

Volume 19: No. 6, June 2005

Psychologists to Capitol Hill— “Our Work Makes a Difference”

by Pat Kobor

One of APA's science policy goals is to bring psychological scientists to Washington to educate policymakers about their research. APA makes opportunities for this type of teaching to happen, by sponsoring congressional briefings and letting members of Congress know about psychological experts and expertise. Psychologists were front and center in Washington at the end of May and early June, as multiple briefings sponsored and cosponsored by APA took place on Capitol Hill.

The week of May 23 began with an extraordinary event sponsored by the Decade of Behavior. APA Science Policy staffer Pat Kobor worked with the National Communication Association, Association of American Geographers, and American Political Science Association to showcase the 2005 Decade of Behavior Research Award winners in the study of democracy, one of the five themes of the Decade. The event was called “The State of Democracy: Engaging a Changing Citizenry.” Over 70 congressional staff and policymakers attended the symposium, including staff from the Department of Homeland Security, State Department and Library of Congress among others. APA fellow Judith Torney-Purta, of the University of Maryland, was honored for her work on the beliefs and attitudes of young people in the United States and abroad on democracy and civic involvement. Pointing out that young people in the U.S. received only mediocre scores on understanding the concepts and ideals of democracy, Dr. Torney-Purta called for more participatory experiences as part of the civic education of young people. Other scientists who gave award addresses were political scientists James Gibson, Washington University in St. Louis; David Epstein and Sharyn O'Halloran, Columbia University; geographer William A.V. Clark, University of California-Los Angeles; and communication scholar Kathleen Hall Jamieson, University of Pennsylvania.

A highlight was the presentation of the Decade of Behavior Research Awards by Reps. Brian Baird (D-WA) and Dan Lipinski (D-IL). Rep. Baird, a psychologist, and Rep. Lipinski, a political scientist, made remarks about the importance of scholarship on democracy, and how important it is that social scientists bring their research forward to help inform policy. Howard Silver, of the Consortium of Social Science Associations, served as the able moderator, and Jessica Bryant, of the APA Science Directorate, explained the goals of the Decade of Behavior and its research awards. More information is available at www.decadeofbehavior.org

Two days later, APA cosponsored a congressional briefing, "Advancing Women in Science," with a number of organizations in coordination with the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues and the Congressional STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Education Caucus. Given the recent controversy over remarks by Larry Summers, president of Harvard, the issue of women in science is in the news once again. The briefing focused on how to encourage more women to pursue careers in science. Psychologist Nora Newcombe, former Div. 7 President from Temple University, set the tone for an informative briefing. Speaking first, she summarized the cognitive science research on gender differences in learning, and was quickly able to dispel the myth that "girls can't learn math." By emphasizing that most data on gender differences only show small discrepancies at the very high levels of math ability, and that any patterns are not immutable, she brought the role of culture and the social environment to the fore of the debate.

Newcombe was joined by four other speakers representing different perspectives on how to encourage women to succeed in science, as well as seven members of Congress who came by to offer their support for this important issue. Congressional guests included Reps. Judy Biggert (R-IL), Ginny Brown-Waite (R-FL), Mark Udall (D-CO), Vernon Ehlers (R-MI), Rush Holt (D-NJ), Hilda Solis (D-CA) and Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX). Former Congresswoman Pat Schroeder also attended the briefing and was given many compliments for paving the way for other women members. It was the sharp eye of Science Policy staffer Karen Studwell that brought APA to this briefing as a cosponsor.

Psychologists Dianne Halpern, Claremont-McKenna College, and Virginia Valian, Hunter College, spoke at a 'sister' briefing on "Women in Science" held on the Senate side of the Capitol on June 6, 2005. Halpern emphasized that women are well-represented in the life sciences, but constitute less than thirty percent of the graduates in fields of math, computer science, or engineering. Valian discussed how unconscious bias impacts the perception of competence of women in male-dominated fields and how this may affect women's opportunities for promotions or tenure in the academic sciences.

Another crowd gathered for APA's May 26 briefing on "Psychology in Service to America's Military Personnel, Veterans and Their Families," co-sponsored by U.S. Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY). The standing-room-only audience included 86 people representing 17 different Senate offices; 10 House offices; three Senate Committees; senior Department of Defense offices related to health, reserves and disability issues; the Veterans Administration (VA), Public Health Service and various military/veterans,

disability and mental health nonprofits. U.S. Reps. Ted Strickland (D-OH), Brian Baird (D-WA) and Rob Simmons (R-CT) spoke briefly. Antonette Zeiss (Director of Training, Psychology Service, VA Palo Alto Healthcare System) discussed cutting-edge models of VA internship training designed to meet the needs of returning military personnel; Terence Keane (Associate Chief of Staff for Research & Development, VA Boston Healthcare System) presented the most up-to-date research in the areas of assessing and treating Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder; and Harold Wain (Chief, Psychiatry Consultation Liaison Service, Walter Reed Army Medical Center) outlined his team's clinical work with hospitalized, traumatically injured soldiers returning from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom deployments. Science Policy staffer Heather O'Beirne Kelly planned and staffed this briefing with an assist from Randy Phelps of the APA Practice Directorate.

Lest you think that all the action was at the end of May, APA Science Policy Director Geoff Mumford, along with Karen Studwell, planned a well-attended briefing called "NIH Research in Action: Innovative Behavioral Treatments for Mental and Substance Use Disorders" on May 4. A summary of that briefing can be found in the Science Policy Insider News (SPIN), at <http://www.apa.org/ppo/issues/btbreifing5405.html>

We salute the psychologists who spoke at these briefings, whose work exemplifies the contributions of psychological research to sound public policy and practice. The hard-working Science Policy staff, in particular legislative assistant Sara Robinson, also deserves credit for helping plan the briefings, raise crowds and manage the follow-up tasks. APA truly puts its resources, staff and money, behind the goal to "give psychology away," and all of us in the APA Science Directorate are proud to participate.

[Return to Psychological Science Agenda Homepage](#)

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Nominations Needed for New Distinguished Service Award

By Suzanne Wandersman

Scientists who serve the discipline can be honored with a new award created by the APA Board of Scientific Affairs (BSA). The Distinguished Service to Psychological Science Award recognizes individuals who are committed to serving the discipline in a variety of ways. This award aims to encourage a culture of service among scientists. A culture of service is one of the themes included in the Science Directorate's and BSA's new initiative, Psychological Science for the 21st Century (PSY21).

This new award will be granted to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to psychological science through their commitment to a culture of service. Award recipients will receive a prize of \$1,000. The deadline for nominations is August 25, 2005.

Nominees will have demonstrated their service to the discipline by aiding in the governance of various psychological associations (e.g., as a member of boards, committees, task forces, officer roles); editing journals; reviewing grant proposals; mentoring students and colleagues; advocating for psychological science's best interests with state and federal lawmakers; and promoting the value of psychological science in the public eye. Nominees may be involved in one service area, many of the areas, or all of the service areas noted above. An individual's service to the discipline and not a person's scholarly achievements will be the focus of this award.

When submitting a nomination please provide the following:

- A letter of nomination that describes and supports the individual's contributions (e.g., nature of the individual's service to psychological science, positions held). The nomination letter should be no more than two pages in length.
- A curriculum vitae.
- Three letters of support from individuals familiar with the nominee's service to the discipline. These letters can be from colleagues who have served with the nominee, a Dean familiar with the nominee's service, former students, or colleagues.

Nominations will be accepted only as electronic submissions to cultureofservice@apa.org. Please be sure to submit the nomination as a package that includes the letter of nomination, vita, and three letters of support. If you have any questions about your nomination, please send an email to cultureofservice@apa.org

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All that we do for Science

by Steven Breckler, Executive Director

Spring is always a busy time in Washington, especially for those of us involved in science policy and advocacy. Almost every week of April and May this year featured an APA-sponsored congressional briefing or delivery of appropriations testimony on behalf of psychological science. This frenzy of activity culminated during the week of May 23, which included five major events described by Pat Kobor in this issue of Psychological Science Agenda. APA also represented psychology that week when the Jefferson Science Fellows were announced at the State Department, and when the National Science Board bestowed its highest honors at its annual awards ceremony.

Spring is also a busy time outside of Washington. It is the season of most regional psychological association meetings – MPA, EPA, SWPA, WPA, and RMPA. APA was represented at every one, sponsoring talks and hosting workshops. APA works hard to support and promote the regional psychological association meetings. And as spring turns to summer, we turn our attention to the summer science institute and the flurry of activity surrounding APA's annual convention.

When I tell people about all of these efforts, the typical response is, "I didn't know that APA does all that!" On reflection, it is quite remarkable. How is APA able to be in so many places at the same time? How is it possible for APA to devote so many resources in support of psychological science? Many things contribute to our ability to accomplish so much, but the bottom line is that the members of APA make it all possible.

I'm not just talking about monetary support here. Sure, the dues paid by APA members helps to finance much of what we do. But that is only a fraction of what it takes to do all that we do. Members of APA contribute their expertise, their wisdom, and their time to promote the science agenda, and that's the support that really counts. When APA organizes a congressional briefing, it is the work of APA members that make them succeed. When APA sponsors a workshop or a sponsored talk at a regional association meeting, the members of APA provide the real energy to make them happen.

APA is a very large association. We have more members, more staff, and more money than any other professional association devoted to the interests of psychology. That's what allows us to be in so many places so much of the time. It is a very powerful thing, and psychological science is finally learning how to harness the incredible strength it provides. APA's new PSY21 initiative provides a framework for growth, and the launching of an annual Science Leadership Conference will help mobilize the community of psychological scientists to move forward.

The future is bright for psychological science at APA. We already support an incredible array of programs and activities, and we are determined to do even more. Yet it will require more than money and staff. It will require members, and an increasing engagement of those members in the business of the association.

The Science Directorate is committed to serving the members of APA, and we encourage others to join us. Visit the science membership page at <http://www.apa.org/science/membership.html>, where you can learn more about how APA promotes the science of psychology. You may find yourself remarking, "I didn't know that APA does all that!" We sure do! And as a member of APA, you can proudly claim ownership of all that we do.

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President Bush has announced his intention to nominate Dr. Kathie Olsen

By Sara Robinson

President Bush has announced his intention to nominate Dr. Kathie Olsen, current Associate Director of Science at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), to the position of Deputy Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF). After confirmation by the U.S. Senate, Olsen will replace outgoing Deputy Director Joe Bordogna.

Olsen will bring with her an impressive record of service, including experience with both science agencies and with Congress. She joined the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Executive Office of the President in August 2002, where she serves as OSTP Director John Marburger's deputy for science. From May 1999 to April 2002, she was Chief Scientist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, a role in which she served as the Administrator's senior scientific advisor and the major interface with the national and international scientific community. Olsen has also held numerous previous positions at NSF dating back to 1994, including the Senior Staff Associate for the Science and Technology Centers in the Office of Integrative Activities, as well as Acting Deputy Director for the Division of Integrative Biology and Neuroscience. In addition to her experience in federal science agencies, Dr. Olsen also has experience working for Congress. From February 1996 until November 1997, she was a Brookings Institute Legislative Fellow and then on detail from NSF in the Office of Senator Conrad Burns of Montana.

Dr. Olsen earned her BS in biology and psychology from Chatham College in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and her PhD in Neuroscience at the University of California, Irvine. Her academic career includes one year as a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Neuroscience at Children's Hospital of Harvard Medical School, and two positions at the State University of New York at Stony Brook: research scientist at Long Island Research Institute and Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science.

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University Scientist Delivers APA's Congressional Testimony on Funding for DoD Behavioral Research

By Heather O'Beirne Kelly

Jennifer Vendemia, a psychologist and APA member from the University of South Carolina, presented APA's testimony before the Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee on May 17th. Vendemia's fMRI research, funded in part by the Department of Defense (DoD), focuses on modeling the neurocognitive processes of lying in order to formulate new deception detection techniques using measures of specific brain activity. She advocated for restoring cuts to behavioral research programs in DoD laboratories and for increasing DoD's support of smaller, human-centered research programs related to counterintelligence and special operations.

Vendemia and science policy staffer Heather Kelly also met with Sen. Lindsey Graham's (R-SC) defense aide regarding research language in the FY06 DoD authorization bill and a possible visit from the Senator to psychological research labs at USC and nearby Ft. Jackson Army Base. Vendemia is actively collaborating with psychological scientists in the credibility assessment group at the DoD Polygraph Institute, housed at Ft. Jackson. Sen. Graham, who sits on both Senate Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committees, has been active in developing legislation related to military personnel and mental health issues.

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Great Science on Tap for the APA Convention!

Following is a brief sample of some of the excellent science programming that will occur at the 2005 APA Annual Convention. The Convention will be held August 18 – 21 in Washington DC. Please visit www.apa.org/convention for information about the Convention, including registration and housing. Please visit www.apa.org/science at the beginning of July for a fuller listing of the programs noted below, plus highlights of division programs.

Plenary

Judith Rodin, The Rockefeller Foundation, New York, NY
The University As an Agent of Change: Transforming Individual Behavior and Community Engagement

Master Lecture

Shelley E. Taylor, University of California--Los Angeles
Why Do People Tend and Befriend Under Stress? A Biosocial Approach

Master Lecture

Susan Goldin-Meadow, PhD, University of Chicago
How Our Hands Help Us Think

Plenary and G. Stanley Hall Lecture

Barry Schwartz, Swarthmore College
Paradox of Choice: Why More Is Less

Symposium: Psychological Tests and Assessment in Evidence-Based Practice

John D. Hunsley, University of Ottawa, Ontario Canada
Thomas R. Kratochwill, University of Wisconsin--Madison

2005 Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award

Douglas L. Medin, Northwestern University
Role of Culture and Expertise in Cognition

Plenary

Timothy Schallert, University of Texas at Austin
Behavioral Enrichment: Can Brain Cell Loss Be Stopped?

Plenary

Innovation in Health Psychology: Multidisciplinary Science to Enhance Individual Health and Community Change---A Festschrift in Honor of Judith Rodin

Master Lecture

Paul Sackett, University of Minnesota--Twin Cities
High-Stakes Testing in Higher Education and Employment: Appraising the Evidence for Validity and Fairness

Plenary

June P. Tangney, George Mason University
Shame and Guilt: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

2005 Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award

Charles G. Gross, Princeton University
Neural Mechanisms of Face Processing

Plenary

Wade F. Horn, US Department of Health and Human Services, Wash, DC
Empirical Research and Policy Formulation, Review, and Assessment

Master Lecture

Susan Nolen-Hoeksema, Yale University
Rumination and Depression

2005 Award Ceremony: American Psychological Association and American Psychological Foundation Awards

Plenary and 2005 Distinguished Scientific Contribution for the Applications of Psychology Award

Karen A. Matthews, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
Depression, Hostility, and Other Bad Things for Your Heart

Symposium: Relapse to Addictive Drugs---Recent Research With Human and Nonhuman Subjects

Annual Neal Miller Lecture

Lynn Nadel, University of Arizona
Memory, Stress, and the Brain: In Miller's Footsteps

2005 Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award

Robert S. Siegler, Carnegie Mellon University
The Glow and the Haze

Plenary

Sheena S. Iyengar, Columbia University, New York
Choice and Its Discontents

Plenary

Marsha M. Linehan, University of Washington---Seattle
Mindfulness in DBT: A Skills Approach to Teaching Mindfulness
Conversation Hour: Foot in the Door---How Students Can Become Journal Reviewers

Plenary

Todd F. Heatherton, Dartmouth College
Social Brain Sciences Approach to Understanding the Self: Social Psychology and Brain Science in Cooperation

Master Lecture

Megan R. Gunnar, University of Minnesota--Twin Cities
Early Experience and Stress in Human Development

NIDA/NIAAA Director Award Presentation/Social Hour and Division Poster Session

(Presentation of APA Presidential Citations to Nora Volkow and Ting-Kai Li)

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Volume 19: No. 6, June 2005

June 2005 Announcements

Husted Award Deadline September 15

[READ THE ANNOUNCEMENT](#)

Apply for a Scrivner research grant

[READ THE ANNOUNCEMENT](#)

Apply for Koppitz child psychology fellowship

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Husted Award Deadline September 15

APF and APA's Science Directorate invite proposals for the 2005 Todd E. Husted Memorial Dissertation Award. The \$1,000 award supports dissertation research on mental illness services with great potential to improve services for those with severe and persistent mental illnesses by, for example:

- Developing interventions that prevent the 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 15. Applications will be accepted beginning July 1. Official application forms are available at www.apa.org/science/dissapp.html. Applications must include a cover letter describing the applicant's research interests and career plans, a summary of dissertation research and proposed use of funds, a vitae and a letter of recommendation. For more information, visit www.apa.org/science/dissinfo.html.

Apply for a Scrivner research grant

APF is accepting applications for the 2006 Roy Scrivner Research Grants, which promote research on lesbian, gay, and bisexual family psychology and therapy. The Scrivner Fund provides one postdoctoral grant of up to \$10,000 and two \$1,000 graduate student grants, with preference given to dissertation candidates. Researchers from all fields of the behavioral and social sciences are encouraged to apply.

Applicants for the postdoctoral research award, including co-investigators, must have a doctoral degree. Applicants for the student grants must be enrolled in a graduate program and have a letter of support from their supervising professor. An institutional review board from the principal investigator's institution must approve all research involving human subjects.

The application deadline is November 1, 2005. Application guidelines are available from www.apa.org/apf/hooker.html or www.hookerprograms.org. For more information, contact foundation@apa.org or (202) 336-5843.

Apply for Koppitz child psychology fellowship

Graduate students can now apply for one of three \$20,000 Elizabeth Munsterberg Koppitz Fellowships to support graduate studies in child psychology in 2006 and 2007.

The Koppitz fellowships aid child psychology scholarship on such topics as developmental psychopathology and child-clinical, school, pediatric, developmental and educational psychology. Consideration will be given to psychological research that breaks new ground or creates significant new understandings that facilitate the development and/or functioning of children and youth.

The award includes travel costs to attend a pre-conference workshop for Koppitz graduate fellows in conjunction with APA's 2007 Annual Convention in San Francisco, California, August 16-19, and other conferences as funds allow. APF will also award \$4,000 travel stipends to runners-up.

Graduate students who have achieved doctoral candidacy are eligible to apply. Students can apply before

having passed their qualifying exams, but proof of having advanced to doctoral candidacy is required before funding will be released.

The selected fellows' institutions must provide a tuition waiver. Institutions may nominate only one applicant each year (APF will not accept nominees from separate departments or programs within the same university). Financial support will extend from September 1, 2006, to August 31, 2007. Results or progress of the research should be presented the following year at the pre-convention workshop.

Applications are due November 15, 2005. Recipients will be announced on or after February 15. For complete application guidelines, visit the APF website at www.apa.org/apf/koppitz.html. For more information, contact foundation@apa.org or (202) 336-5843.

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