

Consortium of Social Science Associations

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CONGRESS TO FINISH UP THIS WEEK; AVOIDS TRADITIONAL DEBACLES *CR*

Almost glaringly absent these days is chatter about an omnibus spending bill, threatened Presidential vetoes, or a fiscal train wreck (caused by the other party, of course), which have lately accompanied Congress' year-end activities.

On the contrary, despite a war overseas, security concerns at home, and a divided government, Congress has nearly wrapped things up. Of the 13 annual appropriations bills, only three have yet to leave conference for the President's desk: Defense; Foreign Operations; and Labor, HHS, Education.

Most of the major obstacles to passage of these bills are now cleared. Conferees for Labor, HHS, Education had been awaiting completion of the education overhaul legislation (see *Update*, June 18, 2001); despite a continued dispute over special education funding, conferees could ratify the measure this week, clearing the way for the appropriations bill.

The defense appropriations bill is on the way to conference, now that Senate Democrats have dropped their attempts to add funds for domestic security and aid to New York.

Of course, fiscal year 2001 ended on September 30, so the remaining appropriations are more than two months overdue. But lawmakers did manage to avoid resorting to an omnibus spending package, or worse – threatening a government shutdown. As of December 10, it looks like the spending measures will pass as individual bills. Lawmakers could leave town by December 14.



*We at COSSA wish you and yours a
happy and safe holiday season.*

PRESIDENT'S SCIENCE ADVISER MEETS WITH SOCIAL/BEHAVIORAL GROUPS *HS*

On December 10, John Marburger, recently-confirmed director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), met with representatives of the social and behavioral science community. Marburger, who is also the president's science adviser, stated that one of his goals is to increase the strength of the social/behavioral sciences at OSTP and throughout the government. OSTP's Assistant Director for the Social and Behavioral Sciences and Education, James Griffin, also attended the meeting.

As expected, much of the discussion focused on how social and behavioral science research can help in dealing with the aftermath of the September 11 attacks and preventing future terrorist activities. Marburger noted that these sciences are particularly useful in providing information to assist with the many social dislocations created by the September 11 attacks, especially the impact on children and families.

He also suggested that social/behavioral research could help address international issues, by studying other cultures and why some of those cultures lack understanding of basic American values. One way

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to do this would be to provide examples of past case studies on sociological, psychological, and cultural reactions to disruptions and dislocations of ordinary routines. He also advocated the revival of area studies in American higher education and urged the community to "think big."

Marburger also advised the community to work closely with the National Academies of Science commission, headed by former National Cancer Institute director Richard Klausner, which is examining how science and technology can aid the war on terrorism.

Turning to education, the director discussed the importance of education to the administration's agenda, indicating that workforce/education issues were the important "driver" for the social/behavioral sciences for the Bush administration. He expressed concern, however, over the capacity of the testing industry to handle the assessment requirements embedded in the education legislation about to emerge from Congress.

Finally, responding to a question, Marburger noted that he hoped to increase the representation of social/behavioral scientists on the National Science Board and other government scientific advisory commissions.

Other topics of discussion included human subjects protection and health and behavior research.

CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

Executive Director:	Howard J. Silver
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Public Affairs:	Chris F. Ryan
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President:	Janet L. Norwood

The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), an advocacy organization for federal support for the social and behavioral sciences, was founded in 1981 and stands alone in Washington in representing the full range of social and behavioral sciences.

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CASTLE, WHITEHURST, AND THE NRC LOOK TO IMPROVING EDUCATION RESEARCH

With the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization on the verge of completion, the education research community is looking to next year. The reauthorization of the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI) is overdue, and Congress will likely take this up next year. With this in mind, the improvement of education research was discussed at the November 30 meeting of the National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board (NERPPB).

The meeting featured both Assistant Secretary Russ Whitehurst and House Education Reform Subcommittee Chair Michael Castle (R-DE) sharing their goals and recommendations for OERI reauthorization, as well as an overview of the findings of the National Research Council's (NRC) Committee on Scientific Principles in Education Research.

The Chairman's View

Castle, who sponsored a bill (H.R. 4875) to reauthorize OERI in the last session of Congress, told the Board what he would like to see in next year's legislation.

Authorizers must decide on the position of OERI (or whatever succeeds it) in the federal government. Last year's bill originally called for making OERI an independent agency and moving it outside the Department of Education. Castle now envisions a "National Academy" that would remain in the Department, but have autonomy and "insulat[ion] from partisan influence." He offered the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Congressional Research Service as models to emulate.

Castle also discussed a range of other issues that might be addressed in future legislation. He advocated opening up research contracts to a wider group; continuing to coordinate with other agencies (like NSF and NIH) on interagency initiatives; ensuring that program evaluations are impartial; and paying closer attention to funding issues.

On the last matter of funding, most researchers and many policymakers contend that OERI's research funding (of about \$120 million in fiscal

year 2001) is woefully inadequate, especially when compared to the research investments of other federal agencies. Castle, however, said he doesn't know whether the current funding is inadequate, and would want to see how any increase in funds would be spent.

Whitehurst Pushes Field-Initiated Studies

Assistant Secretary for Research and Evaluation Russ Whitehurst also discussed his priorities, some of which he reiterated from previous talks (see *Update*, October 22, 2001).

Of particular interest to education researchers, Whitehurst suggested the office might evaluate the current balance between field-initiated research (20 percent) and research conducted at the Centers (80 percent), commenting that the field-initiated component might deserve a boost. This, he said, would help to attract and retain research expertise.

NRC Releases Recommendations

NERPPB asked the National Research Council (NRC) to create a committee to consider the scientific underpinnings of research in education (see *Update*, March 23, 2001). Comprised of a broad group of researchers and practitioners, the committee began meeting in the fall of 2000. The request was prompted, in part, by skepticism and debate about the quality and applicability of education research. The goals of the 15-month project were to inform reauthorization of OERI and the ongoing push for "evidence-based policy and practice" and "scientifically-based education research," and spark self-reflection in the education research field.

The committee's charge, according to study director Lisa Towne, was not to comprehensively evaluate existing research, researchers, or OERI itself, but to consider the scientific nature of education research more broadly, and how a federal agency could best support high-quality science.

Their "consensus report" was released on November 29. It discusses the nature of scientific research and the application of scientific principles to education. Of more direct applicability to OERI reauthorization, however, the report outlines the committee's consensus on design principles for

Editor's Notes:

This is the last issue of *Update* for 2001.
We'll be back on January 14, 2002.
Happy holidays!



The edited transcript of COSSA's 20th Anniversary meeting is now available at
www.cossa.org.

fostering science in a federal education research agency.

Six design principles resulted:

1. Staff the agency with people skilled in science, leadership, and management.
2. Create structures to guide the research agenda, inform funding decisions, and monitor work.
3. Insulate the agency from inappropriate political interference.
4. Develop a focused and balanced portfolio of research that addresses short-, medium-, and long-term issues of importance to policy and practice.
5. Adequately fund the agency.
6. Invest in research infrastructure.

The details of these recommendations and the full report are available at <http://books.nap.edu/books/0309082919/html/index.html>.

NIDA'S ACTING DIRECTOR REVEALS NEW RESEARCH INITIATIVES

AS

On November 30, Acting National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Ruth Kirschstein named Glen R. Hanson the Acting Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). Three days later, Hanson addressed the representatives of more than 50 organizations at the Institute's Seventh Constituent Conference, *Blending Research and Practice*. The conference brings together representatives from a variety of disciplines and

affiliations to help establish the Institute's research agenda.

Hanson replaces Alan I. Leshner, NIDA's director since 1994, who left to become the Chief Executive Officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (see *Update*, November 5, 2001).

Known for his work on the neurotoxic properties of ecstasy (MDMA) and amphetamines, Hanson only recently joined NIDA in September 2000 as the Director of its Division of Neuroscience and Behavioral Research. A professor in the University of Utah's Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, he holds a D.D.S. from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Ph.D. from the University of Utah.

According to Hanson, the translation of research into practice is a critical issue for the Institute. It is not enough for scientists to do the research, he explained. It is crucial that they also assist in the movement of information to make a difference in the lives of individuals.

Hanson says that it is his mission to help people understand what drug abuse is about, and that addiction is a progressive type of illness. Acknowledging that tremendous strides have been made in disabusing the perception that drug abuse is only about the justice system, he underscored that additional efforts are nevertheless needed in this area.

New Initiatives in Drug Abuse Research

Hanson revealed that he intends to place a lot of emphasis on adolescents. The Institute will use a three-pronged strategy that includes transdisciplinary prevention research centers, multi-site prevention effectiveness trials (exploring whether strategies can be expanded into new areas), and basic science to identify new strategies.

New initiatives and other areas of concern were highlighted at the meeting. These include: responding to club drugs; understanding prescription drug abuse, misuse, and addiction; focusing on steroids; launching the NIDA National Prevention Research Initiative (NPRI); improving drug abuse treatment in the criminal justice system; launching a new inhalant initiative; and HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C,

and drug abuse research in minority and diverse communities.

According to Hanson, a central element of the NPRI is the National Drug Abuse Prevention Research System (NPRS). The system will include two interrelated components. The first is a series of multi-site trials that will involve research partnerships between scientists and prevention practitioners at the state and community levels. The second is a set of Transdisciplinary Prevention Research Centers (TPRCs), which will foster collaborations among basic, clinical, and applied researchers to study major knowledge gaps relevant to drug abuse prevention, and conduct translational research leading to new prevention interventions based on that research.

In 2001, NIDA launched the Corrections Research Initiative. The goals of the initiative include coordinating research efforts currently underway within NIDA and disseminating corrections-related research findings.

Recognizing that inhalant abuse remains a problem worldwide, and particularly in America, Hanson observed that there is a limited amount of research in this area. To address this gap, the Institute expects to intensify its research efforts to characterize the behavioral effects of inhalants (e.g., subjective, psychomotor, and reinforcing), develop more effective prevention interventions, and determine which treatments can be used. The Institute emphasizes that basic epidemiological, behavioral, cognitive, and neurobiological research is needed to determine the antecedent variables (e.g., impaired decision making processes, impulsivity), consequences (e.g., accidents, dropping out of school, neurological and physiological disorders, cognitive deficits, and impairments resulting from prenatal exposure), and the underlying mechanisms associated with or resulting from inhalant exposure.

Hanson wrapped-up the meeting with the tragic addiction stories of three individuals. He implored the representatives assembled "not to miss the trees (individuals) for the forest." He noted the tremendous impact of addiction "on us personally" and on society. We cannot let it continue to hurt victims, families, communities, and society, Hanson concluded.

NIDA's Report Card

Each year, NIDA prepares and distributes the NIDA Report Card at the conference. The report describes how the Institute responded to the recommendations made by constituents at the previous conference. A copy of this year's report card can be found on NIDA's web site (www.nida.nih.gov).

NIH HONORS MATILDA WHITE RILEY *AS*

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research honored the many contributions of Matilda White Riley to the social and behavioral sciences at NIH. The lecture series, *Soaring: an Exploration of Science and the Life Course*, celebrated her achievements in the area of health and behavior.

The title of the lecture series reflects Riley's early interest in the sport of soaring and gliding and is considered to be a metaphor for her professional and private life. The lecture topics reflect the areas of Riley's contributions: mass communications, health and behavior, life course perspective, age and aging, and fertility behaviors.

Riley served as the founding Associate Director for Behavioral and Social Research (BSR) from 1979 to 1991, Senior Social Scientist from 1991 to 1997, and Scientist Emeritus since 1998 at the National Institute on Aging (NIA). Under her guidance, the BSR's multidisciplinary program grew to become one of the largest funders of behavioral and social science research at the NIH. The program emphasizes the interplay between social, behavioral, and biological factors in the aging of individuals and societies.

She is lauded for her leadership in guiding NIA's extramural program in the social and behavioral sciences and across the NIH in her role as chairperson of landmark committees on health and behavior. These include ADAMHA (the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration) and the Steering Committee for the Institute of Medicine's Project on Health and Behavior. In these capacities she encouraged cooperation among the NIH Institutes, oversaw the production of numerous reports to Congress on behavioral research at NIH, provided advice to several NIH directors, and

initiated the behavioral and social science seminar series at the NIH.

The lecture series was organized to reflect the main substantive areas in which Riley made significant contributions over her career. It is cosponsored by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), and NIA.

Riley, who was unable to attend the inaugural lecture due to a last minute cancellation of her flight, was presented a plaque, via video, in gratitude and appreciation from professional societies including COSSA, the American Psychological Association, the American Sociological Association, the American Psychological Society, the Center for the Advancement of Health, the Gerontological Society of America, and the Society for Behavioral Medicine.

The lectures include:

- *Biocultural Dynamics of the Life Course: A Difficult Journey from the Third to the Fourth Age?* by Paul B. Baltes, Director of the Center of Lifespan Psychology at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development (Berlin, Germany), on October 22.
- *Teenage Childbearing Across the Generations: Reality or Myth*, by Frank F. Furstenburg, University of Pennsylvania, on October 26.
- *Health Campaigns in the Age of Ubiquitous Media: Promise and Peril*, by John R. Finnegan, University of Minnesota, on November 14.
- *Gender Difference in Heart Disease: Let Me Count the Ways*, by Karen A. Matthews, University of Pittsburgh, on December 4.
- *Successful Aging: Prescriptions and Persisting Problems*, by Robert L. Kahn, University of Michigan, on January 16, 2002.

Additional information about the lecture series can be found at <http://obssr.od.nih.gov/soaring>.

ANTHROPOLOGISTS LAUNCH RACE INITIATIVE

JW

The American Anthropological Association (AAA) unveiled their new public education initiative, *Understanding Race and Human Variability*, at their annual meeting in Washington on November 28. The four-year, multidisciplinary project received an initial boost in the form of a \$1 million grant from the Ford Foundation.

The focus of the initiative will be on disseminating information to the public about the interplay between race, genetics, and human variability. In so doing, the project aims to change people's attitudes about race and the stereotypes that are attached to physical differences.

AAA hopes that meeting these goals will "bolster public support for social justice and affirmative action programs and promote equality among all peoples," according to an article in *Anthropology News* by AAA Executive Director William E. Davis.

To accomplish these objectives, *Understanding Race and Human Variability* will develop a traveling museum exhibit, design a website, and produce a publication on race and human variability for the general public. The initiative will also convene a series of interdisciplinary conferences to share knowledge, determine commonalities and differences, and identify resources and materials to be included in the program.

Although the Ford grant will help fund the website and exhibit for three years, the AAA is actively seeking funding to extend and expand the project.

The chair of the initiative's Advisory Committee is Yolanda Moses, Executive Director of the American Association of Higher Education. She will be joined on the committee by the AAA members who initiated and developed the project, representatives of collaborating scholarly societies, other recipients of Ford Foundation grants, and public figures with expertise on race and human variability. AAA Director of Government Relations Peggy Overbey serves as the project director.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New NSF Division Director Named

NS

Norman Bradburn, Assistant Director for the National Science Foundation's Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate, has announced the appointment of Ken MacCrimmon as the new director of the Social and Economic Sciences (SES) division. MacCrimmon replaces William Butz, who left NSF this summer.

MacCrimmon is currently director of the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of British Columbia (UBC). The institute supports basic research through interdisciplinary initiatives to advance knowledge. Among its projects are inquiries into culture and cognition, hearing inaccessibility, new models of urban change in the Asia-Pacific region, and the international ethics of security.

MacCrimmon was initially appointed full professor at UBC in 1970 following an academic career at Carnegie Mellon University that began in 1964. At Carnegie Mellon, he taught a broad variety of courses in economics, behavioral science, management, and statistics. From 1980 to 1982, he held the endowed chair as J.L. Kellogg Distinguished Professor of Strategy and Decision at Northwestern University.

His research has focused on understanding how people solve problems and make decisions. He conducted some of the earliest research in the areas of choice with multiple objectives, decision paradoxes, mathematical models of organizations, and experimental economics.

MacCrimmon's degrees are all from UCLA. His B.Sc., received in 1959, was one of the first interdisciplinary degrees and was composed of a program of study in engineering, mathematics, business, and economics. He also went on to get an MBA in 1960 and a Ph.D. in 1965, which was also interdisciplinary, including business, economics, mathematics, and behavioral sciences.

The SES division that MacCrimmon will lead includes programs in Decision, Risk, and Management Science; Economics; Innovation and Organizational Change; Law and Social Science; Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics; Political

Science; Science and Technology Studies; Societal Dimensions of Science, Engineering and Technology; and Sociology.

Levine to Lead AERA *AS*

Felice Levine, who has been the Executive Officer of the American Sociological Association (ASA) since 1991, was named the new Executive Director of the American Educational Research Association (AERA). She will replace William Russell, who is retiring after 28 years as head of the 23,000 member organization of scholars who conduct education research and evaluation.

Prior to leading ASA, Levine spent 12 years as head of the Law and Social Science program at the National Science Foundation and five years as senior research social scientist at the American Bar Association. She has her A.B., A.M., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago in sociology and psychology.

In addition to her ASA duties, Levine is currently serving as a member of the National Human Research Protection Advisory Committee, where she co-chairs the working group on social and behavioral science. She is also serving on the advisory committees for the decennial census and the National Consortium on Violence Research and on the boards of the National Humanities Alliance and the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA). From 1997 to 2000, Levine chaired the COSSA Executive Committee.

She has co-authored the 1996 report, *Social Causes of Violence: Crafting a Science Agenda*. In addition, she currently serves as the principal investigator for the ASA Minority Fellowship Program for Underrepresented Minorities.

Levine will join AERA in May 2002. Until then, Gerald Sroufe, AERA's Director of Governmental Relations, will serve as interim Executive Director.

Cancer Institute Director Named *AS*

On December 6, the President announced the appointment of Andrew C. von Eschenbach to lead the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Von Eschenbach, a prostate cancer expert, is the director of the Center for Genital and Urinary Cancers at the

University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. He is also President-elect of the American Cancer Society.

"As the Director of the National Cancer Institute, I will be devoted to nurturing and promoting the paradigm of discovery through basic research," said von Eschenbach at the White House ceremony announcing his appointment.

Von Eschenbach's appointment comes before the naming of the new National Institutes of Health (NIH) director. He replaces acting NCI director Alan Rabson, who has served since September. Rabson replaced Richard Klausner, appointed by former President Clinton in 1995. Klausner is now president of the Case Institute of Health, Science, and Technology, a philanthropic enterprise (see *Update*, November 5, 2001).

Of the 27 NIH Institutes and Centers, the NCI is the only one whose director is required to be appointed by the President, as mandated in legislation signed by President Richard Nixon in 1970.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT

COSSA provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the sponsoring agency for further information. Additional application guidelines and restrictions may apply.

AERA/OERI Research Grants Program *R*

The American Educational Research Association (AERA), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI), invites researchers to apply for one- to two-year fellowships. AERA/OERI Research Grants award up to \$25,000 for 2-year projects. They are designed to support the research of talented scholars and to build a community of scholars whose focus is on high-priority issues such as the education of poor, urban, or minority students, especially in mathematics and literacy.

Applications must include a research proposal, a budget, and a current curriculum vitae for the principal investigator(s). Applications for the third round of awards, effective May 2002, are due **March 15, 2002**. See www.aera.net.

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Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
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Sociologists for Women in Society
Southern Political Science Association
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association

CONTRIBUTORS

American Council of Learned Societies
American Institutes for Research
University of Arizona
Bowling Green State University
Brookings Institution
Brown University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
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Consortium of Social Science Associations

1522 K Street, NW, Suite 836, Washington, D.C. 20005
