International Views

Director’s Column: Global Citizenship
Merry Bullock, Senior Director, Office of International Affairs

This issue of Psychology International completes the 2006 volume. This has been an active year for APA’s international activities and international planning. The Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP—see article summarizing the last meeting) continued its process of strategic planning; President Gerry Koocher and CEO Norman Anderson represented APA in multiple international venues; the Policy and Planning Board set an increase in international exposure and activities as an important part of APA’s agenda, including developing policy on how APA responds to international emergencies; APA’s UN team presided over a range of well attended seminars at the UN headquarters in New York; the Monitor covered the role of psychology and the activities of psychologists in countries from Afghanistan to Yemen; and Division 52 (APA’s international division) surpassed the 1000 member mark.

Next year promises to be just as active. APA’s outreach will include a busy international

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travel portfolio for President-Elect Sharon Brehm, central office representation at international conferences and congresses, travel support and more. What does all this international activity mean to APA? It is evidence of broad encouragement to members and APA itself to be global citizens. What does it mean to be a global psychologist citizen?

Within psychology people have different opinions on the means by which individual psychologists — or the discipline — should have a role in the application of psychological expertise to societal issues. Of course, psychology has many routes to input - as a producer of basic and applied science; as a provider of expert knowledge, as a provider of interventions, as an educator, as a public advocate. How might an individual psychologist exercise their citizenship? In this issue, Tony Marsella, active international psychologist and former CIRP member and chair, offers one opinion about what it means to be a global citizen, suggesting that each of us should merge our activities as person, psychologist and citizen. In the December Psychological Science Agenda (PSA), Science Executive director Steve Breckler cautions about stepping over the line to activism, citing the importance of scientific neutrality (see http://www.apa.org/science/psa/homepage.html). Where is the happy medium between global activism (with its challenges of separating political, scientific and individual goals) and ivory tower neutrality (with its challenges of finding opportunities for application)? In the discipline as a whole, the medium may well lie in a continuum of individuals, each fulfilling distinct pieces of the continuum from science to application to policy. But things are more complex in the international arena because of the wondrous variety of psychologies, explanation mechanisms, backgrounds and possibilities for action.

For these reasons, an important international thrust in the year to come will be discussing how best to engage psychology and psychologists in the global arena. At an individual level, we will be developing links to information that will bring the global world home - including different perspectives on how behavior is understood, studied, and explained; examples of how psychology can enter into the multisectoral, multidisciplinary and multinational arena to apply psychological knowledge world wide; and information on the knowledge and skills we all need to be global diplomats for psychology. At an institutional level, we will engage in discussion of the kinds of roles that APA — the largest and most influential professional organization in psychology - might play in the international arena.

The challenge is to engage in the global arena as a partner and collaborator. To do so requires us to know our colleagues and the issues faced by psychologists, psychology and societies in all the directions outside our borders. Ψ

**International Overview — APA**

**Committee on International Relations in Psychology: Recap of an Active Fall Meeting**

CIRP—APA’s Committee on International Relations in Psychology—meets twice a year as the APA governance arm concerned with international issues. CIRP’s mission is to support and promote international perspectives in research and education by working within APA, with other national and international psychological organizations, and with
APA’s delegates to the United Nations. CIRP’s membership consists of 9 elected members and one liaison from the International Union for Psychological Science. At its meetings, the committee is joined by liaisons from international organizations and APA Divisions. CIRP’s members and liaisons represent the breadth of psychology, and diverse geographic regions and demographic backgrounds.

This Fall, the Committee, led by CIRP Chair, Dr. Georgia Chao, met to review ongoing activities, plan new ones, and help further APA’s international vision. To make this vision a reality, CIRP devoted much of the fall meeting to creating a long-term strategic plan of action and a set of activities to enhance APA’s international activities and to encourage APA to engage in discussion of strategies for the development of psychology on an international level.

For example, CIRP developed ideas for programs to support APA members and leadership in their international outreach, to encourage international exchange, and to develop policy in the international arena. Ideas for concrete projects included:

- Diplomacy for Psychology - training on cultural differences for psychologists planning to spend time internationally
- “International Dialogs” where individuals who have worked outside the US share experiences and tips
- Resource materials to create a world “landscape” for psychologists with links to worldwide information on research regulations, professional psychology regulation and licensing; and psychology education and training.
- Research-based brochures outlining the contributions of psychology to addressing global issues (see www.apa.org/international/apaun-forgive.html for one example).

To learn more about CIRP, see a roster of committee members, and read the minutes of the fall meeting, visit www.apa.org/international.

First row: Georgia Chao, Oliva Espin, and Lillian Comas-Diaz
Second row: Juan Jose Sanchez-Sosa, Lynn Collins, Danny Wedding and Thema Bryant-Davis.
Opinion Piece:
Becoming Psychologists to the World: Meeting the Challenges of a Life in a Global Community

Anthony J. Marsella, Ph.D., D.H.C.

Dr. Marsella is Emeritus Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Hawaii. He was chair of the APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP) in 2000. To contact Dr. Marsella please e-mail marsella@hawaii.edu

We now live in a global community in which our lives, welfare, and well being are interconnected and interdependent. This can no longer be denied. Yet, psychology as a science and profession is, in my opinion, failing to grasp this essential fact and its consequences for us. In the process, psychology is failing to seize the initiative and leadership demanded by our times. Of course, there are positive signs of change occurring within psychology and among psychologists. But these are, in my opinion, few in number and limited in their proportion and impact.

The simple fact is that we are facing an inordinate number of interconnected and interdependent global challenges—poverty, war and violence, migration, environmental abuse and destruction, crime and corruption—that require psychologists to respond in new and bold ways that position us to be a force for positive change. These challenges arise from an emerging ecology that transcends location, cultures, and time. As a result, solutions will have to be approached from a perspective, policy orientation and process that are multidisciplinary, multicultural, multisectoral, and multinational. These are not the typical characterizations of psychology.

Despite our commitments to advancing knowledge of human behavior and to improving the human condition, psychology and psychologists are not currently prepared to assume the mantle of leadership required. There are many reasons for this, in my opinion. One reason is that psychology continues an attachment to a training curriculum, research agenda, and service orientation that appear to be removed from the challenges of life in a global community. Most training programs have done little to internationalize their curriculum and even less to insist on cultural and international studies as a required part of training efforts (see Marsella, in press; Marsella, 2001; Marsella & Pedersen, 2004). Much of the psychology we are taught and practice is linked to Western cultural traditions. We often do not realize that this psychology is ethnocentric and biased, and certainly problematic when it comes to its uses in non-Western cultures.

The many and complex problems we face as a global community are often bypassed as topics of study in favor of highly focused and reductionist efforts that continue to perpetuate a limited and biased view of human behavior. Even with the emergent popularity of multivariate data analyses, as a field we tend to favor anova designs that often account for only 5% of the variance. Of course there are are examples where this is not the case but the broader situation remains relatively unchanged in terms of

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Psychology’s conceptual frameworks, topical studies, research designs, statistical and data analysis methods, and publication venues. The global challenges we face are increasingly complex, but our individual and institutional responses are often slow and incommensurate in substance and scope.

Where is the psychology (or psychologies) for a global community (Marsella, 1998)? Where are the policy changes in education and training activities? Where are the new courses and field training experiences? Where are the cross-national and cultural research studies focusing on these challenges? Where are the professional changes in practices (e.g., interventions, preventions, policies)? And perhaps most importantly, where is the motivation and the will to rise to meet the demands of our times? Where is the shock and dismay at the injustice in our world?

I see the task before us as a science and profession to develop a series of immediate and simultaneous actions at all levels of our specialty including the missions and commitments of our professional associations (e.g., APA, APS), universities and professional schools, and both undergraduate and graduate departments of psychology (see Marsella & Pedersen, 2004, for a list of 50 things that can be done immediately). In brief, we are not responding to the challenges before us, and as a result, our global situation is becoming more insecure and perilous for all of us.

Perhaps the solution resides, at least in part, in the fusion of our identities as human beings, citizens and professionals. In response to the challenges of our times, Franklin (1998) called for the development of a “full capacity global citizen,” which he described in the following way:

For me there are heartwarming examples of people stepping into the role of what I call “full capacity global citizens”—people willing to take on the twin challenges of deepening their personal capacities (intuitive, spiritual, intellectual) as well as assuming responsibility for the planet and the whole of humanity... . These examples, and those from countless other groups and individuals demonstrate that we are capable of a societal vision that transcends unbridled individualism and materialism—one that is more sustainable, equitable, and multifaceted, and includes spiritual and psychological, as well as economic growth... . The shift in consciousness that seems to be required includes an accommodation of our interdependence and our need to find a basis for shared meaning and purpose (Franklin, 1998, p.3).

There is wisdom in Franklin’s remarks because they recognize that we cannot—and should not—separate our efforts to find personal meaning, our societal responsibilities, and our work as scientists and professionals. These need to merge and in the process, to provide and to sustain an impulse that will enable us to live within the passions of our time with a new sense of awareness and commitment.

There is substance in psychology’s history, concepts, code of ethics, professional ethos, and epistemology. But, these sources must be tapped and expanded so that we can assume a more active and critical role in our global community. As the acknowledged specialists in human behavior we can, with renewed energy and commitment, position ourselves as a positive resource for the world. While its true that our existing knowledge and research have often pointed to the unassailable fact that the human species is capable of enormous violence and destruction, it is also true that there is considerable evidence that we as human beings are capable of caring, nurturing, and
developing, and that we are moved to act by injustice and to assist when possible.

Now is the time for us to step forward as psychologists—newly shaped and committed—to be counted as a resource for our the global community. As Halifax (2000) and so many have pointed out, “there is no other.” Halifax (1999), in her book on creating cultures of peace, wrote:

We cannot turn our backs on the tendency to turn the world and its beings into objects which we call “other.” We are called more than ever to realize the obvious, that we are not, nor were we ever, living in a world of isolation. We are completely and inescapably interconnected and interdependent (Halifax, 2006, Foreword).

In 200 CE, Rabbi Tarphon, stated: “While the task is not upon thee to complete, neither art thou free to desist from doing your part.” I urge us to ask: Is psychology as a science and profession, are psychologists as human beings, citizens, and professionals willing to take up the causes of peace through social justice that are at the basis of so many global challenges? Are we willing to do our part? Are we willing to show by our actions, that we choose peace over war, freedom over oppression, voice over silence, service over self-interest, honor over advantage, cooperation over competition, action over passivity, diversity over uniformity, and justice over all. ψ

REFERENCES


APA at the UN:

APA’s UN Team Plays Role in Annual NGO Conference

A week before the opening of the 61st session of the United Nations General Assembly, more than 2,500 representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended an annual forum organized by the Department of Public Information (DPI) at UN Headquarters in New York. The theme of the 59th Annual DPI/NGO Conference was Unfinished Business: Effective Partnerships for Human Security and Sustainable Development.

APA was represented by its volunteer team of UN / NGO representatives: Florence Denmark, Main Representative; Corann Okorodudu, Harold Cook, Deanna Chitayat, Harold Takooshian, Janet Sigal, and associate representatives Neal Rubin, and Norma Simon. Georgia Chao, Chair of the Committee on International Relations in Psychology, and Merry Bullock, Senior Director of the Office of International Affairs, also attended the September 6–8 conference.

The annual conference provides an important forum for networking among representatives of UN Member States and NGOs, and for exchange of best-practices on relevant issues. This year’s participants were able to attend six plenary round table sessions featuring speakers from the United Nations, governments, civil society, and the private sector who addressed the following themes:

- science and technology for education
- emerging approaches to health care
- human security, including protecting peace building commissions
- civil society and global partnerships for development
- commitment to reducing extreme poverty and hunger
- promoting respect for cultural diversity in conflict resolution.

In addition, 10 midday workshops sponsored by NGOs complemented the plenary sessions and provided participants the opportunity to learn from, and share with practitioners in the field experiences of particular relevance to NGOs.

APA sponsored and organized one of the midday workshops. Its title was Forgiveness: Partnering with the Enemy. The workshop was organized and moderated by APA UN Representative Deanna Chitayat. It was co-sponsored by the International Union of Psychological Science, the International Council of Psychology and the Armenian International Women’s Association.

The workshop panel included experts on forgiveness from South Africa and the USA. Presenters were Saths Cooper, President of the Psychological Society of South Africa (also Vice President of IUPsyS, and a former prisoner at Robben Island) who talked about forgiveness in the South African experience; Eileen Borris, a practitioner with...
broad international experience on implementing forgiveness (Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy); Edward Majian, a student at St. Peters College, New Jersey, who talked about the legacy of intergroup forgiveness over generations; and Ervin Staub, one of the foremost researchers on forgiveness and reconciliation (University of Massachusetts, Amherst) who talked about research-based interventions. The panel focused on forgiveness and reconciliation following intense intergroup violence and addressed such questions as whether or not forgiveness can build peace or begin the process of societal change in countries like South Africa and Rwanda.

In conjunction with the workshop, the APA Office of International Affairs compiled a special brochure to complement the panelists’ presentations. *Forgiveness: A Sampling of Research Results* presents current research briefs and provides examples of behavioral research on the meaning, processes, and effects of forgiveness. Collectively, the authors have studied forgiveness as an individual and group phenomenon in Australia, the Congo, Northern Ireland, Rwanda, the United States, and Canada. They have addressed forgiving and asking for forgiveness, and have explored the personal and group variables that affect the process and motivation of forgiveness.

Copies of *Forgiveness: A Sampling of Research Results* can be downloaded from the Office of International Affairs web site at [www.apa.org/international/apahun-forgive.html](http://www.apa.org/international/apahun-forgive.html).

The APA team was visible in participating in and organizing other workshops that included panelists and presenters from the UN, government, and civil society.

- **Migrant Families as Agents of Development: Conflicting Priorities**, moderated by APA representative Harold Cook. This workshop was sponsored by the National Council on Family Relations (with the NGO Committee on the Family, the NGO Committee on Human Rights Subcommittee on Immigration and Refugees, and the Child Welfare League of America as co-sponsors). The workshop addressed the conflicting positions of host and home Governments towards migrants and advocated reconciling the positions while promoting both migrant empowerment and development.

- **Racism and Discrimination as Causes of Poverty and Hunger**, moderated by APA Representative Corann Okorodudu. This session examined linkages between racism, discrimination, structural inequalities, international conflicts, and the unequal benefits of globalization which result in poverty and hunger. The workshop was sponsored by APA Division 9—the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) and co-sponsored by the NGO Committee on Human Rights Subcommittee for the Elimination of Racism, Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns, the National Council of Women, USA, the Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, and Franciscans International.
Psychology is a relatively new discipline in Kenya. It was introduced as a component of the Bachelor of Education degree as a result of a perceived need for educational psychology in the training of secondary school teachers in the middle 1970s. At that time, the country’s only public university was the University of Nairobi which included a Department of Educational Psychology in the Faculty of Education. In 1985, a second university separated from the University of Nairobi and became Kenyatta University, dedicated solely to teacher training and taking with it the Department of Educational Psychology. By 1988, growth of the student population outstripped the Kenyatta campus’ capacity, and the University of Nairobi established an additional campus where it resumed offering teacher education courses, moving its sole psychology faculty member from the Department of Sociology to the new campus. The University of Nairobi also began to offer introductory and educational psychology to nursing students. In the process, it became the first university to offer psychology courses outside of secondary education and the first Department of Psychology to omit the word “educational” from its role and its title. Shortly thereafter, Egerton University, previously devoted to agriculture, also began to offer an education degree, thus expanding the role of educational psychology to three campuses within the public university system. There were also two clinical psychologists on the faculty of the Department of Psychiatry in the College of Health Sciences.

By 2006, the number of public and private universities in Kenya had increased greatly and with that growth, came an expanded role for psychology. There are currently seven public universities, at least six of which offer courses in psychology, primarily in connection with teacher education. At least five of Kenya’s 17 private universities also do so. In addition to courses in introductory and educational psychology offered to students earning degrees in education and nursing, psychology courses have become a part of the curricula in medicine, agricultural extension, sociology and liberal arts.

The University of Nairobi offered its first degree in psychology in 1999, graduating its first class with the Bachelor of Counseling Psychology in 2004. In 2005, the Department of Psychology moved from the Faculty of Education to the Faculty of Arts. Two public universities, Kenyatta University and Moi University, now also offer the Bachelor of Arts in general psychology. At present, Kenyatta University houses two psychology departments; one, the Department of Educational Psychology in the Faculty of Education, trains teachers. The other, in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences is known as the Department of Psychology. At the undergraduate level, Kenyatta University offers the BA, the BS and the BEd, not in psychology per se, but in counseling. The private United States International University offers a bachelor’s degree in general psychology as well as a Masters in Counseling Psychology.

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Graduate degrees in educational psychology are also offered at the masters and doctoral level. A master’s in clinical psychology is offered by the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Nairobi, but is troubled by a high dropout rate and lacks clinical psychologists on its faculty. The social work program of the Department of Sociology at the same university offers a related Master of Arts in Guidance and Counseling. The Master of Arts in Guidance and Counseling is also offered by the private Daystar University while United States International University offers a Master’s in Counseling Psychology. A psychology-related Master of Education in Guidance and Counseling is offered by the public Egerton University. Guidance and counseling degrees provide counselors for secondary schools.

Kenyatta University is initiating a Masters of Arts in Psychology for students who will specialize in Organizational Psychology or Counseling Psychology in the university’s new Department of Psychology. Its department of Educational Psychology has trained Master of Education (Psychology) students since 1985. Maseno University and Egerton University, both public, have also recently begun to offer master’s degrees in educational psychology. The same is true of the private Catholic University of East Africa.

At the doctoral level in Kenya, there is no coursework, but only original research resulting in a doctoral thesis. Degrees in psychology at the doctoral level are few and are awarded on the basis of this research by Kenyatta University and the University of Nairobi. Since 1985, Kenyatta University has graduated several doctoral students in the Department of Educational Psychology. Although no one at the new Department of Psychology has yet received the doctorate, the department has prepared a syllabus to train students through course work and thesis. The University of Nairobi graduated its first two PhDs in the Department of Psychology in 2004. Both graduates were members of the Department and are still teaching there. Other universities also aspire to having sufficient numbers of psychology faculty members with the doctorate to be able to offer that degree.

Although education in psychology is growing rapidly, new graduates at all levels face a number of challenges. Professional roles as members of university faculty, clinicians and counselors account for employment status of most if not all Kenyan psychologists as well as expatriate psychologists working in Kenya. Among Kenyans, all receiving the doctorate prior to 2003 were trained outside of the country, primarily in North America, and primarily in educational psychology. Some new graduates with bachelor’s degrees in psychology are experienced teachers who are reabsorbed into the school system, primarily as secondary school teachers with responsibility for counseling. Unfortunately, Kenya’s Teacher’s Service Commission as yet has no scheme of service that recognizes the psychology degree, so these individuals do not benefit economically, nor do they routinely benefit when applying for promotion. Others who come to psychology by way of nursing, social services and the like, also generally return to their previous fields, although in nursing, the bachelor’s degree in psychology is recognized and provides a route to promotion. A few nurses even receive scholarship assistance from the Ministry of Health to pursue the degree. The national police force also recognizes the counseling degree.

Those who enter a psychology program as traditional students immediately following secondary school are at no particular advantage when seeking work after receiving the bachelor’s degree. They compete on a par with other bachelor’s degree recipients for
public sector jobs. In the private sector, it is mainly non-governmental organizations, including international ones that recognize the degree, both in research and service provision. Other, more mature, students who acquired previous training in counseling through short courses or on the job complete the degree and maintain a private practice in counseling. Having a university degree enhances their credibility in the community.

At present, there are no licensure or certification requirements that restrict the practice of counseling, psychotherapy, or other psychological services. There have, however, been periodic efforts to bring psychologists together to speak with one voice with regard to issues of credentialing and ethics as well as to lobby for recognition of the psychology degree in government schemes of service and career ladders, particularly in education and in mental health.

Despite the potential benefits of cooperation among those who seek to offer psychological services, there is competition between those trained as counselors, who form a counselors’ organization, and those trained in psychology with a background in theory and research as well as applications. Since licensing and certifications in Kenya require an Act of Parliament, without a united voice lobbying for specific provisions of such legislation, even members of Parliament who hold the psychology degree or are enrolled in a psychology program cannot press their colleagues for action. Some graduates of the University of Nairobi who are working as counselors have, however, developed a formal organization and are working with a Member of Parliament who is a student in their program. Together, they are learning about legislative processes and procedures. They aspire to develop an outline to provide drafters of a bill for eventual submission.

In addition to the legal issues requiring an Act of Parliament, there are other major problems which psychology faces in Kenya. These include access to training materials including audiovisual materials, textbooks, current books and journals in psychology, and psychological testing materials that, if available at all, have not been investigated for their reliability and validity in the African context. There is also limited access to the internet. Students seeking a practicum site are severely handicapped by lack of trained psychologists able to offer supervision. Those doing research are hampered by lack of funds and near total lack of equipment. Although the universities have computer labs with statistical packages available to students and faculty, there is no access to laboratory space, to computers that can be programmed to present stimulus materials, or to imaging techniques or training in their use. Access to continuing education in the form of conferences, workshops, and seminars is haphazard and usually requires funding for travel. There is as yet no mechanism for connecting new graduates with

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potential mentors in the community, nor is there a mechanism for peer support either for psychology faculty or practicing psychologists. Isolation of individual psychologists from each other and lack of communication among training programs is also a challenge to be overcome.

If the enormous growth of interest in psychology in Kenya is to produce a cadre of respected well-trained and well-equipped educators, researchers, theorists and service providers, these challenges must be met. While donor assistance, particularly with access to current literature in the field, has been and continues to be welcome, even crucial, it is at least equally important for Kenyans to organize and reach a workable consensus regarding professional ethics and practice.

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Kenya Psychological Association (KPsyA)

June Koinange, Chair

Psychological issues in Kenya

In many African countries, the subject of mental health has long been of major concern. There are many critical events characteristic of Africa that contribute to mental health issues, including political turmoil, poverty, large numbers of refugees, infectious disease, including HIV/AIDS, a lack of clean water and corruption, along with a world perception of Africa as the "begging bowl". The combination of these ills increases the pressures in many aspects of everyday life for the African child, adolescent and adult. Experts in the field of education, medicine, psychology, sociology and other related fields share a common concern over the alarming intensity of stress that both the young and the old experience in their daily activities.

The sum effect of these pressures are many and negative, leading to a wide range of psychological problems and problem behaviors, including alcohol and drug abuse, gender-based violence, promiscuity and even suicide.

In Kenya today with a population of approximately thirty million, there are fewer than three thousand psychologists and professional counselors (and among these psychologists are in the minority) Most were either trained overseas or from the national or private universities in Kenya. In addition, the population of psychologists and professional counselors is concentrated in the major towns of Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru, Kisumu and Eldoret, with the highest concentration is in Nairobi.

In addition, few of those who have trained in psychology are engaged in direct services.

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Most find employment in the areas of lecturing in the universities, working in the human resources departments of organizations or other work not directly related to their areas of clinical training. One of the reasons for this is that remuneration for psychotherapy in general is still very low in Kenya, in comparison to work output or to remuneration for similar professions. Those who get salaries that are commensurate with their terms of reference are those who manage to secure work with international non-governmental organizations and UN agencies in Kenya.

Kenyan Psychological Association (KPsyA)

These are some of the challenges faced by the Kenyan Psychological Association (KPsyA). The Kenyan association was initiated in 1996, when ten counseling psychologists met to deliberate on setting up an association for psychologists and those interested in the study and application of psychology. It was officially registered by the Registrar of Companies on February 17, 1997.

The membership in KPsyA is just over 100. There are seven categories of membership: student, full, associate, affiliate, out of country, other country, and emeritus members. The counselors in the association are mainly counseling psychologists and students of psychology. However, there are also a few educational, clinical, and research psychologists, and also marriage and family therapists.

There are other professional counselors in Kenya with different levels of training, who have specialized in specific areas only, example, in voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) for HIV/AIDS centers, guidance and counseling for schools, disaster preparedness and management.

KPsyA networks with other organizations at individual and group levels, in cases of national disasters, for example, the USA Embassy bomb blast in 1998, the Kenya Airways KQ Airbus 431 air disaster in 2000, fire disaster at Kyanguli high school that killed many students, and many others. KPsyA also networks with other associations, counseling centers and universities.

For more information, please contact Dr. Koinange (Lifespring Counselling Centre [june@africaonline.co.ke]). Also see the chapter Psychology in Kenya in the Handbook of International Psychology edited by Michael J. Stevens and Danny Wedding, published by Brunner-Routledge.
East Greets West — Chinese and North American Scholars Attend Forum on Children’s Development

Linda Camras, DePaul University

Last June, a number of Western and Chinese researchers attended the Second International Forum on Children’s Emotional Development and Competence held in Nanjing, Peoples Republic of China. The four-day meeting was sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Education’s Key Laboratory of Child Development and Learning Science at Southeast University and by the Chinese Psychological Society. Sponsorship of this meeting reflects a growing concern within China regarding children’s emotional development and adjustment. Academic stress has been identified as one important problem. In addition, children’s emotion competence is being recognized as influencing creativity, motivation to learn, social cooperation and aggressive behavior. Chinese researchers and educators are interested in achieving greater understanding of children’s emotions and developing methods for facilitating and assessing children’s emotional competence.

The purpose of the conference was to promote academic exchanges between Western and Chinese scientists. The conference was chaired by Professor Wei Yu, a former Vice-Minister of Education and was co-chaired by Dr. Zhang Houcan of the Beijing Normal University and by Dr. Linda Camras of DePaul University. The Organizing Committee was chaired by Dr. Meng Zhaolan of Peking University and Dr. Zjang Kan of the Chinese Psychological Association.

Twelve North American scientists and twelve Chinese scientists presented plenary lectures describing both research findings and methodological advances. Western scientists’ presentations covered general models of emotion competence (Carolyn Saarni), cultural perspectives on such models (Pamela Cole, Michael Mascolo), neurobiological underpinnings of emotion (Marc Lewis, Seth Pollak, Nathan Fox), emotional facial expressions (Jeffrey Cohn, Linda Camras), recent studies of Chinese children’s social and emotional development (Xinyin Chen, Carol Huntsinger), and school influences on emotional reactivity (Mark Greenberg, Roger Kobak). Presentations by Chinese scientists covered similar topics. In addition, because many Chinese researchers were trained in biomedical engineering and genomics, there were several presentations describing impressive advances in these areas. The conference was attended by approximately 80 Chinese faculty and graduate students as well as several Western graduate students currently studying in the PRC.

In addition to the plenary lectures, the entire last morning of the conference was devoted to informal exchanges between the North American and Chinese scholars. Using a round-table discussion format, Western researchers met with Chinese faculty and students who were interested in pursuing further discussion on the topics presented.
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during the plenary lectures. In addition, Western researchers were able to seek out Chinese colleagues who had presented plenary lectures on topics of mutual interest. By this means, the possibility of future research collaborations was facilitated.

The entire conference was characterized by an atmosphere of enthusiasm, respect, and mutual regard. Western researchers felt particularly welcomed by their Chinese hosts. Because of the success of the conference, plans are underway for future meetings with the next possibly being held in 2008.

The Afghanistan Psychological Association

Dr. Azizuddin Hemat, President

The Afghanistan Psychological Association was established at Kabul in 1993, when for the first time psychologists from the universities of Kabul, Mazar, Heart, Ningarhar, and the Academy of Science joined with psychiatrists from mental health hospitals and the Pedagogic Institute to form a professional association. Our association now has over 2000 members, mostly teachers in the different universities of Afghanistan. Psychology courses are taught at a number of universities (usually only in the first semester of the first year) but only one faculty department of psychology has been established at Kabul University.

As a result of two and a half decades of war in Afghanistan, much of the population is suffering from a variety of psychological problems, mostly unrecognized and untreated. Our association works to create awareness of psychological issues by conducting conferences and workshops. The participants of these workshops and seminars include cabinet ministers, provincial governors, and political leaders. Almost 35 members of the parliament have joined our association. We also conduct workshops for school principals and teachers and work to provide mental health facilities to local communities. In spite of many difficulties, we are currently working in ten provinces of Afghanistan—Kabul, Parwan, Baghlan, Kunduz, Takhar, Mazar, Heart, Gazni, Nangarhar and Kapisa.

Last year, the association met with His Excellency the President of Afghanistan Mr. Hamid Karzai, the former King of Afghanistan His Excellency Zahir Shah, the First Vice President of Afghanistan, the Second Vice President of Afghanistan, most of the Cabinet Ministers, the Governors, members of the Parliament, and members of the Senate and briefed them about the activities of the association, which they appreciated very much. The First Vice President provided our association with a furnished office and the Second Vice President donated a car.

Most of the foreign and national media have covered our activities and our conferences, and we have a one-hour program about psychology that is broadcast six days a week on the Tolo Television network of Afghanistan. Last year our association conducted a survey of those prisoners who were released from jails because of their mental health conditions. Treatment was provided to the extent possible. In near future we are going to start consultation and guidance programs for schools and universities.
Announcements

2007 APA Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology is Awarded to Co-Recipients

Ruben Ardila, PhD, has been a Fellow of APA since 1979. Dr. Ardila has promoted psychology in his native Colombia, which he represents in the International Union of Psychological Science, the Americas, and in the international arena. He has founded and lead professional associations, edited scientific journals (he is the founding editor of the Revista Latinoamerica de Psicologia), and is the author of numerous psychology books and papers that have been published around the world. His principle areas of research are experimental psychology, social psychology, and the history of psychology.

Frederick Leong, PhD, is also a Fellow of the Association. He is a leading scholar in the area of culture and mental health, who has studied the integration of Asian and Asian American psychologies in order to assess the differential influences of the culture of origin on the psychology of Asian Americans. Dr. Leong has consistently supported the development of psychology in Asia and has devoted a great deal of his career to teaching and researching in the Asia-Pacific region. During the last decade, he has also sought to internationalize counseling psychology, his primary specialty, and founded the Division of Counseling Psychology of the International Association of Applied Psychology.

Gerard Jacobs is Awarded 2007 APA International Humanitarian Award

Gerard Jacobs, PhD, is recognized as an international expert in the areas of disaster relief, psychological first aid, and the psychological consequences of terrorism. He is the director of the University of South Dakota’s Disaster Mental Health Institute, a unique institute attending to the mental health assessments and service delivery to disaster victims in the United States and around the world. Dr. Jacobs has served with distinction as a consultant to national and international organizations, including the World Health Organization, the International Red Cross, and APA, where he led the association’s efforts to facilitate relief efforts for victims of the 2004 tsunami and Hurricane Katrina. Dr. Jacobs has received two APA presidential citations for his contributions to the field of disaster psychology.

All APA International Award winners are invited to speak at the 2007 Convention in San Francisco, August 17-20, and receive a $1000 honorarium. Psychology International will feature the International Award winners in its 2007 issues.
Announcements

www.apa.org/international has a new look and features

It's now easier than ever to find what's new in the world of international psychology. The website of the Office of International Affairs—www.apa.org/international—has updated its look and its links to psychology in the news, announcements, calls for nominations, Frequently Asked Questions, and an expanded calendar of international meetings. The 2007 applications for APA Travel Grants, the Scientific Meeting Support Fund, and the David International Travel and Research Awards are also posted at http://www.apa.org/international/awards.html, along with other opportunities for work abroad or work on international issues.

The University of Athens awards APA Fellow an honoris causa doctorate

Lewis P. Lipsitt, PhD, Brown University professor emeritus of psychology, medical science, and human development received an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Athens, Greece, in November 2006 in recognition of his work advancing understanding of critical issues in the field of psychology. Dr. Lipsitt received awards earlier this year from the International Society for Infant Studies and the Japanese Baby Society for career-long studies of early experience and childhood behavior. Lipsitt is especially noted for his studies of basic learning mechanisms, and for contributions to the understanding of behavioral factors in crib death.

NIH Awards are Available for Young Investigators for International Research

NIH has reissued a grant program to fund young investigators for international research on health issues. This is a broad and flexible award that is geared to support U.S. postdoctoral biomedical, social, and behavioral scientists in the formative stages of their careers to conduct research in, or extend their research into, developing countries. As the announcement states, "It provides the successful candidate with a period of mentored research as part of an established collaboration between a US sponsor and a leading developing country scientist at an internationally recognized research institution in a developing country. It is expected that this experience will prepare scientists to pursue an international research career involving on-going collaboration with developing country scientists on global health challenges." See http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-07-014.html for more details.
Spotlight

New International Society for Terrorism Research Launched

A new society focused on terrorism research was launched in July 2006. The mission of the Society for Terrorism Research is as follows:

The Society for Terrorism Research (STR) is an international, multi-disciplinary organization of theoretical and empirical researchers in such behavioral sciences as anthropology, biology, economics, political science, psychology, sociology, and others. Its mission is to enhance knowledge and understanding of terrorism. Research on terrorism should include and integrate theoretical frameworks and findings from multiple disciplines. Thus informed, more effective policies worldwide will be able to reflect diverse models of complex causation.

STR is working on developing a journal (Terrorism Research), planning its first annual meeting/conference for the summer of 2007, recruiting members, and developing a roster of sponsored books. The first book will focus on how communities and societies play a role in the development of martyrdom terrorism, with Drs. Alice LoCicero and S. Justin Sinclair as lead authors. For more information on the society's activities and programs, please visit its website: www.societyforterrorismresearch.org.

News from Division 52

REFLECTIONS ON 2006, A BANNER YEAR FOR DIVISION 52

Joy K. Rice, PhD, Division 52 President

It has been an enormous pleasure to serve Division 52 as President in 2006. As I reflect back on what has been a tremendous year for the Division of International Psychology, I can report that our division membership is at an all time high, that our special projects and taskforces on mentoring, students and early career professionals, and research and testing are going strong, and that our annual meetings in New Orleans were most productive and enjoyable. I want to thank everyone in our division and all the APA staff who helped to make these accomplishments a reality and to share a few 2006 highlights with you.

Over-all Health of the Division

In 2001 we had 765 members and our goal was 900 members by the end of 2006 and 1000 in 2008; however, we have already reached 1000 members! "Spectacular year," said Membership Co-Chair Danny Wedding with membership up 13% and revenue up 8%. International members and student members are at an all time high (thanks also to Rivka Meir, Amanda Kracen, Lillian Stevens, and Elaine Bow). In an age of declining membership in APA and its divisions, we hold our own and continue to steadily grow. The good news includes our significant increase in student membership, which is one building block of a continuing strong and vibrant organization and also includes a great increase in the number of international affiliates. We're all very grateful to our Membership, Student/Early Career, and International Liaisons chairs for their outstanding recruitment efforts. With an increase in membership revenues over last

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year, we are also in solid shape financially and now have a working Finance Committee written into the Bylaws and Financial Policy and Procedures in our Handbook.

Division 52 task forces and committees have been active and productive. We have some promising new and re-established committees in Mentoring, Immigration and Refugees, Aging, Curriculum and Training, and Research Methodology. This year we also established some guidelines for the member-at-large positions in our Bylaws and approved an inaugural Handbook of Policies, Procedures and Divisional History. A special thanks to Gloria Gottsegen and all the dozens of people who worked on our "bible." Our website continues to expand, and our newsletter has a new title, "International Bulletin," and is publishing special sections of peer reviewed articles. We have strengthened our working relationships with both the Office of International Affairs (OIA) and the Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP), collaborating with Merry Bullock and Sally Leverty on membership, international affiliates, joint programs at APA, and the establishment of a regular newsletter column in this newsletter, reporting on division news.

2006 Presidential Initiatives

As part of my deep commitment to furthering diversity in our division and APA and to helping women and early career psychologists advance in leadership, I have worked to encourage the involvement of diverse constituencies in our committees, task forces, and initiatives. We now have an advertised pilot mentoring project up and going as well as mentoring guidelines, policies and application form on our web site www.internationalpsychology.net. This project has the potential to grow and be a star service of our division. Anie Kalayjian is our Mentoring Match Liaison and new Chair. The Student Early Career Committee also has a mentoring arm and is working closely with our Mentoring Committee.

Another new committee on Immigration and Refugees is co-chaired by Fred Bemak and Oksana Yakusko. The major goal has been to give immigration and refugee issues greater attention within the Division 52 and APA with symposia on immigration issues and submissions for special sections on immigration in The Counseling Psychologist and Psychology of Women Quarterly. Our participation in the 2006 APA Mid-Winter Expert Summit on "Global Realities: Intersections and Transitions" included presentations on immigration and trauma, family systems, treatment, cultural issues, diversity and LGBT issues, and our symposium on Immigration: Focus on Women and Family, chaired by Lynn Collins, and poster session were well received and attended.

In keeping with our strong diversity commitment, we have many new faces on our Executive Committee this year and greater cultural, age and gender diversity. Sharon Horne, Carol Zerbe Enns, Thema Davis Bryant, Chalmer Thompson, Amanda Kracen, Lillian Stevens, Fred Bemak, Oksana Yakusko, Danny Wedding, and Irene Frieze brought new energy and ideas to our board and initiatives. I’m also proud to note that the International Committee for Women, which was started seven years ago, continues to grow and serve as a venue for collaborative projects and initiatives. Chair Carol Enns led another exciting strategic planning meeting at APA New Orleans and ICFW sponsored
**News from Division 52**

new energy and ideas to our board and initiatives. I’m also proud to note that the International Committee for Women, which was started seven years ago, continues to grow and serve as a venue for collaborative projects and initiatives. Chair Carol Enns led another exciting strategic planning meeting at APA New Orleans and ICFW sponsored programs on sexual trafficking, women and violence, women and immigration, mentoring and psychological practice. The 52/ICFW Advocacy project with Half the Sky Orphanage successfully continues with regular reports on our little girl adoptee on our list serv.

**APA New Orleans**

No one really knew what to expect in New Orleans, but we had high hopes our presence would help the city. Well, APA New Orleans surpassed all our fondest hopes and expectations! Everyone seemed to have personal stories of how individual citizens had gone out of their way to express their gratitude for our support and help in maintaining their jobs. About 9,000 psychologists came to APA New Orleans, and 26 Board members attended our EC meetings at the Riverside Hilton and worked very hard for our division. Our board all felt that we are at a high in terms of membership growth, financial stability, services, publications, and progress in new international initiatives, and on Thursday evening we celebrated with a wonderful Creole dinner in the Garden district.

President Elect Michael Stevens intends to build upon our Division’s growth and announced his initiatives in 2007, our 10th anniversary year. They include expanded linkages with regional psychological associations and the APA Office of International Affairs. The Midwinter meeting will be March 23-25 at the EPA convention in Philadelphia. Michael also wants to begin an Ethics Committee that will dovetail with what is happening in APA. Much of APA Council meeting was devoted to a discussion of psychologist participation in military interrogation and a resolution was adopted absolutely opposing all forms of torture and abuse including psychological methods. President Elect Sharon Brehm has international initiatives for APA San Francisco and we’ll be working closely with her to meet those objectives.

A highlight of division activities was our annual Awards ceremony where we were privileged to hear from people who had devoted their lives to pioneering international research, disaster relief, and mentoring students. Many Board members who were honored for outstanding service to the division were delighted with the new medals they received and the warm reception that followed in our hospitality suite. Lingering in our comfortable suite, surrounded by new and old friends, I had one of the most satisfying feelings I have ever had in all my years of working in APA. Warm thanks and gratitude to each person on our board and members of our division who tirelessly worked to make New Orleans happen and to bring us to where we are today. One final 2006 APA memory comes to mind - those incredible Preservation Hall guys, - what a concert and what a good time, stomping our feet, clapping our hands and marveling that the spirit of New Orleans will never cease as long as its music is played.
Collaborate!

Forming a local group of international psychologists: Why and how?

Harold Takooshian, Fordham University
and Richard S. Velayo, Pace University

The past 10 years has seen a clear rise in the number of US psychologists involved in diverse international activities—teaching, research, practice, and advocacy. Two examples of this within the APA are the formation of APA Division 52 (International Psychology) in 1997 (which now tops 1,000 members), and the designation of APA as a nongovernmental organization (NGO) at the United Nations in 2000.

How can international psychology be promoted at the local level? This article briefly describes a group of active international psychologists in the New York City area—its origins, current activities, why and how other localities may form such a local group.

Origins

Since 1984, New York City has had an active group of local members APA Division 9, the Society for Psychological Study of Social Issues. This SPSSI-NY group hosts gatherings each year for its 400 local SPSSI members. When SPSSI-NY hosted a symposium at Fordham University on “Psychologists at the United Nations,” in 2002, it sparked the formation of a new group—“NY52,” made up local members of APA Division 52—International Psychology. At the time, fully 25% of the 800-plus members of the division lived in Greater New York.

Activities

Since 2002, NY52 has hosted a few gatherings each year, adapted to the interests of its local members, and now including some yearly “traditions.” The financial cost is close to zero—local institutions graciously donate their facilities without charge—meeting rooms, refreshments, publicity—while NY52 provides the expert speakers for these lively local activities.

(1) Travelers: One typical activity is to host a gathering for international colleagues traveling through New York, who can address issues in their homeland, for example, Garen Harutyunian from Armenia and James Georgas from Greece.

(2) United Nations: After hosting in 2003 a session with APA’s UN representatives, NY52 organized a historic gathering on April 1, 2004, at Pace University where 110 people met with 20 psychologists from six psychology NGOs at the UN. Since then, NY52 has hosted such UN-related gatherings twice each year.

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(3) **Collaborations:** Besides UN psychologists, NY52 has collaborated with other local groups. For example, on September 3, 2004, NY52 collaborated with Psi Chi, when 75 people gathered in the Presidents' Room of Yale University to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Ninth International Congress of Psychology where Psi Chi was founded in 1929.

(4) **Film presentations:** NY52 has presented two feature films, the multinational “Stolen Childhoods” in 2004, and in 2005 “Out of Silence,” about sexual abuse in Kenya.

(5) **Community outreach:** After the 9-11-2001 terrorist attack on New York City, NY52 has co-hosted an annual “Holiday Healing Circle” each December, where disaster expert Anie Kalayjian assembles psychologists and healers of many faiths for an interfaith holiday celebration.

(6) **Conferences:** Each year in May, NY52 hosts a meet-and-greet during the annual Pace University Psychology Conference, where students and others can hear NY52 members present cutting-edge symposia on international psychology. There have also been other local NYC-based conferences that have hosted a gathering of international psychologists including the Greater NY Conference on Behavioral Research, and the Hunter College Psychology Conference. In spring 2007, the Psychology Section of the New York Academy of Sciences will sponsor a talk by Dr. Michael Stevens, the 2007 president of Division 52, on “The Coming of Age of International Psychology: Advances in Theory, Research, and Practice.” These events/conferences provide a venue for psychologists with similar interests to meet and share their work, and to possibly recruit other psychologists and students to become members of Division 52 and APA.

Recently, on September 5, 2006, NY52 with the cooperation of APA’s Office of International Affairs, organized a meeting of international psychologists on “Psychology and Social Issues at the United Nations,” held at Fordham University in New York City. It was attended by 80 psychologists and students, and featured 18 panel presentations grouped into themes: HIV and AIDS, The Role of I-O Psychology in Improving the UN, Innovations at the UN, Forgiveness, Getting Involved in Global Work, and Working Effectively with the UN. These presentations highlighted the diverse roles of psychology in global issues, including the 8 UN Millennium Development Goals. This was the third annual gathering of psychologists working with the UN, and was held the day before the annual NGO Conference at UN headquarters that was attended by over 2,000 NGO representatives worldwide (http://ungodpiconference.org).

**Why and How?**

Psychology continues to establish itself as a global discipline and its relevance in the international arena is becoming more apparent and valued. The benefits of forming a local group of international psychologists are numerous. NY52 members have a chance to meet with each other in a collegial atmosphere and keep up to date on international topics. Many nonmembers, both students and professionals who attend local NY52 activities, have gone on to join Division 52, so the number of members in NYC has risen steadily from 210 to over 250 in the past four years.

Moreover, it is estimated that within the NYC area alone, there are about 60 psychologists actively involved in the United Nations. A good proportion of these
psychologists are designated Non-Government Organization representatives of the organizations they are affiliated with (e.g., American Psychological Association, International Association of Applied Psychologists, International Council of Psychologists, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, Association for Women in Psychology, International Union of Psychological Sciences, International Orthopsychiatric Association, and World Federation for Mental Health). This has also contributed to the success of NY52.

Though New York is currently the only US city with a thriving international group, there is likely any number of other cities with the necessary ingredients to sustain such a group: a nucleus of 20+ international psychologists, and a few local host institutions. Such cities surely include San Francisco, Boston, and the Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area. The missing key ingredient is a person or two willing to organize a gathering in their city. Division 52 can provide the e-mails for local division members and guidance on hosting the first event.

Ideally, by the time Division 52 marks its 20th anniversary in 2017, it will have several NY-style regional groups across the US and overseas. Interested readers are most welcome to contact us with any specific questions or comments. ψ

September 2006: 15 UN psychologists were among 80 participants in the forum on Psychology and Social Issues at the United Nations at Fordham University in New York City.