APF Grants Over $80,000 in Placek Funds

In 2004, APF granted more than $80,000 in research funds to increase the general public’s understanding of homosexuality and to alleviate the stress that gay men and lesbians experience in this and future civilizations. The funds are part of APF’s Wayne F. Placek Research Grants program, which has granted more than $631,000 in funding since its inception in 1993. The 2004 small and large Placek recipients are as follows:

Glen I. Roisman, Ph.D. received $30,000 for his proposal, Developmental Foundations of Gay and Lesbian Relationships, which will examine how gay men’s and lesbians’ representations of their childhood experiences with caregivers are associated with the organization of their behavioral, physiological, and subjective emotional experiences in their committed adult partnerships. Dr. Roisman received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 2002. He is currently an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Illinois.

Joe N. Rollins, Ph.D. was awarded $30,000 for his proposal, The Language of Love, which will use content analysis techniques to track and examine the texts of legislative debates and legal rulings related to same-sex marriage in the United States. Dr. Rollins is an associate professor of political science at Queens College, CUNY. His research interests are theoretically and methodologically eclectic with an emphasis on law and sexuality. His first book, AIDS and the Sexuality of Law: Homo Jurisprudence, explores the sexual epistemologies that grounded judicial language in the first ten years of AIDS.

Jessica Fields, Ph.D. received $4,996 for her proposal, Peer Sexuality Education and Same-Sex Attracted and Queer Youth, which will examine peer sexuality education’s potential to help LGB youth achieve and maintain healthy sexual lives. Fields is an assistant professor in sociology and human sexuality studies at San Francisco State University and a research associate at SF State’s Center for Research on Gender and Sexuality.

Thomas Mark Lampinen, Ph.D. received $4,300 for his proposal, A Propective Cohort Study of Queer Bashing in Vancouver, British Columbia, which is a prospective study of gay bashing in a diverse community-recruited cohort of 614 gay and bisexual men between the ages of 18 and 30 who were followed between 1996 and 2003 in Vancouver. Dr. Lampinen is a clinical assistant professor in the University of British Columbia’s Department of Health Care and Epidemiology.

Sharon Scales Rostosky, Ph.D. received $1,600 for her proposal, Intersexual Same-Sex Couples: Negotiating the Role of Race in Relationships, which will explore interracial same-sex couples’ experiences of racial identity in the negotiation and maintenance of their relationships, specifically the challenges encountered, impact of, and coping strategies used by interracial couples in the context of minority stress. Dr. Rostosky is an assistant professor in the Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology at the University of Kentucky.

Dr. Esther D. Rothblum and Sandra E. Solomon received $5,000 for their proposal, Three-Year Follow-up of Lesbian and Gay Male Couples in Civil Unions, Their Same-Sex Friends.

The APF’s Wayne F. Placek Research Fund cultivates graduate research to increase the general public’s understanding of homosexuality. Meet the 2004 winners.

Donate to APF online at www.apa.org/apf
With growth, comes responsibility. As you know, APF’s assets have grown from $6,925,423 to $13,080,567 in the last 5 years. The Trustees have responded to the added responsibility by making some significant changes in the Foundation’s operations.

First, we have been fortunate to have as our Treasurer Jack McKay, APAs CFO. But because of the size of our endowment, we have added an investment committee, which includes our treasurer, Trustees Ron Fox and Bill Howell, former Trustee Bill Williams, and an outside financial expert, Sheila Roberts. Their role is to oversee the investment of our funds. The careful management of our assets is an assurance to our donors that their funds will be available long into the future, to continue to support the mission of the Foundation.

Secondly, and as important, is our increased emphasis on the evaluation of our programs. We now have more than 40 projects and programs. A very thoughtful and hard-working Evaluation Committee (Norm Abeles, Bill Howell, and Steve James) has developed criteria for evaluating all scholarships, awards, and grants, including the selection process and impact on psychology and APF’s mission, whether the grants and awards are adequate and well-spent, and whether the activities comply with the donor’s specifications for restricted funds, even after the donor’s death. Some of our programs will undoubtedly change as a result of this thoughtful, thorough evaluation process, but that is in everyone’s best interest.

In addition, the Trustees are looking at our own performance. We are evaluating our fund-raising efforts, programs which we develop in areas that we consider vital (such as violence prevention, and health), and how each of us as a Trustee contributes to the growth and the mission of APF. We have decided to restore the position of the Board Vice Chair and to re-examine its membership more suited to the current multi-million dollar assets and broad range of programs than to the original Foundation whose mission was to give Gold Medals for Life Achievement. We will include fewer past APA presidents, and more individuals who have specific skills or knowledge, which will enhance the work of the Board of Trustees.

The endowment has grown, and the activities of APF have expanded, so has the responsibility on our staff. I must personally salute Lisa Straus, our Executive Director, who makes the Trustees’ work easy, and who has hired an incompetent staff, Elizabeth Mereck and Shana Hawkins. Those of us who work closely with them know what an incredible job these women do, even when short-handed, as they are at the moment.

Those of you who are donors, and those of you who are thinking about being among that group, can be assured that your monies are handled carefully and intelligently as well. We strive for excellence and to continue to support our psychosocial processes so that they keep pace with our growth.

Thirteen Awarded 2004 APF COGDOP Graduate Research Scholarships

APF and the Council of Graduate Departments of Psychology (COGDOP) presented 13 Graduate Research Scholarships in 2004.

The following are the top winners:

- Michael Cohen received the $3,000 Ruth G. and Joseph D. Matarazzo Scholarship given to the year’s most outstanding applicant. Cohen is a fourth year graduate student at the University of California—Davis. His research focuses on elucidating the roles of the orbitofrontal cortex in reward-seeking behavior and decision-making processes and how activity in this region is influenced by individual differences in personality and genetics.
- Susan M. Klaas, a doctoral student in social psychology and health psychology at the University of Connecticut, received the $2,000 Clarence J. Rovenstine Scholarship for her research on HIV prevention and psychosocial predictors of HIV risk behavior, especially in South Africa.
- Derek Evans Nee, a doctoral student in psychology at the University of Michigan, received $2,000 for his research focusing on executive processes and working memory through the use of behavioral and neuroimaging techniques.

The following ten students received $1,000 awards:

- Andrea B. Burns is a doctoral candidate in clinical psychology at Florida State University whose major research interests include the biological and interpersonal causes and correlates of depression and related disorders, and gender differences in psychopathology.
- Erik Chihhung Chang is a doctoral graduate from Rice University whose research interests include human visual perception, visual attention, and how they interact with saccadic eye movements.
- Hsin-Chin Chen is a Ph.D. student in cognitive psychology at Texas A&M University whose research focuses on reading processes across different orthographies.
- Karen Dyckman is a third-year doctoral student in cognitive/experimental psychology at the University of Georgia. Her research focuses on examining changes in behavior and the corresponding changes in brain activity following practice of a task using fMRI and MEG.
- Jessica Lord Bean is a fifth year doctoral student in clinical psychology at the University of Connecticut. Her clinical and research interests involve the neuropsychological and biological correlates of developmental disorders.
- Qian Lu is a fifth year graduate student in psychology at UCLA. Her research focuses on health psychology from two perspectives: a) health benefits of instructed writing, and moderators and mediators of psychosocial interventions, and b) neuropsychological mechanisms of health disparity.
- Lea Woon Mok is a Ph.D. student in cognitive and biological psychology at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Her research focuses on a) investigating how human choice behaviors are mediated by outcome-specific expectancies and by different working memory processes and b) the neural correlates of the different underlying working memory systems.
- John V. Petrocelli is a doctoral student in social psychology at Indiana University Bloomington. His work focuses on the role that counterfactual thinking plays in various reactions that people have toward general and specific events.
- Michael Pitts is a behavioral neuroscience student at Colorado State University who is currently investigating chromatic perceptual prefrontal cortex. His research interests include visual perception, such as color vision, form perception, and spatio-chronic processing.
- Erin Costanzo is a fifth-year doctoral student in clinical and health psychology at the University of California. She is currently investigating distress among breast cancer patients following treatment and is interested in how patients’ behavior and common sense beliefs about cancer influence psychological adjustment.

APF invites all graduate departments of psychology in good standing with COGDOP to nominate one or more candidates for each year for these scholarships, which may be used by students to pay for research costs, travel to a scientific meeting, or books and supplies. For more information, visit www.apa.org/apf.

UCLA’s Loewy receives 2004 Husted Award

The American Psychological Foundation (APF) and APA’s Science Directorate have presented the eighth annual Todd E. Husted Memorial Dissertation Award to Rachel Loewy, a doctoral candidate in clinical psychology at UCLA, for her research on adolescents at risk for psychosis. The $1,000 award recognizes outstanding dissertation research demonstrating strong potential to improve mental health services for those with severe mental illnesses. APA’s Science Directorate administers the honor, and an awards committee recommends a winner to the APF Board of Trustees for approval. The award is made possible through a gift from Dr. John Husted, Ph.D., whose son, Todd, died as a result of severe mental illness.

Loewy’s dissertation focuses on the validation of a screening questionnaire for prodromal symptoms of psychosis, intended to improve identification among young people experiencing the earliest symptoms of schizophrenia. Initial data support its use in clinic-referred samples, suggesting its potential to assist participant recruitment at prodromal psychosis research clinics and to increase access to care for at-risk individuals.

Loewy has been involved in research with adolescents at risk for psychosis for the past nine years, beginning as an undergraduate research assistant at Emory University, continuing at the University of Pennsylvania, where she received her MA in psychology, and most recently working at UCLA. In 2003, Loewy completed an internship at Sepulveda and VA, and her subsequent graduate, I hope to continue this line of work on early identification and intervention with adolescents and young adults at risk for severe mental illness,” Loewy says.
The American Psychological Foundation’s (APF) Nationwide High-School Psychology Program, which was developed in 1997, provides up to $2,000 annually for programs that encourage psychology at the secondary-school level. APF’s Education Directorate administers this program. The recipients of this year’s grants represent a wide-range of programs benefiting both high school psychology students and high school teachers alike:

John Hersey High School, in Arlington Heights, Illinois, received a $500 grant to help fund the Second Annual Psychology Quiz Bowl, in which six schools with teams of up to ten students compete to test their knowledge of psychology.

The Iowa Teachers of Psychology (ITOP) received a $500 grant to support their sixth annual ITOP conference. The 2005 conference will provide a forum for psychology instructors from high schools, community colleges, and universities to participate in discussion groups and attend demonstrations on teaching.

APF’s Nationwide Program Supports High School Psychology

The Utah-Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools (U-TOPSS) received $500 from APF to support the U-TOPSS Fall Institute for High School Psychology Teachers. The Institute supports psychologists educators from both high schools and colleges by supplying resources for professional development and supporting connections between high school teachers and university level instructors.

Martha Alibali Receives 2004 Fantz Award

Martha W. Alibali, Ph.D., professor of psychology and educational psychology at the University of Wisconsin—Madison, has received the Foundation’s 2004 Robert Fantz Memorial Award. The annual award recognizes the careers of promising young investigators in psychology, especially those who produce and publish research in perceptual-cognitive development.

Alibali earned her Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the University of Chicago under the mentorship of Susan Goldin-Meadow. She received the UW—Madison Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award in 2004, and is co-author (with Robert S. Siegler) of the 4th edition of cognitive development textbook, Children’s Thinking.

Alibali’s current research examines the function of spontaneous gestures in thinking and speaking, the transition from arithmetic to algebra reasoning, and the nature of mathematical reasoning and communication in children with language impairments. Alibali studies the change processes that take place when children learn new concepts and problem-solving procedures, and when they express and communicate their knowledge in gestures and in speech. Her work has been or is currently funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the James S. McDonnell Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, and the Interagency Educational Research Initiative.

APF Funds Outstanding LGB Family Research

The fifth annual Roy Scrivner Research Grants, which award up to $10,000 to a postdoctoral researcher and two $1,000 awards to doctoral candidates for exemplary research on lesbian, gay and bisexual family psychology and therapy, were announced in February. The grants are made possible because of a generous bequest from Roy Scrivner, Ph.D., a counseling and clinical psychologist and former president of the Texas Psychological Association. The 2005 winners are:

- Nanette K. Garrell, M.D., an associate clinical professor of psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco;
- Katherine A. Kuvanaika, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Family Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP); and
- Cara Bergstrom, a doctoral candidate in Sociology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Garrell received the $10,000 postdoctoral award to support the fifth phase of the National Longitudinal Lesbian Family Study, which began in 1986 and is now the largest, longest-running prospective, longitudinal lesbian family study of children conceived by donor insemination in the country.

The study began by exploring the decision-making processes regarding donor insemination and motherhood in prospective lesbian mothers. The 17-year-old index children will be asked to recount their experiences with homophobia as teens as well as reports on their academic achievements, social networks, physical and mental health, drug use, and sexual exploration.

Kuvanaika received one of the two $1,000 Scrivner awards for her dissertation research, which examines the adolescent experiences of young adults who grew up with lesbian and gay parents. The purpose of this doctoral dissertation research is twofold: (a) to explore participants’ experience during adolescence and (b) to develop a theoretical model to explain how adolescents with lesbian and gay parents cope with societal homophobia.

Bergstrom received the other $1,000 Scrivner award for her dissertation research for which she is conducting sixty in-depth, qualitative interviews in order to explore the experiences of prospective parenthood among same-gender couples who have had children after coming out and those who plan to remain child-free.

Members of Divs. 43 (Family) and 44 (Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Issues) serve on the Scrivner oversight and awards committees.

Celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the Placek Fund

APF is hosting a reception to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Wayne F. Placek Fund on Thursday, August 18, 2005 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the U.S. Capitol. Join us in celebrating the release of the 2005 Placek Report and to honor past grant recipients and their accomplishments in the field of lesbian, gay, and bisexual psychology.

Space is limited so reserve your complimentary tickets today by e-mailing emerck@apa.org or calling (202) 336-3622.

The Placek Fund supports research to increase the general public’s understanding of homosexuality as well as alleviate the stress that gay men and lesbians experience in this and future civilizations.

APF Grants Over $80,000 in Placek Funds (Continued)

Without Civil Unions, and Married Heterosexual Siblings, which will examine variables that predict later relationship satisfaction, whether civil union couples will be closer to their family of origin over time, and factors that predict relationship termination. Dr. Rothblum is a psychology professor at the University of Vermont (UVM) and former chair of APA’s Committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns. Dr. Solomon is an assistant professor of psychology at UVM.

Leo Wilton, Ph.D. received $5,000 for his proposal, Aging Sociocultural Factors, and Mental Health in Black Gay Men and Lesbians, which will examine sociocultural factors in moderating the relationship between quality of life and mental health in a community-based sample of 200 Black gay men and lesbians who are 50 years of age and older. Dr. Wilton is an assistant professor in the Departments of Human Development and African Studies at Binghamton University, State University of New York.

For more information regarding the Placek grants, please visit the APF website at www.apa.org/apf.
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In Memory...
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