There has been a lively discussion on the Division’s listserv regarding the proposed name change for the Division. Proponents of the new name, Society for Internet and Media Psychology, felt it was important to link the Division to what many of us believe is the most important development in communications since the printing press. Others felt just as strongly that a new name was unnecessary and that Division of Media Psychology did a fine job of defining who we are and what we are interested in. The question was put to our members, and a majority of those voting (59%) supported the new name. However, our bylaws require a two-thirds majority for any changes to the bylaws (such as a name change), so the name of the Division won’t change—at least not this year.

Ryan Niemiec has put together an exciting series of Division presentations, posters and symposia for the upcoming APA convention in Toronto. We have included the entire upcoming Division program in this issue.

Budgetary restrictions have resulted in a decision to publish The Amplifier twice a year rather than three times each year. We will be having a spring/summer issue with a complete listing of the upcoming convention activities and a fall/winter issue. Your Board is also exploring having The Amplifier published online with those members who desire a paper copy having the option to simply print it out at their desk; we haven’t made a final decision about this, and we would welcome your views. You can post your thoughts on this issue on the Division’s listserv (DIV46-MEDIAPSYCH@lists.apa.org) or you can send me a personal note (danny.wedding@mimh.edu).

Many people feel that paper is becoming obsolete and that we would leave a smaller carbon footprint if we would all use electronic media to communicate with one another. I enthusiastically support this idea; one of the first things I’ll do when finishing my Fulbright and returning to the United States is purchase a Kindle. (If you don’t know what a Kindle is and you’re reading this online, you can simply click the hyperlink to get the relevant information—if you’re reading this on paper, you’ll have to postpone figuring out what it is all about, and you’ll probably forget about it by the time you get to your home or office computer.)

Like many of you, I have a Facebook account and enjoy learning about what my friends are up to at any given time. However, I’ve recently been experimenting with Twitter (a social networking and microblogging service)—and I like it! I “follow” several people in the Division and genuinely enjoy getting short (140 words or less) updates on what people are doing throughout the day. I keep track of the activities of the faculty of the Missouri Institute of Mental Health with Twitter, and I get frequent updates from my Democrat Senator, Claire McCaskill, as well as President Barak Obama (who somehow finds time to tweet with 693,953 other followers).

Carleen Hawn (2009) has written a provocative article in Health Affairs describing the ways in which Facebook, Twitter, and other social media are influencing the delivery of health care in the United States. She notes:

If you want a glimpse of what health care could look like a few years from now, consider "Hello Health," the Brooklyn-based primary care practice that is fast becoming an emblem of modern medicine. A paperless, concierge practice that eschews the limitations of insurance-based medicine, Hello Health is popular and successful, largely because of the powerful and cost-effective communication tools it employs: Web-based social media. Indeed, across the health care industry, from large hospital networks to patient support groups, new media tools like weblogs, instant messaging platforms, video chat, and social networks are reengineering the way doctors and patients interact.

Paul Baumann has identified 140 healthcare uses for Twitter; you can see his list here (at least you can if you are reading this online). I rather like the fact that I can ask my physician questions on Twitter, and I’m willing to pay for this convenience.

It is fascinating that blogs and listservs—which once seemed so very innovative and novel—are beginning to seem obsolete. I am especially frustrated with listservs (including our own) in which so many of the postings are of the “Attaboy,” “Congratulations,” or “I agree” variety. These are all very valid sentiments—they simply don’t have to be
President-Elect’s Column
Some Observations on Advertising

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Those who are familiar with the evolution of the APA Code of Ethics can remember the time when any advertising was regarded as unethical. Prior to 1989, the only matters that a psychologist could list in addition to name, address, and professional degrees were the areas of practice in which he or she was engaged. Faced with the threat of a lawsuit from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) based on restraint of trade, APA entered into a consent agreement with the FTC in 1989, agreeing not to prohibit advertising, but rather to enclose it within certain parameters.

Both the FTC and APA had legitimate points of view. The FTC was concerned with any organization whose philosophy ran counter to the notion of a free market place, populated by fully informed consumers. They viewed a prohibition of advertising as tantamount to withholding from the public important information that could be used to determine the relative value of certain goods or services. APA, on the other hand, was concerned that if it allowed advertising, it would open the floodgates to unscrupulous practitioners promising “quick fixes” to a population that was, by its very nature, vulnerable. A person suffering from severe anxiety or depression may not be in the best position to weigh the benefits of alternative treatments, especially if one promises a rapid cure.

Unfortunately, in entering the consent decree, APA had to utilize language that was very vague, and hard to define. One cannot fault APA for this, because it represented a good faith attempt to mollify the FTC but at the same time prohibit misleading advertising. APA agreed to allow advertising provided that it was not “false, fraudulent, or misleading.” These terms were not (and in fact could not) be well defined. Certainly, in some instances, such advertising was easy to spot; for instance, if a person claims to have a credential from a particular school which they never attended, that would clearly be both false and fraudulent. However, those of us who have served on ethics committees and licensing boards often see more subtly misleading statements. Here, the misleading impression is often created by what is not said rather than what is said. For instance, a psychologist distributed business cards that had his name, followed by MS, ABD. Consultant in Forensic Psychology. The psychologist is not stating anything that is not true, but the ABD refers to “all but dissertation,” and is not a credential at all. Nevertheless, while technically accurate, it is misleading since in the context, it appears that ABD is some sort of credential.

In a similar manner, a psychologist performed an evaluation which he titled NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION. His letterhead stated that he was a DIPLOMATE-ABPP, but did not indicate the area in which he held the diploma. The implication was that his diploma was in neuropsychology; in fact, it was in IO Psychology; while not technically inaccurate, the letterhead was misleading.

Still another case dealt with someone who, though he had a PhD in Psychology, was still under supervision in order to obtain sufficient hours to be licensed as a psychologist. His letterhead had his name, followed by PhD, followed by his address. At no point did it reveal that he was in fact a Psychology Associate under supervision. Here again, there is nothing false about the letterhead, but its absence of material makes it misleading to a consumer.

These are examples of some of the subtle misstatements which can occur when we advertise. Advertising is a very effective medium for making psychological services known to the public, but we as a profession must constantly be on the lookout for colleagues doing this kind of misleading advertising. It does not help anyone, and can hurt the credibility of our profession.

I am not suggesting that we become an ethics police and run around reporting everyone to ethics committees and licensing boards. Most often a phone call or a letter to the psychologist who has placed the misleading advertising will suffice. It is our first obligation to try to educate other psychologists and the public regarding the proper use of advertising.
Studying youth involvement in cyberspace and the digital world has become essential for our understanding of child and adolescent development. Youth are now growing up in cyberspace and many of our offline models of development may require modification or replacement by new conceptions. We don’t currently know how permeable the boundaries are between the old offline and the new online worlds, and how far our traditional understandings can take us in this new world.

Media psychologists need to be at the forefront of researching and articulating the nature of human development and functioning in cyberspace, and identifying the positive and negative features of the landscape, mapping the human cybergenome, if you will.

In this brief essay I will outline a mere handful of some positive and negative features as I see them, mostly skeletal ideas requiring fleshing out by research or discussion.

1. LEARNING

Best of Times: An instant and vast world of information and search available at one’s fingertips. An amazing resource for education as well as extracurricular activities.

Worst of Times: Learning the wrong things, incorrect information, invalid data, biased sources, wiki world.

2. THINKING

Best of Times: Can find critiques, arguments, multiple sides to issues, mental challenges, puzzles, that can facilitate thinking skills, cause-and-effect thinking, inferential thinking, gaming that facilitates problem-solving and decision-making relevant to scientific thinking.

Worst of Times: Get wrong ideas, destructive, dangerous or immoral ideas. Biased, irrational, erroneous thinking, uncorrected cognitive errors of logic and inference.

3. MOTIVATION

Best of Times: The variety and intensity of on-line experiences can be exciting, arousing, motivating, an impetus for learning and exposure to knowledge, promoting attention and engagement.

Worst of Times: Enhances forms of ADHD? Get distracted from the things one needs to or should learn or know due to irrelevant but engaging stimulation. Get obsessed with the technology use and constantly motivated to be online, to be engaged with it. The extent of access to the world keeps one seeking, searching, checking, spending excessive time, with school-work and other pursuits taking back seat.

4. INSPIRATION

Best of Times: Heroes, heroism, biographies, learning from and imitation of great role models. Great cultural, historical and scientific ideas and inspiration abound.

Worst of Times: Get inspired by the wrong models or anti-heroes. Have not developed or incorporated one’s moral filters or appropriate crap-detectors to sort it all out.

5. SOCIAL LIFE

Best of Times: Shy introvert, social phobic finds cyber company and friends online. One can expand one’s circle of keyboard pals because the leading social networking and member community sites are so user-friendly. Staying in touch if one moves, old friends, etc.

Worst of Times: Take too many risks online. Predators. Meet bad people. Post personal information, self-revealing in text or pictures that could haunt one forever, ruining careers or career possibilities, job prospects, or a desired relationship.

Employers, college admissions offices, now frequently check applicant’s online footprint. Social site OCD, constantly checking. Bullying, lies, gossip, depression, suicide.

6. SNOOPING, INVESTIGATING

Best of Times: Finding out interesting or important things about others, e.g., “Rate My Teacher,” “Rate My Professor,” a new neighbor or work-team member.

Worst of Times: Find out things you don’t need to know or shouldn’t want to know, e.g., about your parents, relatives, etc.

7. THE GLOBAL ME, SELF-EXPRESSION, DISINHIBITION

Best of Times: Most people like to tell their story if they can and the Internet gives voice. Everyone’s doing it so why not join in? Is it so narcissistic if everyone’s doing it, if it’s expected? Won’t it help us learn about other people and them about us?

Worst of Times: Will the global platform increase narcissism, providing it an opportunity? Can attract negativity from others, envy, jealousy, anger, scorn, rejection, bullying. One’s 15 minutes becomes eternal. Brings out the wrong side in people, the put-downs, flaming.

8. DIVERSITY, EXPANDING ONE’S HORIZONS

Best of Times: Exposure to people different from oneself or one’s community, different religions, life-styles, attitudes and beliefs. The global village. The other side of the mountain.

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THE AMPLIFIER

Past President’s Column
(continued from p. 3)

Worst of Times: Learn negative things about other peoples, other races, nations. Hateful stereotypes. Confirm and validate one’s prejudices.

9. ENTERTAINMENT

Worst of Times: Porn (estimates of 4.2 to 4.5 million websites!), violence, attainable forbidden fruit, dark side.

10. A POSITIVE ALTERNATIVE TO NEGATIVE OFFLINE BEHAVIOR
Best of Times: Keeps one off the streets, away from danger or bad influences, gangs, drugs, sex. More likely to keep one at home susceptible to parental supervision and influence or at least contactable wherever one is. Less worry for parents or guardians.

From the Editor

The “How-to” Media: Psychology and Everyday Life

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We don’t have to look too far to find “how-to” information on just about anything. People not only seem to have a strong need for “how-to” information, but they also seem to be driven by a need to share “how-to” information. These needs seem so universal that perhaps they should be added to the widely popular Maslow’s need hierarchy, something that has remained unchanged since its inception! The recently most publicized exemplar of the need to share “how-to” information is the White House survival guide written by the former President Bush’s daughters for President Obama’s daughters.

I happened to flip through the pages of the January 2009 issue of GradPsych, and I found several “how-to” articles for graduate students. In the aforementioned issue, I counted 9 tips for improving their creativity, 9 tips for finding the right people to Chair and serve as members of a dissertation committee, 5 tips for surviving in graduate school, 5 tips for making the most out of research assistantships, and so on. Wow, I thought, the listings of 5 to 9 tips might be further evidence of the George Miller’s famous finding of “magical number 7 ± 2” regarding the limits of our short-term memory or, perhaps, its real life application!

My curiosity led me to Google “how to” and I learned from a quick visit to Wikipedia that the correct spelling is “how to” (with a hyphen). Of course, you cannot miss the website “eHow.com How To Do Just About Everything.” Some of the postings at the ehow.com website simply took me by surprise. Consider, for example, the posting “How to Celebrate Martin Luther King Day” (by Bob Strauss), a highly apropos one given that I Googled on the MLK day (January 19, eHow.com).

Well, how does one celebrate one of the most celebrated individuals in the world, Martin Luther King? I found 5 tips: “Read up on King’s life; Go to church; Watch a documentary about the civil rights movement; Throw a party; and Be respectful.” What can be better than people from everyday life sharing their personal “how-to” heuristics with a wider audience? Everyone chipping in to make life better for others is surely altruism of the highest form. Thanks to the Internet—which has evolved into the most versatile and influential of all grassroots media—writing by the people for the people is in full motion today. And the expertise for writing comes from just living and experiencing everyday life. Internet has become a place where everyone or anyone can learn just about anything from anyone and everyone!

As I mused over the “how-to” media, several questions came to my mind. Should there be more aggressive participation on the part of psychologists in the popular “how-to” media where they could share their informed knowledge and write something—that is, to wit, “evidence-based 7 ± 2 tips” that could make a difference in many people’s everyday lives? Should the APA host a “how-to” website? What would be the name of such a website? Psyhowto.com, perhaps? (Sounds a bit Chinese, but might work.) Or, perhaps more straightforwardly, psychologyhowto.com? In this era of “pointillistic,” PowerPoint-driven presentations, distilling relevant points to simple, while still nuanced, psychologyhowto.com? In this era of “pointillistic,” PowerPoint-driven presentations, distilling relevant points to simple, while still nuanced, “how-to’s” might not be all that difficult for psychologists for literally, worldwide dissemination.

Just sharing some thoughts!
From the Associate Editors

Online Social Networking Sites in Counseling

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Online social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace have become a prevalent force among American youth. In addition to young people, thirty-five percent of all adult Internet users have a social networking site profile (www.pewinternet.org). Counselors and psychologists must stay abreast of changing technologies and trends to keep informed. In addition to staying well-versed and speaking the language of “friends,” “tagging,” and “blocking,” utilizing a social networking site in counseling may be a great tool for counselors.

As a college counselor, social networking sites often get mentioned in sessions. However, I never considered the value of using them as a counseling tool. That is until my work with a client who had come to counseling because she was distraught over her parents divorce, stemming from her fathers new relationship. The sessions focused on her anger towards her father and his girlfriend as well as her broken faith in love and family.

A few months into counseling, my usually stoic client came in fighting back tears. Not only had her father “friended” her on a social networking site, his page included what she felt were provocative pictures of his new girlfriend. My immediate reaction was to ask her if I could see them. She logged on to the site on my computer and showed me the photographs. Using the photos as a point of reference, my client began a detailed account of their effect on her. She clearly and coherently verbalized the pain she sometimes struggled to express. In addition to her progress of articulating her thoughts and feelings, my empathy grew and I gained a deeper understanding of what my client was experiencing and what she was up against. “Showing” in addition to “telling” was an asset.

There is little or no research on this topic in the extant literature. However, Clemens, Shipp and Pisarik (2008) assert that these social networking sites are untapped resources for mental health professionals, especially for those working with adolescents on identity concerns. They suggest asking clients questions such as “in what ways does your profile capture who you are?” and, “are there important aspects of who you are that are missing, underrepresented or over-represented?” This line of questioning may be helpful for a large range of presenting issues. In particular, it may be useful with clients who are questioning their sexuality or are in the coming out process. Facebook asks users to identify their sexual preferences and even the option of omitting a response could be troublesome for some. Asking clients about their experience and perception could stimulate productive discussion.

“Showing” can provide an added dimension in counseling and the social networking sites can serve as tangible sources to begin reflection and discussion. For clients or counselors who don’t feel comfortable accessing their information in session, questions about their page could also provide great insight. With the popularity of online social networking sites among all Internet users, it may be beneficial for counselors and other mental health professionals to think about the benefits of utilizing them in session.

Reference

Tech and Sex

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By now it would be expected that everyone has some sort of technology-driven communication device whether it be a cell phone, email, social networking account, etc. But did you ever expect that these devices could land you in court depending on what you are sending across the cyberspace airways?

The new trend among teens is called “sexting.” This is when a person sends nude or semi-nude pictures of their self to others typically through their cell phone or some other texting gadget. The pictures are usually sent between a boyfriend/girlfriend. Unfortunately, the impulsivity of teens neglects to consider the consequences and forgets that anything in cyberspace can stay there forever and come back to haunt them when least expected.

A survey was conducted by TRU, a research company that focused on teens and twenty something’s, in collaboration with The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy along with CosmoGirl.com, to see just how many teens and young adults, between the ages of 13–26, had engaged in sexting. The results showed that 20% of teens (ages 13–19) and 33% of young adults (continued on p. 6)
From the Associate Editors

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(ages 20–26) overall have sent/posted nude or semi-nude pictures or videos of themselves.

The legal consequences for engaging in acts involving sexting are still up in the air considering it is such a new and unchartered legal concern. ABC News reported on March 13, 2009, that news reports are increasingly documenting legal repercussions after indecent photos appear online. And attorneys say there are many unanswered questions about whether young people who send their own photos could face prosecution for obscenity or child pornography. Keep in mind the penalty associated with the charges being considered for sexting could land someone on the register for child abuse with the branding of “sex offender,” which will follow them for years. Is this a bit harsh for a young and impulsive teen to face for being what one may simply call stupid and immature?

Report From the Council of Representatives

Clicking Along with Council Reps

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The February 2009 meeting of the Council of Representatives was the first time all the representatives voted using a clicker. This made it possible to see our secret ballot votes immediately although if Council voted, the recorded votes could be made public on a particular item. Anyone watching us would have seen us pointing a clicker towards the screen and checking to see that our vote was received and recorded. Although we did come into the technological age, the votes were less transparent than when we raised our hands and everyone could see how people voted on each issue.

Here are some of the highlights from the meeting prepared by APA:

February 2009 Council Summary

To keep APA robust during today's economic turmoil, APA's Council of Representatives adopts a new vision statement and trims the association's expenses.

The steps APA will need to take to weather the current economic downturn and what the association wants to achieve in the next decade were major topics of discussion and decision-making at the February meeting of the APA Council of Representatives.

As a blueprint for the future, APA has undertaken its first-ever strategic planning process. That work, begun in 2007 with the help of a governance-based strategic planning work group, produced a new mission statement, adopted by council last year, and a vision statement adopted in February.

"The strategic planning process is going to help APA be a stronger and more focused organization in the future," said APA CEO Norman B. Anderson, PhD, who has worked closely with the Board of Directors, council and other governance groups on the process. "In this time of economic challenges for the nation and the association, we have to make sure that we are engaging in the activities that our members most value and where we can have the most impact for the discipline and society. Our new mission and vision statements, and the goals and objectives that will grow from them, will help us do just that."

The 2009 Budget

The economic recession and its effect on APA was another major topic of discussion for the council. Anderson, APA Treasurer Paul Craig, PhD, and APA CFO Archie Turner each told the council that while APA's overall financial health is strong, based on its membership, publishing operation and real estate holdings, the economy is having a direct effect on APA's operating budget. In response, the association is taking very specific actions to cut 2009 spending to ensure a balanced budget.

"Like many organizations, APA's investment portfolio sustained serious losses in 2008," Turner said. "Those losses mean that we don't have the cushion we might have had in other years to cover a budget deficit. Consequently, we must have a balanced budget this year."

After broad discussion and in an effort to protect against the possibility of deficits in 2009, the council adopted a budget with approximately $12 million in spending cuts. They include governance activities, such as some meetings, the elimination of the board and council discretionary funds, cuts in spending on
public education programs and a staff hiring freeze. Council also directed APA staff to closely monitor spending and revenues as the year continues and to take steps as necessary to ensure a break even budget at year’s end.

**Action on 2008 Petition Resolution**

After years of grappling with the difficult issues related to the role of psychologists in national security detention settings, the council moved to make the results of last fall’s membership vote in support of a petition resolution official APA policy. The petition resolution prohibits psychologists from working in settings where people are held outside of, or in violation of, either International Law or the U.S. Constitution. The only exceptions to this prohibition are in cases in which a psychologist is working directly for the person being detained, for an independent third party working to protect human rights or providing treatment to military personnel.

According to the association rules, action on a petition is not complete until the association's "next annual meeting" in August. However, the council voted to suspend that rule to complete action on the petition. The council also adopted a title for the petition, "Psychologists and Unlawful Detention Settings with a Focus on National Security" in an effort to clarify the scope of the petition. The petition resolution is not intended to be applied broadly to jails, all detention centers or psychiatric hospitals.

In a related action, the council also received the report of the Presidential Advisory Group on the Implementation of the Petition Resolution and forwarded the report to relevant APA boards and committees for their review and action. The council also directed APA's Central Office to include information in its regular reports to the council and Board of Directors about steps taken to implement the petition resolution as proposed in the advisory group report.

In other actions, the council:

- Postponed action on proposals to reduce the costs of dues for some members including state, provincial and territorial association members, due to the restraints on the 2009 and 2010 budgets.
- Received the report of the Task Force for Increasing the Number of Quantitative Psychologists.
- Established a continuing Committee on Human Research.
- Received the final report of the Div. 19 (Military) and Div. 44 (Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues) Joint Task Force on Sexual Orientation and Military Experience

**A New Vision**

As part of APA's first-ever strategic planning process, council adopted the following vision statement for the association. The statement is intended to describe the type of organization APA aspires to be and the impact it hopes to make over a 20- to 30-year horizon.

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**APA VISION STATEMENT**

The American Psychological Association aspires to excel as a valuable, effective and influential organization advancing psychology as a science, serving as:

- A uniting force for the discipline;
- The major catalyst for the stimulation, growth and dissemination of psychological science and practice;
- The primary resource for all psychologists;
- The premier innovator in the education, development, and training of psychological scientists, practitioners and educators;
- The leading advocate for psychological knowledge and practice informing policy makers and the public to improve public policy and daily living;
- A principal leader and global partner promoting psychological knowledge and methods to facilitate the resolution of personal, societal and global challenges in diverse, multicultural and international contexts; and
- An effective champion of the application of psychology to promote human rights, health, well being and dignity.

In summary, this was an interesting and informative meeting and the discussions have continued on the Council Listserv through the next few months. I will try to send summaries of the issues being discussed on the Division 46 listserv, so join up and follow along as the APA struggles through the economic crisis like most of us are doing, also.

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**Publication and Submission Guidelines**

The Amplifier is the official newsletter of APA Division 46, Media Psychology, and is published twice a year (Spring/Summer, Fall/Winter). Unsolicited contributions from members are welcomed and encouraged. Articles must be relevant to media psychology and should not have been published elsewhere. All submissions should be sent to the Editor, V. Krishna Kumar, PhD (kkumar@wcupa.edu). Submissions must be received by April 1 for Spring/Summer issue and October 1 for the Fall/Winter issue. Authors should ensure that their manuscripts comply with all APA publication and ethical guidelines.
The Making of the Monitor

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Now in its 40th year of reporting on psychology and APA, the Monitor continues to evolve to meet member needs.

If you've been a long-time member of APA, you've witnessed firsthand the changes in the Monitor. What debuted as a 12-page, black and white newspaper in 1970 has grown to today's four-color, glossy magazine, brimming with psychology's latest research, profiles of innovative practitioners and reports on APA initiatives.

Indeed, like all publications—and APA itself—the Monitor has evolved with the times. The challenge for us, however, lies in creating an issue month after month that appeals to APA's incredibly diverse membership. APA members are, of course scientists and practitioners, academicians and students. But they are also experts in psychology's rich subfields, from independent practitioners to statistical experts, environmental researchers to experts in child welfare.

As any psychologists will tell you, the best way to get a handle on such a complex situation is to conduct a survey. So, in October 2007 that's what the Monitor did. We asked 2,500 members for their honest opinions about what they liked and disliked about their monthly membership benefit. The results helped us refine our editorial direction.

Overall, most members reported that they enjoyed the Monitor: 18% of our survey respondents rated it “excellent,” 37% "very good" and 31% "good." Nonetheless, 34% of survey respondents said they wanted more psychological research in the Monitor. So, in addition to the already-popular “Science Watch” articles, we added more reports showcasing psychologists' research. We also created a department called “In Brief,” a two-page summary of research briefs. Those changes alone more than doubled the amount of psychological research in each issue.

Members also told us that they wanted more insights on practice opportunities. In response, we created a monthly feature called “Practice Profile,” in which we interview practitioners who work in a diverse array of settings. We also heard from early career psychologists that they wanted more information tailored to their needs, from finding jobs to paying off debt. We now provide articles on those topics and more in our “Early Career Psychology” feature every other month.

Some members told us that they wanted to know more about what APA is doing in the legislative and regulatory arenas. That's why we now offer a wrap-up of APA's ongoing efforts to promote psychology in “On Your Behalf.” The department reports on APA's testimony on Capitol Hill, meetings we have with administration officials, amicus briefs we file and outreach we do with allied groups.

We also created a couple of lighter departments to make the Monitor an even more enjoyable read. One of our most successful additions has been “Time Capsule,” which explores a significant piece of psychology history with the help of Dr. Ludy Benjamin Jr. of Texas A&M University and David Baker, director of the Psychology Archives housed at the University of Akron. In fact, one of the most popular articles the Monitor ever ran was the “Time Capsule” named “Husbands, Rate Your Wives,” which reported on a survey tool a psychologist developed in the 1930s to help couples improve their marriages—a tool that is highly sexist by today's standards. The article was picked up by websites and newspapers worldwide.

Another lighter feature we introduced is “Random Sample” in which we randomly contact an APA member and tell their story on one page. These profiles consistently enlighten and amaze us because they truly show the breadth and diversity of APA and the far-reaching work our members are doing.

After we gathered the information from members and devised the new departments and features, we then determined it was time to give the Monitor a facelift to make it more visually appealing.

How are we doing now? Our plan is to survey members once again in April 2010 to find out whether the changes we've made are in line with what members want, and if not, how we can further tweak the publication.

Meanwhile, if you have comments before then, we always want to hear from you, whether it's to critique the Monitor's latest revamp or give us a story idea. Please send your comments to Monitor Editor Sara Martin.
What’s in the News—How Psychologists Can Get Involved

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As the recession hammers American business and news stories focus on people’s reaction to the economic fallout, journalists are looking to psychologists for their expertise in human behavior to explain how best to cope and where to turn for help.

In the past six months, APA’s Public Affairs Office received more calls and e-mails than ever before for psychologist experts on the economy, money, depression, and suicide. Stories covering stress, infertility, consumer behavior and attitudes were also popular.

Most Popular Topics

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<th>Topic Description</th>
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<td>Money</td>
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<td>Social Psychology</td>
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<td>Shopping Addicts</td>
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<td>Consumer Psychology</td>
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Even though the economy and money issues have been dominating the news, journalists are still looking for experts to comment on other topics, such as relationships, brain functioning, education, aging, diet and nutrition and climate change.

APA’s Media Referral Service

APA’s database of experts—the Media Referral Service—lets APA staff match the expert, the psychologist, to the story. When the office receives a call or e-mail, a staff person refers the reporter, editor or producer to psychologists with the appropriate expertise.

Division 46 members can get listed in the database by contacting public.affairs@apa.org or 202-336-5700 for an electronic form. The form asks for biographical information, credentials, areas of expertise, publications, media experience and foreign language proficiency. The office also offers tip sheets and guidance for all media interviews.

What the Expert Needs to Know

APA preps its media experts when they join the system. The Media Referral Service sign-up form asks how much, if any, media experience the member has, and the Public Affairs staff provides a brochure that runs through some of the dos and don'ts of media interviews. Media training is offered at APA's Annual Convention and state association meetings, where members can get more in-depth coaching.

“Being a member of Division 46 is a good way to learn about media work since many psychologists belonging to this division have been doing media interviews for many years,” says Frank Farley, PhD, past president of the division and APA. “Keeping comments direct, simple, straightforward and short is very important for media interviews. Prepare yourself before the interview. Know what the main points are. Have an anecdote to tell to bring your points to life. If you can make the story funny, all the better.”

The Public Affairs staff screen media requests to let psychologists know what to expect—Is it a print or broadcast outlet? Live or taped? What's the slant of the story? Will there be other guests or call-ins? The staff is also available to answer members' questions or help them in any way so that their interviews go well.

A Paradigm Shift for Authors: From Promotion to Philanthropy

Judy Kuriansky
Dr.JudyK@aol.com

Psychologists who write books certainly want to communicate a message, and usually they would also like to make some money. To accomplish those goals, a book has to be promoted—a process that is increasingly challenging these days as publishers cut back on budgets and book tours with the result that promotional efforts can cost the author money (hiring publicists privately, traveling, etc.). While I have certainly gone through this process with some trade books I've written over nearly thirty years—my recent experiences with two academic books introduced me to a paradigm shift in book promotion: philanthropy.

The concept: Certainly there are cases where professionals have donated their book to their favorite cause. Usually this means donating copies for a charity raffle or auction, as I've done many times (e.g., giving copies of How to Love A Nice Guy and The Complete Idiots Guide to A Healthy Relationship to the Friars Club Foundation auction that raises money for worthy causes like the Wounded Warriors). Taking this activity to the next step means reframing this behavior—to be "Philanthropy."
THE AMPLIFIER

A Paradigm Shift for Authors

(continued from p. 9)

The reframe is that I am no longer an author/editor concerned about numbers of books sold or royalties earned, but a philanthropist figuring out ways to distribute my message to individuals, groups or causes with an aligned mission.

The internal process: First, values have to be identified. In asking myself, "What do I want to accomplish?" the answer lay in my response to the question, "What do you want to do when you grow up?" to which, as an 8-year-old, I said, "to do something for world peace."

The specifics: My recent two edited volumes addressed the psychosocial issues in the Middle East conflict. *Terror in the Holy Land: Inside the Anguish of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* consists of 31 chapters covering experiences from people on both sides of the issue: Palestinians and Israelis, Arabs and Jews. The follow-up project, *Beyond Bullets and Bombs: Grassroots Peace Building Between Israelis and Palestinians* has 40 chapters covering joint projects by Israelis and Palestinians, Arabs and Jews, that bring the two cultures together: children cleaning beaches together, teens making movies or camping, and adults dialoguing over dinner. The message is that regardless of lack of agreements between governments (top-down diplomacy), real people on the ground (bottom-up diplomacy) were working together towards mutual understanding and peace. The message is timely, given that (sadly) the conflict has flared up into several wars, and is being acknowledged in the new administration, e.g., with the appointment of George Mitchell as special envoy, and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s visits, to the region. So, an important target audience in my mission is policymakers.

My affiliation with an organization—the Alliance for Middle East Peace (www.allmep.org) became the perfect collaboration in this effort. Both last year and this year, I brought many copies of the book to distribute at our summit meeting, and at lobbying meetings with Congress representatives, State Department officials and Ambassadors, to summon support for an International Fund for peace in the Middle East equivalent to the International Fund for Ireland (which has been very successful over the past 25 years in facilitating peace in that region). The volume served as perfect tangible evidence of public desire for peace, since telling real people's stories is one of the major techniques in lobbying. Representatives with whom we met were impressed and greatly welcomed knowing about these projects. Two weeks later, I repeated the process when I returned to Washington for the Summit of the Peace Alliance (www.thepeacealliance.org) to participate in an historic citizen lobbying effort for House Resolution 808 to establish a U.S. Department of Peace, a campaign championed by House representative Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio).

Another relevant audience who need to know about these grassroots efforts is think tanks; consequently, I made a list of relevant organizations that should receive copies, and further gave copies to university professors, as well as facilitators, organizers and fellow participants of Middle East conferences I spoke at, both in this country and abroad. I also brought copies to events where I might encounter people involved in the issue, as happened when I reported about the Clinton Global Initiative and gave a copy to former President Clinton and to Queen Rania of Jordan (committed to mediation efforts). Friends with similar missions became enthusiastic to use the volume to demonstrate their points (e.g. the founder of "Journeys for Peace" who was going to meet Shimon Peres in Israel). Since I also wanted "real" people to have it—particularly from the region who wouldn't have easy access or finances to buy such expensive books—I gave copies to fellow participants at peace camps and various meetings and conferences. Getting the message out to the public and to colleagues was also important, e.g. at APA meetings and through reviews, as the one in *Contemporary Psychology* online (Fodor, 2008). Sowing seeds of peace in the Middle East. *PsycCRITIQUES*, 53).

This effort motivated me to finally pay a considerable amount of money for the website with my name (www.DrJudy.com)—that someone had purposefully bought to make money selling it—to launch it dedicated to reconciliation of the conflict, to highlight the importance of the issue.

The economics: Of course this approach is not for everyone. Publishers do not give books to authors for free beyond a contractually agreed-upon limited number of complimentary copies. On a $49.95 book (not uncommon for an academic book of 300+ pages), authors can get a 50% discount for buying a large number of books; but once shipping is added, each copy can cost upwards of $30. I have spent tens of thousands of dollars and innumerable hours on the projects I've described, on setting up a foundation, and on co-producing related videos, but consider every penny of it worthwhile as an investment in the peace I care about for the region and for the world. An option is to find another person to similarly invest—which I’ve done once—when the mission coincides with his or her own foundation and commitment. In all, I've enjoyed reframing myself as a philanthropist, and don't regret the time and money I've invested in such attempts to advance world peace.

Judy Kuriansky, PhD, is a Division 46 co-founder and Fellow, and teaches at Columbia University Teachers College. She has published many authored and edited books and helps others get their work published, through her role as series editor for Praeger's series on Practical and Applied Psychology, and on Sex, Love and Psychology.

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Join Our New Facebook Group

Media platforms like Facebook provide us with additional ways to build and maintain our network. Thus, Division 46 now is developing its own Facebook Group, "APA DIVISION 46." You must be a member of Facebook to join this Group. Facebook membership is free, so there is no cost to network, ask questions, interact, and discuss issues that are relevant to Division interests such as Internet and media psychology. This differs from the Division listserv in that it can for some be a more appropriate place for discussions, since they stay between discussants, as opposed to involving everyone on the list. Please contact Joanne Broder Sumerson, Division 46 Membership Chair, at joannebroder@aol.com, if you would like more information.
The Backbone of Positive Psychology

Ryan M. Niemiec
ryan@viacharacter.org

Curiosity. Fairness. Open-mindedness. Love. Kindness. These are the most common strengths of character that human beings endorse. We know this because of research results from more than 1 million online surveys from the VIA Survey of Character.

The VIA Survey of Character is a measurement tool that has undergone significant scientific validation. Results reveal a top-down list of one’s highest to lowest strengths. Its accompanying classification system and study of character strengths and virtues is the backbone of the science of positive psychology.

Neal Mayerson, an early forerunner in the positive psychology movement, and Martin Seligman, the science’s early founder, created the VIA Institute on Character. This non-profit organization (originally called the Values in Action Institute) is devoted to the study of what is best in people. To systematize this work, they brought in acclaimed scientist Chris Peterson to lead a three-year, dedicated effort involving 55 noted scientists. The result: a groundbreaking classification system (described in the handbook Character Strengths and Virtues, 2004) that is the complementary bookend on human functioning to the pathology-based DSM-IV.

The VIA classification identifies 24 character strengths that have been found throughout history, universally across cultures, nations, religions, and demographics. One study noted the high rates of agreement on these strengths among U.S. college students and people in such remote cultures as Inughuit in Northern Greenland and those in the Kenyan Maasai (Biswas-Diener, 2006). One of the repeated findings of the VIA Survey is that five particular character strengths highly correlate with and predict life satisfaction—zest, curiosity, hope, love, and gratitude (Park, Peterson, & Seligman, 2004). Such findings provide new avenues for practitioners to focus their interventions with clients and groups. Clinicians will also be interested in knowing that another salient finding is the importance of using one’s top (signature) strengths in new ways every day. This is one of the core practices of Positive Psychotherapy, which relieved depression symptoms for more than 6 months compared with placebo, and in a second study produced higher remission rates than treatment as usual. And, in both cases, the interventions were delivered simply as written instructions online! (Seligman, Rashid, & Parks, 2006).

Another finding of the VIA Survey is that if an individual has a physical disorder, there is less of a toll on life satisfaction if that person is high in the character strengths of bravery, kindness, and humor. Likewise, if they have a psychological disorder, there is less of a toll on life satisfaction if they are high on appreciation of beauty and excellence and love of learning (Peterson, Park, & Seligman, 2006). This retrospective research speaks to the potential relevance of building these strengths up within oneself to better cope with problems that we are most likely to face at some point in our lives.

Perhaps reflecting the rise in consumerism and society’s need for quick information and immediate gratification, the least commonly endorsed character strength is self-regulation (self-control), with other strengths of the temperance virtue—prudence and humility—not far behind.

Research on the benefits, enhancement, and outcome of having each of the character strengths is progressing. While each character strength has exciting potential for further research, some have taken the field by storm. For example, Robert Emmons has blazed the trail in gratitude research, finding significant emotional and interpersonal benefits to various gratitude practices such as the daily exercise of counting one’s blessings (Emmons & McCullough, 2003). The literature surrounding the character strength of optimism/hope is robust, predicting a number of desirable outcomes related to achievement, freedom from anxiety/depression, good social relationships, and good physical well-being (Peterson & Seligman, 2004). Other examples of fascinating character strengths research include the benefits of being curious (Todd Kashdan), the practice of random acts of kindness (Sonja Lyubomirsky), and the sorely needed scientific base for improving self-regulation (Roy Baumeister).

References

Ryan M. Niemiec, PsyD, is the Program Chair for Division 46 for this year’s APA Convention. He is Education Director for VIA Institute on Character in Cincinnati.

Subscribe to Division 46 Listserv

Looking for a forum to join with others interested in a dialogue about Media Psychology issues?

To subscribe to the Division’s listserv, go to the following URL: http://lists.apa.org/cgi-bin/wa.exe?HOME

Scroll down to DIV46-MEDIAPSYCH, click on it, and follow the instructions for joining the listserv. (Please note: You must be either an APA member or a Div. 46 member to be eligible to join.)
Saying It Again: Psychologists May Never Participate in Torture

James H. Bray, APA President
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The following is an opinion editorial by the president of the American Psychological Association responding to recent media reports surrounding Bush administration memos seeking to justify the use of harsh interrogation techniques.

Let’s set the record straight: It is a clear violation of professional ethics for a psychologist to have played a role in the torture of CIA detainees, as described in the recently released Bush administration memos. These Justice Department documents, which purport to offer medical and scientific justification for torturing detainees, are chilling in their dispassionate analysis of how far to push a human being for the purpose of eliciting national security-related information.

The central tenet of psychology’s code of ethics is, like that of medicine, to do no harm. It is unthinkable that any psychologist could assert that stress positions, forced nudity, sleep deprivation, exploiting phobias, and waterboarding—along with other forms of torture techniques that the American Psychological Association has condemned and prohibited—cause no lasting damage to a human being’s psyche. And yet an emerging record strongly suggests that some did.

APA has declared that psychologists have an obligation to intervene to stop torture or abuse, and a further obligation to report any instance of torture or abuse. In fact, the public record includes examples of psychologists behaving precisely how APA would expect. Unfortunately, two psychologists, James Mitchell and Bruce Jessen, have been identified in media reports as proponents of using “reverse-engineered” SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape) military training techniques for detainee interrogations. These techniques, when applied in this manner, are tantamount to torture as defined by APA and international law. Mitchell and Jessen are not members of the APA, and therefore the association has no jurisdiction to investigate their activities. The APA Code of Ethics however, should be a guidepost for the behavior of all psychologists regardless of the issue of membership status with APA, and we have a responsibility to voice our dismay at any psychologist’s reported role in detainee mistreatment. Furthermore, APA stands ready to adjudicate reports that any APA member has engaged in prohibited techniques.

Over the past 20 years, APA has expanded and further articulated its policy against torture to underscore its absolute prohibition against all forms of torture and abusive treatment. During the Bush administration years, APA’s governing Council of Representatives repeated and elaborated on this absolute condemnation by prohibiting the very techniques named in the torture memos. There is one ethical response to an order to torture: Disobey the order. Invoking language from the U.N. Convention Against Torture, APA rejected the “ticking time bomb” justification for torture and called upon U.S. courts to reject testimony derived from torture.

APA’s most recent policy statement on interrogation prohibits psychologists from working in detention settings where international law or the U.S. Constitution are violated, unless they are working directly for the people being detained or for an independent third party working to protect human rights. Psychologists may also provide treatment to military personnel in such a setting.

Ethical interrogations are based on building a relationship and forming rapport with the person being questioned, processes that require great skill and patience. Torturing an individual under the guise of an interrogation is neither ethical nor effective. Indeed, according to media reports, the only useful information that detainee Abu Zubaida provided was offered early in his imprisonment, when FBI officials employed humane interrogation tactics.

We applaud the Obama administration for acting quickly and decisively to prohibit cruel and abusive interrogation techniques that were employed by the Bush administration. It is also my fervent hope that the American people—and the world—will not judge all psychologists by the few who were involved in this sorry chapter in our history, but by the tens of thousands of psychologists who spend their professional lives working for the public good.

President’s Column

(continued from p. 1)

It is a genuine honor to serve as President of Division 46, and I hope you will feel free to contact me if you have questions or suggestions about ways to enhance the Division. We’re a relatively small division, but we have some of the most talented psychologists in APA in the division, and working together, we have the potential to be great.

Reference
To All Division 46 Student Members

In today’s information hungry society, it’s imperative that psychologists remain at the forefront of the information streamline. The media looks to our profession to provide them with accurate and sound information which can be understood by the public. As students in the profession, it is our responsibility to provide the profession of Psychology the tools and information necessary to provide a clear picture of important events the media will cover. Questions which cover violence through a variety of medium can be augmented with ideas on how to use the different modalities of media to improve grades in school, improve social skills, and reduce stigma and prejudice. Through participation in the student committee, we can share ideas, collaborate on research projects, extend our network of professionals and strengthen the partnership we have with other divisions in the American Psychological Association. Please join us in our venture to expand the division to include fresh ideas, networking opportunities, and a stronger sense of unity with the division of professionals dedicated to the advancement of Media Psychology. Please submit any questions or concerns to Kathryn at kestamoulis@hotmail.com, Diane at dianhern@nova.edu, or Lynn at ltemenski@earthlink.net. Thank you and we look forward to a fantastic and exciting year!

Kathryn Stamoulis, Diane Hernandez, and Lynn Temenski, Co-Chairs, Student Committee

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Sightings

Submitted by Sharon Lamb

Waltz with Bashir. Ari Folman’s anti-war film, is the first feature-length, animated documentary about his military service. After a friend he meets in a bar tells him about his horrible recurring nightmare of being chased by 26 vicious dogs, Folman realizes he has almost no memory of the time he spent in the Israeli military when he was in his late teens. He then sets out to pursue his memory by interviewing friends and politicians to try to remember what part he played in an Israeli mission during the first Lebanon war. Although he has no memories of this, he was there during a massacre of Palestinian refugees by a Christian Phalangist militia in 1982. He seeks out a friend, Ori Sivan, to help him to understand why. In watching the film, I believed Ori to be a psychotherapist, giving Ari a traditional psychoanalytic view of repressed memories. And I was ready set to critique this psychotherapist’s discussion with his friend. The film indeed gives the impression that Ori is a psychologist. Yet the web site that explains the film says he’s another film director who serves Ari as a “personal shrink.” That may explain the rather cliché understanding of traumatic memory—one “forgets” or represses trauma because one cannot bear it, and then later in life, because of nightmares or because one is ready to confront it, one seeks the truth. This chilling and emotionally draining film is beautiful and moving and frightening, but it does depend on a rather simplistic view of traumatic memory, that what one remembers after searching is an accurate version of the truth rather than a newer narrative that incorporates different pieces. The saving grace to this personal journey is that it isn’t personal. And while in one sense the movie implies that there is a personal truth to be found. In another sense it reinforces the idea that this truth will always be co-constructed. Thus, it is in the telling of partial truths and memories through the interviews with friends, colleagues, generals, war correspondents and others, that a truth, perhaps not the truth, is constructed. The shocking use of actual footage reminds us that no matter the truth that is constructed by traumatized participants and bystanders, the terror and grief of the actual victims cannot be denied.

Submitted by Kathryn Stamoulis

A great article entitled “The Google Factor: Therapists Unwitting Self-Disclosures on the Net,” written by Ofer Zur is available in the September/October 2008 issue of New Therapist. The piece covers privacy concerns, intrusion and ways psychologists can delete troublesome online content.

The MacArthur foundation funded a large scale study on teenagers and their media usage. Results indicate American youth are developing important social and technical skills online. The full report is available at www.macfound.org.

A new television show called Lie to Me follows a body language expert as he aids law enforcement to discover if someone is lying and why. The program airs Wednesdays on Fox and is based on the work of psychologist Paul Eckman, PhD. Commentary by Dr. Eckman is available at www.pauleckman.com after each episode.

Using data from a nationally representative telephone survey, the Pew Internet and American Life Project found that 35% of all adults (ages 18–65+) have an online social networking site profile. Pew Internet has this and many other reports on new media usage available at www.pewinternet.org. In addition, Pew Internet allows researchers to utilize their data at no cost.
Welcome to Our New Treasurer

Mary Gregerson accepted appointment as Treasurer for APA Division 46 Media Psychology. This academic year she also accepted a position in the Graduate and Undergraduate Programs in the Psychology Department at the University of Saint Mary Overland Park, Kansas Campus where she teaches psychology classes using film clips in class and homework assignments for entire film viewing. Her 20 edited volume on film and psychology, which is a part of the Division 46 Book Series, is in press with Springer; her chapters in the volume include “Story Board: Fall of the Fourth Wall” and “I M 4 U: The Dawning of Desire Skewed through a Media Lens, and the Loss of American Adolescence.” Based upon her recently published chapter “A Quiet Soul Listens to Her: Women, Psychology, and Spirituality” for Woman Soul, a Praeger volume co-edited by Div 46 MAL Lillian Comas-Dias, Mary presented a paper “Creative Impulse and Spiritual Anchor for Women in Psychotherapy” in the symposium Gender, healing, and work: Women’s spirituality in psychological practice, which Lillian co-chaired at the 2008 APA Convention in Boston, MA.

Welcome to Our New Website Coordinator

Lynn Temenski teaches at CUNY in the QCC Healing Arts program and has maintained a private body therapy practice since 1989. Her professional life began with a 10-year career in entertainment sales and marketing. She assisted in the launching of MTV and working on many of the subsequent innovative marketing programs there. She then developed and managed national sales & marketing programs at The Movie Channel and Warner Amex Cable Communications, before becoming a national sales director at RCA/Columbia Pictures Home Video. She transitioned into healthcare to more directly and meaningfully contribute to others’ lives. As a media psychologist, she intends to develop media products and services for health promotion, health education, and telemedicine. She collaborated on the 2007 Fielding Graduate University survey of Division 46 regarding media psychology awareness.

Early Steps to Revitalize the Division 46 Website: Student Members to Form a Website Development Subcommittee

Lynn Temenski
ltemenski@earthlink.net

Division President, Danny Wedding, has indicated that updating the division’s website is a priority. To help with that, Danny has appointed me website coordinator of APA Division 46 and co-chair of the student committee. I am a Media Psychology doctoral student at Fielding Graduate University; and I am delighted to contribute to this worthwhile aim. I had prepared a website project list for the Board to review at their February meeting, and am now seeking volunteers to join a student subcommittee for website development.

Under the guidance of Division Secretary, Pauline Wallin, the subcommittee will explore using a Wordpress-based platform in order to allow easy updates and expand the functionality of the Division 46 website. Fellow Fielding student, Jenny Fremlin, had proposed such an option in the Division listserv discussions, and will be contributing her time and talents toward the overdue revitalization of the website.

We need more volunteers for the Website Development subcommittee. No web design experience is necessary. However, you must be willing to learn about blog platforms, and how to generate web traffic.

Early efforts will include website updating in these areas: the media psychology training resources page; adding new tabs and features to the home page; adding the Division 46 bylaws; and expanding the research and publication listings pages, highlighting authors who are division members and providing author-furnished links to additional information.

Would you like to be part of this creative project? Contact Lynn at ltemenski@earthlink.net.
Dr. Ed Abramson was interviewed on eating and weight problems for two September issues of Us Weekly and December issues of Prevention and Natural Health. His work was favorably mentioned in Thin Is the New Happy: A Memoir by Valerie Frankel and he will be presenting a new continuing education workshop for PESI this spring. He continues to serve on the Board of Directors of the California Psychological Association.

Dr. Jonathan Cabiria will be presenting at the World Congress on Positive Psychology this June in Philadelphia. His presentation is entitled Overcoming Marginalization: Using Online Virtual Communities for Positive Benefit. He has accepted a position with UCLA in the Media Psychology master’s program. This new program was developed in partnership with Fielding Graduate University’s Media Psychology program.

Dr. Elizabeth Carll received the five-year recognition award for her advocacy work as the APA Federal Advocacy Coordinator for the Media Psychology Division at the 2009 State Leadership Conference. The APA Practice Organization recognizes the importance of continuity and the formation of ongoing relationships with legislators and encourages long term service through recognition at the five-year, ten-year, and longer points of service. In addition, she has been quoted discussing a variety of psychological issues in The New York Times, Newsday, Los Angeles Times, Cosmopolitan, Radio Free Asia and had a letter to the editor on mental health parity published in Newsday.

Dr. Irene Deitch produced and hosted a video for her ongoing Cable TV program, MAKING CONNECTIONS: Tobacco and Cancer: Impact and Challenge to the Community. This is part of an ongoing series for the Eastern Division of the American Cancer Society (Staten Island) Professional Education Committee. This is the 21st video over a period of years. They are used for professional training and community education. Irene is a Media Ambassador for the New York State Psychological Association. She has responded to many requests to discuss issues concerning grandparenting, bridge suicides, pets and their owners, pet loss, childhood loss, caregiving and others. Irene is often invited as a guest speaker for local fund-raising organizations: Her talks have included “Mothers’ Voices in Our Heads: Daughter’s Voices in Our Hearts—Exploring Mother–Daughter Relationships” and “Aged to Perfection.”


Frank Farley, PhD, L. H. Carnell Professor at Temple University, has recently appeared on NPR, MSNBC, Fox & Friends TV, Mitch Albom (“Tuesdays With Morrie”) Show, USA Today, Associated Press, FOX Radio Australia, CBS News, Fox News, and several dozen newspapers in U.S. and Canada on topics of cyberpsychology, personality and economic survival, public violence, etc. He delivered the Invited Keynote Address at a Conference on “Cyberpsychology: Youth and the Internet in the New Millenium” in March in California.

Lawrence Kutner, PhD, and Cheryl K. Olson, ScD, have published a chapter on “Psychiatry and the Media” in Massachusetts General Hospital: Comprehensive Clinical Psychiatry (Mosby). “This is a massive reference work aimed primarily at clinicians,” said Kutner. “Our chapter was included in the section on ‘Preparing for the Future,’ which shows how psychiatrists view media as an integral tool in their practices and outreach efforts.” Kutner, Olson, and Eugene V. Beresin, MD, are co-directors of the Center for Mental Health and Media at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Colleen Long has founded FreudTV to fill the demand that her media clients require every day for psychologists specializing in areas like meditation, corporate psychology, or ADHD. FreudTV has become a very efficient way to provide journalists with an expert within hours of the request. For more information visit: www.FreudTV.com or email info@FreudTV.com.


Sari Fine Shephird, PhD, is pleased to announce the release of her new book, 100 Questions and Answers about Anorexia Nervosa (Jones & Bartlett, 2009, 250 pages, paperback). Sari also received the great news that her eating disorder blog, “Treatment Notes,” was picked up by www.wellsphere.com. Sari was also recently added to the team of bloggers at www.encyclopediabritannica.com. She will be having a Webcast for professionals interested in eating disorders training in early March. See www.drshpepp.com for more information.

Kathryn Stamoulis, PhD, Associate Editor of the Amplifier and Co-Chair of the Division’s Student Committee, received her PhD in May from Temple University under the supervision of Prof. Frank Farley, her dissertation being on the topic “An Exploration into Adolescent Online Risk-Taking.” As a student she was also active in the Society for Humanistic Psychology (APA Division 32) as a student member of its Board of Directors, and in the Pennsylvania Psychological Association as Communications Chair of its Association of Graduate Students (PPAGS). She recently co-authored in APA’s PsyCritiques a review of the Woody Allen movie Vicki Cristina Barcelona.

Danny Wedding, PhD, is half-way through his 10-month Fulbright sabbatical teaching in the Psychology Department at Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea. Danny has lectured widely in Korea and Japan (usually on contemporary U.S. cinema), and he had an opportunity to visit Hong Kong, Bangkok and Saigon in January. He’s looking forward to seeing all of his Division 46 friends at the 2009 APA convention in Toronto. Anyone interested in Danny’s Fulbright activities can see photos at www.dannyinkorea.blogspot.com.
New Media, Public Education, Public Policy Committee Report

Elizabeth Carll, Committee Chair

The recipient of the 2009 News Media Recognition Award for excellence in the reporting of psychological information and research will be announced at the APA Convention in Toronto. The annual award is presented to a journalist or producer from either print or broadcast media. The presentation will take place on Wednesday, August 5th. If you will be attending the convention, join us to honor this year’s recipient. Please contact me for further information.

Recommendations can be made by any APA member for journalists or producers with a track record of reporting stories in the areas of mental health issues and/or policy and psychology. Please include the nominee’s current news outlet affiliation, bio if available (often on the Internet), and some of the news stories they reported. News stories should be relatively current ones published, aired, produced in the past two years. If older stories are available that would be helpful to include as well. Often an excellent article may have been published by a journalist and googling the journalist will often provide other recent stories.

Previous recipients of the News Media Recognition Award have included Marilyn Elias from USA Today; Peggy Girshman from NPR; Andi Gitow from Dateline NBC; CBS’ The Early Show team of Michael Bass, senior executive producer; and co-anchors Harry Smith, Julie Chen, Hannah Storm, and Rene Syler; Michelle Trudeau from NPR; and Sue Shellenbarger of The Wall Street Journal. The 2008 award went to two journalists: Dawn Fratangelo of NBC News received the News Media Recognition Award for Broadcast Excellence and Barbara Meltz of the Boston Globe received the News Media Recognition Award for Print Excellence.

If you would like to nominate a journalist with a track record of excellence reporting about psychology and/or mental health issues/policy, please contact Elizabeth Carll, PhD, Chair, Division 46 News Media, Public Education, Public Policy Committee at ecarll@optonline.net or 631-754-2424.

Membership Committee Report

Joanne Broder Sumerson, Chair

Division 46 membership has been steady since 2003, in the 400-member range. In general, APA membership status is the lowest among students and early career psychologists. This holds true for our division as well.

Following are ideas to increase membership among early career psychologists and students:

- Free membership for the first year for all new members;
- Create intra-division-member mentoring relationships between seasoned and early career psychologists;
- Divide members into chapters (i.e., by city and/or region) and hold Chapter Meet-and-Greet (e.g., lunch, happy hour, coffee) networking events so that members do not have to wait until the convention to meet some of the faces behind the names;
- Recruit students through university psychology departments;
- Create and administer short Member Satisfaction Survey. It will assess members’ overall satisfaction level with the division, as well as their additional division needs; and
- Use survey data to create and improve other membership programs/benefits.

Join the Membership Committee!

Are you creative? Do you enjoy reaching out to touch someone? Do you like networking with both old and new friends? If so, we want you. The membership committee needs creative “people” persons. The time commitment will be minimal, but the pleasures will be great. Get involved. Our Division needs you. Contact me at joannebroder@aol.com.

Joanne Broder Sumerson, Membership Chair
August 13, 2008 (Approved February 21, 2009)

Present: Frank Farley, PhD, President; Rochelle Balter, PhD, Past President; Danny Wedding, PhD, President-elect; David Shapiro, PhD, President-elect-elect; Pauline Wallin, PhD, Secretary; Salvador Santiago, PhD, Treasurer; Lillian Comas-Diaz, PhD, Member-at-Large; Mary Gregerson, PhD, Member-at-Large; Roger Klein, PhD, Member-at-Large; Lenore Walker, PhD, APA Council Representative, Lita Schwartz, Editor The Amplifier; Elizabeth Carll, PhD, Chair, News Media, Public Education & Public Policy Committee

Absent: Irene Deitch, PhD, Member-at-Large; David Baker, PhD, Member-at-Large;

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm, at a hotel restaurant. No formal agenda was distributed. The following issues were discussed:

Secretary
Minutes 2/21/08: Dr. Wallin moved to accept. Passed.

Treasurer’s Report: Salvador Santiago, PhD
• A full Treasurer’s report is not available complete, due to the mid-year transition of the Treasurer’s position from Dr. James Bray, who was elected President-elect of APA.
• Dr. Balter moved to accept the provisional treasurer’s report. Motion was passed.
• Dr. Santiago suggested that we look to donations for future awards, rather than paying out of Division funds.
• There was brainstorming for alternate sources of income for the Division.

APA Program Report
Dr. Farley presented a summary of presentations at this year’s APA convention, the theme of which is “Humanizing an Inhumane World.”

Convention 2009
• Dr. James Bray had asked for 1–2 hours of Div. 46 programming for next year’s conventions. We have a total of 14 substantive hours allotted. However, Tony Habash has invited Microsoft and other Internet-related companies to present, and would like to have Div. 46 use some of their programming time.
• Dr. Wedding moved to allocate 1 hour of Div. 46 time to Dr. Bray’s presidential programming, for next year with the possibility of additional hours to be negotiated. The motion was passed.
• Dr. Wedding moved to give Dr. Bray $100 from Div. 46, for his presidential initiative, and we will be listed as a Supporter in his list of supporters. The motion was passed.

Membership Committee Report
441 members. The mean age of members is 62. 53% women, 47% men.

Awards
• Presidential Awards: Dr. Farley announced recipients of awards for contribution to the public understanding of psychology: Robert Sternberg, Noam Chomsky
• There was discussion about creating an award in memory of Jackie Bouhoutsos. It was recommended that the past president (chair of Awards Committee) talk to members who were familiar with her work, and then make a recommendation to the Board.

Past President’s Report: Rochelle Balter, PhD Chair
Dr. Balter submitted a written report, summarized below:
• Awards Committee—The recipient of the Distinguished Contribution to Media Psychology is Dr. Lawrence Kutner. The recipient of the Distinguished Scientific Contribution to Media Psychology award is Dr. Edward Donnerstein.
• Strategic Planning Group—Dr. Balter announced that the committee is still in the formative stage. Several interest groups have formed to address issues such as classroom technologies.

President-Elect’s Report: Danny Wedding, Chair
• The Program Chair for 2009 is Ryan Niemiec, PsyD
• Dr. Wedding proposed that we revisit the issue of having the Journal of Media Psychology be a publication of Div. 46. We have discussed this before, but Hogrefe, the publisher, would have charged a fee which would be unaffordable.
• Dr. Wedding was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship, and will be spending 10 months in Korea. He will be physically present at the midwinter meeting, as he will be returning for APA Council at that time.

APA Council Rep—Lenore Walker, Chair
Dr. Walker summarized issues discussed at APA Council, including:
• Disagreement over what constitutes a specialty vs. a proficiency.
• A dues increase of $8 starting in 2009.
• An increase of over $15 million over next three years for top officers.

Dr. Farley noted that APA members who do not belong to a Division or to a State Psychological Association, do not have representation on Council. He is concerned that this issue has not been addressed in Council.

Dr. Gregerson commended Dr. Walker on her fine job of representing Div. 46 on Council.

Student Committee Report: Diane Hernandez and Kathryn Stamoulis, Co-chairs (Report was presented by Dr. Farley)
This committee was formed to enable students to share ideas, collaborate on research projects and network with other professionals.

(continued on p. 18)
Longer-term goals include plans for listing job and research opportunities in Media Psychology.

Committees

The Amplifier: Lita Schwartz, Chair

The most recent issue of the Amplifier was received by most members earlier this week. Dr. Schwartz thanked Dr. Farley and Dr. Krishna Kumar for their help.

News Media, Public Education, Public Policy Committee: Elizabeth Carll, PhD, Chair

- Dr. Carll presented a written report, summarized below:
  - The 2008 recipients for the News Media Recognition Award for excellence in the reporting of psychological information and research are Dawn Fratangelo, for her poignant stories covering a wide range of social issues. (Broadcast Excellence) and Barbara Meltz of the Boston Globe (Print Excellence.)
- Dr. Carll thanked members of the Committee for their work:
  - Joanne Cantor, Jina Carvalho, Alan Entin, Helen Friedman, Steve Hampe, Scott Kaplan, Roger Klein, Dorothy Singer and Lynn Temenski.

Media Watch Committee: Harriet Schultz, PhD, Chair

- Dr. Schultz’s annual report was distributed to Board members. This is the fourth year that no Golden Psi Media Award was given. Two TV shows were nominated, but did not meet the criteria of excellence set by the Committee.
- The Committee made recommendations for reorganizing and revitalizing their work, including using the current rating system to grade TV shows throughout the year, and using the rating system to help educate the public about appropriate and inappropriate portrayal of psychologists in the media. They also discussed setting up a blog, where people could view the ratings and critiques of shows.
- Dr. Schultz announced her resignation as Chair of the Media Watch Committee.

New Business

There was discussion about Media Training—avlailing ourselves of APA resources (Rhea Farberman’s office) as well as inviting journalists from major media to do the training. It was noted that psychologists can give good sound bites, but the ultimate story is only as good as the quality of the reporter.

Name Change

Dr. Walker moved to propose the name change of Division 46 to Society for Internet and Media Psychology. The name change was approved by the Board. A ballot will be mailed to Division 46 members in the next Amplifier.

Website

It was agreed that the website needs revision, but in view of the Division’s financial situation, the cost cannot be justified at this time.

There was a motion to freeze dues for this year. Motion was carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m. After adjournment, there was an executive session.

Respectfully submitted,
Pauline Wallin, PhD
Secretary, Division 46

February 21, 2009

Present: Danny Wedding, PhD, President; David Shapiro, PhD, President-Elect; Frank Farley, PhD, Past president; Pauline Wallin, PhD, Secretary; Mary Gregerson, PhD, Treasurer; Lenore Walker, EdD, APA Council Representative; Krishna Kumar, PhD, Member-at-Large and Editor, The Amplifier; Kathryn Stamoulis, MEd, Student Committee Co-chair.

Several Board members and Committee chairs attended via conference call, which was open for approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes: Irene Deitch, Member-at-Large; Lawrence Balter, PhD, Member-at-Large; Elizabeth Carll, PhD, News Media, Public Education, and Public Policy Committee; Pat Quirk, PhD, Media Watch Committee; Lynn Temensky, Website Coordinator; Joanne Broder-Sumerson, PhD, Membership Committee; Rochelle Balter, PhD, Long Range Planning Committee; Judy Kuriansky, PhD, Telehealth and New Technologies Committee

Absent: David Baker, PhD, Member-at-Large; Lillian Comas-Diaz, PhD, Member-at-Large; Ed Donnerstein, PhD, Member-at-Large

I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions—Danny Wedding, PhD, President

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. Dr. Wedding acknowledged Board members—both physically present and those who phoned in via conference call.

II. Approval of Minutes, August 2008—Pauline Wallin, PhD, Secretary

The minutes from the August 2008 Board meeting were approved, with one amendment.

III. President’s Remarks—Danny Wedding, PhD

Dr. Wedding welcomed everyone, thanked APA for providing a meeting venue and staff support, and expressed regret that the limited budget would not support travel for onsite participation by our
members at large. He thanked Mary Gregerson for agreeing to serve to fill the position of treasurer that was vacated by the resignation of Dr. Salvador Santiago due to health concerns. Dr. Wedding noted that Division 46 membership was holding steady despite an overall reduction in APA membership. However, it was noted that it is difficult to know precise numbers of dues-paying members given the difference in APA record-keeping by the membership and finance offices.

IV. Past President’s Remarks—Frank Farley, PhD
Dr. Farley reviewed his activities as 2008 president of Division 46, with emphasis on his comprehensive and stimulating Convention program. He discussed the work of his Long Range Planning Committee under the leadership of past-president Dr. Rochelle Balter and indicated that it will continue its work under President Wedding.

V. President-Elect’s Remarks—David Shapiro, PhD
Dr. Shapiro’s remarks were brief. He said that he is looking forward to a productive year in the Division.

VI. Committee Reports:
Convention—Ryan Niemiec, PsyD, Chair
Dr. Niemiec presented an overview of the upcoming convention program. Dr. Wedding acknowledged Dr. Niemiec for a fine group of presentations. He also thanked the students for their involvement. Dr. Kumar reported on a word analysis of convention program titles, noting that the word “Internet” outnumbered “Media Psychology” 7 to 1.

Long-range Strategic Planning—Rochelle Balter, PhD
Dr. Balter presented a written report. The Committee met once since last August’s meeting to discuss several issues:
- The initiative to change the name of Division 46 from The Division of Media Psychology to The Society for Internet and Media Psychology.
- Expanding the Strategic Planning Group
- Allowing electronic voting, while keeping the paper, mail-in ballot
- Membership recruitment and retention

The committee will continue its work under President Danny Wedding to determine what steps to take next given the failure of the name change to succeed.

Membership—Joanne Broder-Sumerson, PhD
Dr. Broder-Sumerson submitted a report with statistics to show that membership has been steady, hovering around 400. Most divisions have declined in membership. The lowest number of members are among early-career psychologists (ECPs) and students. Dr. Rochelle Balter noted that younger psychologists may be more interested in getting their personal lives in order.

There was a spirited discussion about recruiting members. Suggested strategies included:
- having a column in the Amplifier for ECPs
- in-person networking in Philadelphia and other large cities
- a Facebook group for Div. 46—already established by Dr. Broder-Sumerson
- recruiting more affiliate members

Dr. Farley commended Dr. Broder-Sumerson on her work for the Membership Committee

The Amplifier—V. Krishna Kumar, PhD
There was discussion about reducing the number of issues from three per year to two per year, mainly because of setup, printing and mailing costs. Dr. Kumar moved to have two issues—fall/winter and spring/summer. Motion was carried. There was discussion about sending out the Convention program in the form of a flyer, instead of a full issue of The Amplifier.

Dr. Lawrence Balter suggested eliminating the paper version of The Amplifier altogether, and making it available online only. He noted that the Division of International Psychology experienced no significant loss of members by switching to electronic-only newsletters. As for tangible perception of value in a paper mailing, Division 46 could provide other value-added services.

News Media, Public Education, and Public Policy—Elizabeth Carl, PhD, Chair
Dr. Carl submitted a written report, which included the recipients of the 2008 News Media Recognition Award: journalists Dawn Frantangelo of NBC News and Barbara Meltz from the Boston Globe. In her oral report she described the process of choosing awardees. The Committee is seeking nominees for the 2009 News Media Recognition Award for excellence in the reporting of psychological information and research.

Media Watch—Pat Quirk, PsyD, Chair
The Shirley Glass Golden Psi Award has not been given for the past four years, because no recipients who have met the criteria could be identified. The Committee is considering broadening the scope of the award.

Telehealth—Judy Kuriansky, PhD, Chair
Dr. Kuriansky submitted a written report, highlighting Internet Sexuality Information Services, www.isis-inc.org, which is dedicated to promoting sexual health and disease prevention. She also noted that texting has become a major Internet activity. She suggested producing a video about Division 46, as well as coordinating activities with other media organizations, e.g., Women in Media, and publicizing announcements through these organizations.

Awards—Frank Farley, PhD, Chair
The Committee is seeking nominees for Professional Contribution Award, and the Distinguished Student Dissertation/Research Award, which has not been given since 2007. Dr. Farley also moved to establish a new award for a website with comprehensive and useful psychological content. The motion carried.

Editorial Policies and Guidelines—Danny Wedding, PhD, Chair
There was discussion about APA listserv rules, including the ban against commercial promotion. This has apparently been resolved.

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There was also discussion about not using the listserv to campaign for APA or Division office. There was a motion to adopt APA standards for campaigning for divisional offices using the listserv. A link to these policies will be posted on the listserv.

Ethics—David Shapiro, PhD
This committee has been inactive for the past couple of years. To raise awareness about ethical issues in the media, Dr. Shapiro will answer ethics questions in The Amplifier.

Student Committee—Kathryn Stamoulis
Ms. Stamoulis submitted a written report, which highlighted the open meeting at the 2008 APA convention for students interested in learning more about Media Psychology. Students seemed most interested in research on issues related to the Internet. Another open meeting is planned for the 2009 convention. In addition, the committee is planning a bimonthly electronic mailing to Division 46 student members, with announcements of research and job opportunities.

Nominations and Elections—David Shapiro, PhD, Chair
Nominees for President and MAL were reviewed. A slate of candidates will be selected by the nominations committee.

There was discussion about travel expenses and the number (6) of members-at-large. This is a high number for our small division. There were suggestions for reducing this number, but this would require a change in bylaws. No action was taken.

VII. Treasurer’s Report—Mary Gregerson, PhD
Dr. Gregerson submitted a preliminary financial statement. Division 46’s 2008 net income was $4426.06. It was emphasized that any administrative requests from APA must go through the President or Treasurer, since APA charges an hourly fee.

VIII. APA Council Representative—Lenore Walker, EdD
Dr. Walker reviewed the issues coming up for a vote in APA Council:
• Amendment to petition prohibiting psychologists from working in venues where there is torture. The committee has arrived at a consensus.
• Electronic voting during council meetings
• Financial health of APA—budget cuts will be discussed. Fall 2009 meetings of boards and committees of APA have been cancelled to save money.

IX. Old Business
The results of the ballot initiative to change the name of Division 46 from the Division of Media Psychology to the Society for Internet and Media Psychology. Despite a lively and polarized discussion of this issue on the listserv, only 34 votes were cast. The results were:
Yes—for the name change: 20 (59%)
No—against the name change: 14 (41%)

According to our bylaws, a two-thirds majority is needed. Thus, the ballot initiative failed.

X. New Business
During the conference call Dr. Deitch read a statement to the Board, recommending the following:
• Open dialogue on the listserv between Board members/Committee chairs and the members.
• Rotating committee chairs, to encourage more members to participate in Division activities
• Provide funding for elected members to attend meetings, or else have fewer members-at-large
• There was discussion about these issues, but no formal motions were put forward.
• Electronic nominations and voting—There was a motion to allow nominations and voting via U.S. mail, email and online. Motion carried.

Should the listserv be limited to Division 46 members only? This issue was deferred to the Website/Listserv Committee for discussion, with a recommendation to Board at our next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pauline Wallin, PhD
Secretary, Division 46

Psychology, the Internet, and the Brave New Digital World

Ryan M. Niemiec
Program Chair

With the proliferation of Internet resources and social and business networking sites like Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn, Division 46 selected an applicable theme for this year’s APA conference in Toronto: Psychology, the Internet, and the Brave New Digital World. Many of the programs will explore the latest research and trends in media psychology.

The Division supported APA President James Bray’s initiative, Convention Within a Convention, by sponsoring an Invited Address with prominent, Harvard media psychologist, Larry Kutner. Dr. Kutner will present “Sharing Psychology When It's Needed Most: Working With (and Without) the Press.”

Division 46 President, Danny Wedding, will deliver his Presidential Address on the topic “Films and the Good Life: Using Movies as Exemplars for Virtuous Behavior.” For the first time, the Division will host a Past Presidential Address with last year’s President, Frank
Farley. Additional Invited Addresses in the programming include Debbie Joffé-Ellis, psychologist and wife of the late, renowned psychologist, Albert Ellis, and internet psychology researcher, Janet Morahan-Martin.

Audience members will need to get a seat early for the annual Sex, Love, and Psychology: A Town Hall Meeting. This widely popular event will feature prominent radio personality, Judy Kuriansky (Dr. Judy), Positive Psychology at the Movies co-author, Ryan Niemiec, and media psychologists and past Division Presidents, Lenore Walker and Frank Farley.

David Shapiro and Joanne Broder Sumerson will head up a symposium that explores the future of Internet and media psychology, topics of great interest to most members of Division 46. Pauline Wallin will shift the focus to the practical when she leads a workshop on public education via teleseminars.

The Division was pleased to receive paper submissions from numerous division members, many of whom will be presenting their work at the conference. A few examples include: “Treatment Outcomes for Internet Addiction and Clinical Implications,” “Your Space, MySpace: The Internet’s Impact on Social Networking,” “Changing Social Norms: Altruism and the Internet,” and “The Other’s Face on Facebook: A Levinasian Focus Group Approach.”

There are a number of high-quality posters that will be on display representing strong innovations in media psychology, in particular the Division choice for Best Student Poster, “Increasing Parental Awareness About the Content of Violent Video Games,” by Evan S. McBroom. A few other examples from a strong crop include: “Text Messaging in College Students,” “Aggressive Content of Commercials for TV Programs and Movie Trailers,” “Broadcast Yourself: YouTube Portrayals of Youth Fire Setting,” “Does Television Portray a Biased Stereotype of Heart Disease Sufferers?,” and “Positive Emotion in Those Publicly Expressing Gratitude.”
2009 Div. 46 Convention Program
(continued from p. 22)

4:00 PM–4:50 PM
Invited Address (Offered for CE Credits)
Metro Toronto Convention Centre; Meeting Room 713A
Chair: Frank Farley, PhD
Participant: Lawrence Kutner, PhD: Sharing Psychology When It’s Needed Most: Working With and Without the Press

5:00 PM–6:50 PM
Social Hour
Intercontinental Toronto Centre Hotel, Humber Room

Saturday, August 8

9:00 AM–9:50 AM
Symposium: Future of Internet and Media Psychology
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Meeting Room 803A
Chair: Frank Farley, PhD
Participants: David L. Shapiro, PhD; Joanne Broder Sumerson, PhD
Discussant: Danny Wedding, PhD

11:00 AM–11:50 AM
Invited Address (Offered for CE Credits)
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Meeting Room 205D
Chair: Stanley C. Krippner, PhD
Participant: Debbie Joffe Ellis, PhD: Appeal of Albert Ellis: Why the Media and Millions of Admirers Couldn’t Get Enough of Him

12:00 PM–1:50 PM
Symposium: Sex, Love, and Psychology—A Town Hall Meeting
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Reception Hall 104C
Chair: Frank Farley, PhD
Participants: Judy Kuriansky, PhD; Ryan M. Niemiec, PsyD; Lenore E. Walker, EdD

4:00 PM–4:50 PM
Presidential Address
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Meeting Room 205B
Chair: Mary B. Gregerson, PhD
Participant: Danny Wedding, PhD: Films and the Good Life: Using Movies as Exemplars for Virtuous Behavior

Sunday, August 9

9:00 AM–9:50 AM
Invited Address
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Meeting Room 205A
Chair: David L. Shapiro, PhD
Participant: Janet Morahan-Martin, PhD: Internet Addiction: Research Trends and Lingering Questions

10:00 AM–10:50 AM
Poster Session: Innovations in Media Psychology
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Exhibit Halls D and E
Participants: Joseph B. Bayer: Text Messaging in Class: Reactions of University Faculty; Joseph B. Bayer: Text Messaging by College Students; Troy A. Robison, MS: Professional Versus Public Perceptions of Psychotherapy as Portrayed in Film; Hisang-Ju Shih, PhD: Taiwanese Parents’ Attitude Toward Their Adolescent Children and Internet Using; Janet F. Gillespie, PhD: Positive Emotion in Those Publicly Expressing Gratitude; Evan S. McBroom, MA: Increasing Parental Awareness About the Content of Violent Video Games; Jerry L. Grenard, PhD: Exposure to Alcohol Advertising on Television and Alcohol Use Among Young Adolescents; Ashley L. Neu, MA: Impact of a Media Literacy Intervention on Adolescent Girls; Barry Dauphin, PhD: Relationship Between Videogaming and Various Immersive Activities; Jeannie H. Brockmyer, PhD: Video Game Engagement: Behavioral Support for the Game Engagement Questionnaire; Donna M.L. Heretick, PhD: Aggressive Content of Commercials for TV Programs and Movie Trailers; Ruth M. Swartwood, BA: Looking to the Internet for Bereavement Support: An Analysis of Communication Skills in Internet Grief Communities; Brooke J. Cannon, PhD: Best and Worst Movie Portrayals of Mental Illness and Its Treatment; Meara B. Thomas, MS: Broadcast Yourself: YouTube Portrayals of Youth Fire Setting; Heather C. Kruse, BA: Does Television Portray a Biased Stereotype of Heart Disease Sufferers?; Lynsey J. Goddard: Eating Disorders During Pregnancy; Carolyn Szostak, PhD: The Tube: A Measure of Psychological Television Viewing Habits; Camillia F. Matuk, MS: Collages of Meaning: Creating Understanding of Evolution From Animation

11:00 AM–11:50 AM
Paper Session: Emotions, Pathology, and Prodigy in Film
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Meeting Room 203B
Participants: Leeat Granek, PhD: Are We All Going Crazy? Depictions of Pathological Grieving in Mainstream American Media; Brendan D. Rooney, MA: Perceptual Information and Emotion in Film: A Mixed-Method Study; Grant J. Rich, PhD: Shine: A Cinematic Lens on Talent Development in Piano Prodigies
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