey to treatment. ■

Applying Psychological Science: Science, Politics, and Money

By Eric Lang

My initial interest in applied psychological science is easy to pinpoint—it began in sub-Saharan Africa in 1989.

As background, I had recently graduated from the University of Michigan with a PhD in Social Psychology (1988) and accepted a position with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) working primarily on health and education research projects. In 1989 the Senior Scientist at AIR, who had outlined a method for assessing the potential of small communities to adopt new health care initiatives, asked me to join him on a trip to Botswana and Lesotho, and then to take over the project when he retired a few months later. Because the opportunity seemed like a paid research adventure with an expert mentor, it took some will power to pause for what I hoped would appear as a moment of mature consideration before I eagerly agreed.

I was fascinated with the Africa project because it required applying social science to an important human problem: developing science-based procedures to help government health officials allocate scarce resources to villages that would best utilize them.

What I came to realize was that the basic science I learned in graduate school was necessary but not sufficient for the Africa project to succeed. A science based approach to a real world problem requires dealing with an inextricable braid—science, politics and money. You can print important science-based recommendations on a shirt but, aside from a few people noticing, all you'll accomplish is warming your own heart. **To effectively influence change, science must be combined with expertise in securing resources, and negotiating the concerns of key stakeholders and institutions.**

My interests and applied science skills were nurtured further through work at Sociometrics Corporation (1991-2000) where, as a Principal Research Scientist, I won several National Institutes of Health grants to create research and teaching resources for use by universities, private sector scientists and government agencies. In essence,



Eric Lang

the work was an opportunity for me to better understand and meet the needs of social science consumers—from basic researchers and teachers, through program and policy developers. In addition, I developed a deeper appreciation for two things (1) that social scientists need tools designed by someone with equal expertise in basic and applied science, and (2) that creativity and problem solving are personally satisfying, whether they are employed to facilitate the work of scientists or to author science directly.

Currently, I am a Program Manager at the Defense Personnel Security Research Center (PERSEREC), where I have worked since 2000. PERSEREC conducts basic and applied studies to improve federal personnel security clearance systems. The applied work

focuses on assessments, pilot tests, and recommendations to make clearance policies and operations more effective, efficient and fair. Here are some examples of applied psychology issues that I and others at PERSEREC have helped to address:

- When do automated decision rules perform as well as human judgment for adjudicating the results of security clearance background investigations?
- What behavioral indicators are associated with significant risk for mishandling classified information, compromising security or committing espionage?
- How can face-to-face interviews and questionnaires be improved to facilitate honest, accurate and complete answers?
- What social and psychological factors influence reporting the suspicious activity of a coworker?

While the primary responsibility of PERSEREC is to address such questions using rigorous empirical methods and analysis, success requires sensitivity to all parts of the triumvirate—science, politics and money—from the initial problem definition through implementation. The basic frustration: key parts of federal clearance systems have entrenched problems, and innovation is often unnecessarily slow. Why I stick with it: the work is stimulating and I appreciate being part of a skilled team that helps to improve national security, save tens of millions of tax dollars and protect the rights of millions of individuals who go through the clearance process.

As for advice, here are four tips for students and young professionals

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Another Great Summer for APA Science Directorate Undergraduate Programs!

The APA Summer Science Institute (SSI) and Advanced Statistical Training in Psychology (ASTP) programs once again held successful sessions for diverse groups of talented undergraduate students.

For ten days in June at SSI, 32 talented undergraduate students had the great pleasure to dip their toes in scientific psychology with the faculty at University of California, San Diego (UCSD) as their guides.

The students, who represented large and small colleges and universities across the nation, gathered in La Jolla to learn from a distinguished group of faculty members. John Wixted, chair of the Department of Psychology played a key role in the wonderful reception of the SSI program. Faculty who served as lecturers included Stephan Anagnostaras, Mark Appelbaum, Sandra Brown, Leslie Carver, Nicholas Christenfeld, Karen Dobkins, Vic Ferreira, Gail Heyman, Don McLeod, and Larry Squire. Lab faculty mentors were Stephan Anagnostaras, Andrea Chiba, Leslie Carver, Nicholas Christenfeld, Seana



2007 APA Summer Science Institute participants

Coulson, Karen Dobkins, Vic Ferreira, and Jaime Pineda. Chiba, Coulson, and Pineda are all affiliated with the Cognitive Science Department. The students were assigned to labs where they performed research projects through the week, giving detailed reports to the group at week's end.

Two stellar graduate students from UCSD, Tanner Mitten and Jing Shen, gave our SSI students guidance, mentoring, and friendship, and were stalwart supporters of the APA Institute leaders, Virginia Holt and Brett Pelham.

In addition to the remarkable amount of mental stimulation, the students found themselves playing many games of Mafia, poker, and other games, seeing the sights of San Diego, visiting the La Jolla beaches, and conversing with one another, nearly non-stop.

SSI students for 2007 were: **Nadia Abraibesh**, Linfield College; **Veronica Alvarez**, University of Miami; **Michelle Anderson**, Carthage College; **Alexandra Balino**, University of Michigan; **Marissa Beidler**, Muhlenberg College; **Peter Bowling**, Augustana College; **Kristen Briggs**, Reed College; **Paul Condon**, Gonzaga University; **Kenneth Crayton**, Bradley University; **Chunyu Duan**, Furman University; **Erin Etzel**, Vanderbilt University; **Jennifer Garcia**, Regis College; **Hilary Haimes**, Amherst College; **David Hauptman**, George Washington University; **Jose Ho-Guanipa**, Duke University; **Jeffrey Hooten**, Texas State University; **Carolyn Humber**, Occidental College; **Jeffrey Hunger**, University of Minnesota; **Jessica Jones**, Arcadia University; **Ross Knoll**, Hope College; **Josiah Leong**, University of California, Berkeley; **Jerrold Lieblich**, Yale University; **William Matchin**, University of California,



2007 APA Advanced Statistical Training in Psychology instructors and participants

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Time is Running Out...Make Your Plans to Attend the APA Convention Now!

By Nicolle Singer

To help you take advantage of science programming at Convention, the Science Directorate has published a *Scientist's Guide to the APA Convention* that is now available on the web. The guide highlights a wide variety of science-related sessions ranging from discussions on the controversial current topic of ethics and interrogations, to "The Search for Animal Consciousness" with Clive D.L. Wynne, to Phillip Zimbardo's invited address on "The Lucifer Effect in Action." Visit www.apa.org/science/conv07guide.html to view the sessions that you won't want to miss. Paper copies of the guide will also be available during Convention at the Science Directorate's booth in the Moscone Convention Center. Stop by to see us!

The Science Student Council has put together some stellar programming, beginning with a graduate research

speed lightening round especially for today's shorter attention spans, a session on peer review and the graduate student, and a session on the how's and why's of interdisciplinary research.

Sat Aug 18, 11:00AM - 11:50AM
"Psychological Science Graduate Superstars Datablitz"
Moscone Center--Room 2007, Second Floor-West Building

Sun Aug 19, 3:00PM - 3:50PM
"Feeling Rejected? Graduate Students and the Journal Article Review Process"
Moscone Center--Room 250, West Mezzanine-South Building

Sun Aug 19, 4:00PM - 4:50PM
"Conducting Interdisciplinary Research---A Guide for Graduate Students"
Moscone Center--Rooms 252/254/256, West Mezzanine-South Building

In addition, seats are still available for the APA Science Directorate's "Pre-Convention Training Institute on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for Psychological Research." To learn about the uses and potential uses of GIS in psychology you won't want to miss this program, taking place Thurs Aug 16, 9:30AM - 4:30PM. Registration fees are only \$50 and space is limited, so apply online today at www.apa.org/science/gis.html

The full convention program is also now available online and can be accessed, browsed, and searched through the convention website. You can find information on the website about San Francisco area activities, onsite registration, travel, and lodging (hotel reservations remain available at the APA group rates through July 31). Visit www.apa.org/convention for the full scoop. ■

Applications Invited for the Husted Memorial Dissertation Award for Mental Illness Services Research

The American Psychological Foundation and APA's Science Directorate invite proposals for the 2007 Todd E. Husted Memorial Dissertation Award. Since 2001, this award has supported dissertation research on mental illness services that has great potential to improve services for those with severe and persistent mental illnesses. In 2007 the amount of the award will be doubled, to \$2,000. Topics encouraged for this award include, for example:

- ✦ Developing interventions that prevent deterioration, homelessness, and premature deaths of those with serious mental illness.
- ✦ Improving the medication and treatment compliance of those with schizophrenia and bipolar affective disorder.
- ✦ Improving the identification, diversion, and treatment of people who enter the criminal justice system as a result of their mental illness.
- ✦ Educating professionals in the criminal justice system about the role of serious mental illnesses in the behavior of mentally ill offenders.
- ✦ Increasing access to and use of services and support for the most treatment-resistant and severely mentally ill individuals.

The application deadline is September 14, 2007. Applicants for the Husted Award must meet the same eligibility requirements as applicants for the APA Dissertation Research Awards, and application packets must be received by the Science Directorate by September 14. Applications will be reviewed by a panel of experts on serious mental illnesses. For more information, please visit: www.apa.org/science/dissinfo.html

Getting the Most out of APA: APA Resources for Graduate Students in Psychological Science from page 4...

Directorate also supports a variety of training institutes. These multi-day conferences provide expert training on special topics and are specifically designed to enhance scientific research efficacy. www.apa.org/science

Know what APA has to offer.

APA's website synthesizes the many resources available to students. The utilization of this website is advantageous for students at any stage of their graduate career. The APA website provides valuable

information regarding admissions, the graduate-level experience, and post-graduate opportunities. Among the many highlights, this site provides a compilation of graduate student funding opportunities, including fellowships, travel awards and dissertation grants. These prestigious funding awards are highly beneficial in the support of a research interest (www.apa.org/students/funding.html).

The website also boasts a catalogue of student-oriented listservs. These listservs function as forums for the discussion of student issues, as well as the dissemination of relevant

information (www.apa.org/apags/members/listserv.html).

For a more complete understanding of the wide variety of student resources offered by the American Psychological Association, visit the APA student website at www.apa.org/students ■

Meeting Announcement: Building the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in the Service of Public Health

September 10-11, 2007

Natcher Conference Center (Building 45)

NIH Campus, Bethesda, MD

This trans-NIH conference is part the new strategic prospectus of the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, which seeks to facilitate increased support for the "science of implementation" as a key avenue for moving behavioral and social science forward. Specifically, the prospectus calls for research to understand the factors which are promoting or impeding the adoption, adaptation, implementation, and maintenance of evidence-based practices by health providers, insurers, policy makers, and the public.

The Goals of the conference are to explicate the state of the theory, methods, and practice of dissemination and implementation research; highlight where increased conceptual, empirical, and methodological development is needed, thus identifying challenges for the field; foster dissemination and implementation science with the ultimate goal of improving public health through the availability, adoption, adaptation, and sustained maintenance of efficacious approaches that improve the quality of health and human services; and recruit additional researchers and develop a diverse community of scientists, thus fostering the interdisciplinary collaborations necessary to pursue such complex and multidimensional dissemination and implementation research.

Overview of Agenda and Registration:

The first day of the conference (September 10, 2007) will consist of targeted science presentations and dialogues that will provide an in-depth review of the field of dissemination and implementation research.

The second half-day (September 11, 2007) will consist of a **technical assistance workshop** for researchers who are interested in submitting an application under the current funding opportunity announcements. Participants interested in attending the technical assistance workshop **must submit a two-page concept paper** that includes no more than one page of specific aims and a one-page research design description. These concept papers will be used to provide feedback to participants and to organize content-specific discussion groups. View the concept paper guidelines at: <http://obssr.od.nih.gov/di2007/images/Research%20Project%20Concept%20Paper.pdf>

To register, visit <http://conferences.thehillgroup.com/conferences/di2007/registration.cfm>

For more information on the conference, visit <http://obssr.od.nih.gov/di2007/index.html>

Applying Psychological Science: Science, Politics, and Money from page 6...

interested in applied psychological science.

- Ensure scientific integrity. As an applied scientist, your first responsibility is to get the science right. To do this, develop expertise in a variety of social science procedures and statistical techniques, in addition to thorough knowledge in your applied domains of interest. Ask colleagues to review your ideas and writing. Strong skills in planning, methodology and analysis will be valuable and transferable throughout your career.
- Manage the temptation for armchair philosophy, which is common in applied work. If you are compelled to provide a personal opinion, be clear on the degree to which your speculation, proposal or advocacy reaches beyond the data.
- Help the decision maker. Applied science is often needed to make difficult decisions about which program to fund, which policy to change, which technique to use or, generally speaking, how to make the world a better place. Although research results often entail qualifications and limitations, empathize with the research sponsor or potential implementer's need to take action and manage risk. If the goal is a decision in light of uncertainties, be prepared to engage in practical and responsible consultation to achieve the goal.
- Document thoroughly but communicate succinctly. Regardless of whether your work requires you to produce detailed research reports you should, for each effort (1) maintain documentation as might be needed to describe and defend your research to a scientific board of inquiry, and (2) include an executive summary of one to two pages suitable for an

informed lay reader. Many decision makers will read only the executive summary, although they may give the full report to a staff member to assess. Clarity and brevity are highly valued. For example, a Senator may need a multiyear research effort summarized in a few text bullets or a three minute presentation. The ability to clearly and concisely articulate the applied problem or opportunity, method and key findings, and critical decision considerations is invaluable.

As a final note, one may get the impression from the above descriptions that my career path has been coherent, perhaps even intentional. Personal life narratives often move in that direction. The truth is that my career has been shaped substantially by a series of serendipities and unexpected opportunities. The coherence throughout has been in the practice of social science and a passion for positive change. ■

Another Great Summer for APA Science Directorate Undergraduate Programs! from page 7...

Irvine; **An-vi Nguyen**, University of California, Irvine; **Olamide Oduyingbo**, Quinnipiac University; **Elizabeth Price**, Dickinson College; **Sarah Seegal**, Vassar College; **Lauren Sigman**, Mt. Holyoke College; **Justin Souliere**, Rhode Island College; **Kelly Spratte-Lennington**, Transylvania University; **Kelly Walton**, Brown University; and **Anjie Zheng**, Amherst College.

Just two weeks following the close of the SSI, we opened the Advanced Statistical Training in Psychology (ASTP) program at the APA headquarters building. The fifteen students who took part in the nine-

day program were housed at nearby Catholic University of America.

In addition to becoming totally immersed in statistics for more than a week, the ASTP students learned about what it is like to attend graduate school in psychological science, enjoyed a moonlight tour of the Washington monuments, and attended a baseball game between the Washington Nationals and Colorado Rockies (and against heavy odds, the Nationals won!).

Brett Pelham (University of Buffalo), Keith Maddox (Tufts University), and Mauricio Carvallo (University of Oklahoma) once again provided instruction, guidance, and companionship for the week.

Students who attended ASTP in 2007 were: **Sabrina Askari**, University of Mary Washington; **Audra Bayird**, Ouachita Baptist University; **Melissa Boone**, Spelman College; **Candice Crawford**, Westminster College; **Kate Duchowny**, University of Miami; **Jillian Ducker**, Simpson University; **Mary Duncan**, Wisconsin Lutheran College; **Shannon Garrett**, Erskine College; **Claire Hotelling**, Oakland University; **Brandi Houle**, Saint Joseph College; **Yuliya Rinberg**, Carnegie-Mellon University; **Elissa Roy**, University of California, Berkeley; **Michelle Tano**, University of Miami; **Chislon Thomas**, Jackson State University; and **Edgar Vargas**, San Diego State University. ■

Translational Psychology from page 2...

example of what I have in mind.

Think about it. Every journal of psychology featuring at least one article, perhaps a regular section, on translational research. Every psychology journal can do it, because translation is everywhere in psychology. Collections of such articles can be assembled into special volumes, to further promote the translational science of psychology. Perhaps one day we'll see entire journals of translational psychology.

This is just one approach. I'm sure others can be developed. The point is to achieve greater visibility and coherence for translational psychology. In my earlier Monitor column, I asserted that translation is woven into the fabric of our discipline, and that we excel at it. It is time to make translation a center piece of psychology, to celebrate it, and to communicate it. ■

Psychology Graduate Students Win Safety Award from page 3...

project at the American Association of Airport Executives annual meeting in Washington, DC. The competition provided the students with the opportunity to work with airport operators and industry experts to gather information and assess the efficacy of the proposed solutions. "It was an excellent opportunity to see science in terms of the real world application," said Squire. The team also had the chance to receive feedback from industry experts regarding the utility and feasibility of the system. "Overall, developing a strong team, learning the technical aspects of aviation, and overcoming obstacles faced during the design process was the greatest experience; the best education ended up being the experience of designing the system itself," said Smith. ■

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE AGENDA

Psychological Science Agenda is published monthly by APA's Science Directorate. Dedicated to promoting and serving scientific psychology, *Psychological Science Agenda* provides news about national scientific policy developments, examines policy issues affecting and affected by the behavioral research community, and highlights the advocacy efforts of the Science Directorate on behalf of research and academic psychologists. *Psychological Science Agenda* also features news of APA's governance and program initiatives relating to scientific and academic psychology, and provides valuable, timely information about funding opportunities for research psychologists.

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