

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## **CORA MARRETT TO LEAD NEW SOCIAL SCIENCE DIRECTORATE AT NSF** *HS*

Cora Marrett, Professor of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has been selected by National Science Foundation Director Walter Massey to become the Assistant Director for the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate at NSF. Marrett's appointment marked the conclusion of a nationwide search for a distinguished scientist to lead the new directorate, which Massey created in October, 1991 after extensive lobbying on the part of the social and behavioral science community.

Marrett, who also is a member of the University of Wisconsin's Department of Afro-American Studies, has extensive professional experience in the social and behavioral sciences. Last year she was named Chair of the Board of Directors of the Social Science Research Council (a position she now has to relinquish), having served on the board for eight years. She was also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, where she had previously been a Fellow. Marrett has held numerous editorial and committee positions within the American Sociological Association, as well as having served as a member of the Committee on Science, Engineering and Public Policy of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

### **Extensive Government Service**

Marrett has been a member of several government panels including NSF's Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Technology (of which she was chair), the Advisory Committee to the Program on Ethics and Values in Science and Technology at NSF, the scientific advisory panels for both the Office of Naval Research and the U.S. Army, and review panels at the National Institute of Mental Health. As a member of a presidential commission examining the accident at Three Mile Island nuclear facility, Marrett authored the section of the report dealing with human actions.

At the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, Marrett chaired a workshop on women's employment issues and also served on two committees related to math and science education and scientific and engineering personnel. Marrett was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Argonne National Laboratory.

She is author of numerous articles on organizational structure, systems, and communications; women and minorities in science and engineering; social stratification; and science education, and has previously taught at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Western Michigan University. She received her B.A. from Virginia Union College and her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

While Marrett will not join NSF full-time until May, she was recently in Washington to attend House appropriations hearings on NSF's proposed Fiscal Year 1993 budget and to attend the CNSF reception for Rep. Bob Traxler (D-MI) (see following stories). She expects to return to Washington in mid-March for the National Science Board meeting and the Senate appropriations hearings on the NSF budget.

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## NSF APPROPRIATIONS BEGIN IN HOUSE; NEW DIRECTORATE REPRESENTED *HS*

When Cora Marrett, Assistant Director-designate for the new Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) directorate at the National Science Foundation (NSF), was introduced by NSF Director Walter Massey before the House VA-HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee on February 25, it marked the first time that the social sciences were represented at the NSF directorate level before a Congressional panel.

Marrett was warmly received, by subcommittee chair Rep. Bob Traxler (D-MI), chair of the Subcommittee, saying that in the case of himself and his colleagues, "some of us graduated in those disciplines." Her appointment was praised by subcommittee members Rep. Louis Stokes (D-OH) and Rep. Chester Atkins (D-MA). Atkins, who announced he was delighted by what he termed "the split" of SBE and the biological sciences, raised the only substantive question about the social and behavioral sciences during the two days of hearings, asking about the findings of research on incentives for workfare vs. welfare. Marrett was there in an observer role (she does not officially assume her office until May) and acting SBE director Frank Harris answered the question by referring Atkins to NSF-supported studies and data bases in socio-economic processes, in particular the Panel Study on Income Dynamics and the General Social Survey.

The majority of the hearing focused on the NSF's proposed 18 percent increase over FY 1992

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appropriations, which Traxler noted was the largest for any agency within the jurisdiction of the subcommittee, which includes NASA, HUD, the Veterans Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency. Noting the Subcommittee's past generous support for NSF, Traxler declared that the Subcommittee will "live or die" by its 602B allocation -- the process by which the full appropriations committee allocates the total funding pie to its 13 subcommittees. Traxler said that optimistically his panel would receive a 2 to 3 percent increase over last year's allocation, making it very difficult to grant the 18 percent increase sought by NSF. Traxler pressed Massey to reveal how NSF would reduce its request if the increase were only 5 to 8 percent. While refusing to be specific, Massey stated his priorities would be people, instrumentation, and facilities, in that order. Traxler inquired whether the reductions should be done by Congress or the NSF; Massey stated his opinion that NSF had adeptly managed earlier reductions and should continue to do so.

Considerable time was spent on the proposed 3.1 percent increase for the Education and Human Resources (EHR) directorate. With the subcommittee appearing to view this as insufficient, Massey justified the small increase by suggesting the need to consolidate an area that had doubled in appropriations during the past two years. Since staff shortages in EHR continue, it was important to insure proper program management before embarking on enhanced resources, he said. As has occurred in recent years, it is likely that the subcommittee will provide for an increase in EHR funding larger than that requested by NSF.

The subcommittee also inquired about the reorganization of the EHR directorate. Luther Williams, Assistant Director for EHR, explained the need to collapse individual programs to make them more effective, given the increased importance of evaluation and dissemination in making the impact of these programs more immediate to teachers and students. Williams added that the growth of programs such as the Statewide Systemic Initiative and the Alliances for Minority Participation also necessitate a different management structure.

Williams also was asked about the carryover to FY 1993 of the \$23 million Congress appropriated for a graduate traineeship program in FY 1992. Although no new request for funding appeared in the President's proposed FY 1993 budget, Williams hinted that the Foundation had unsuccessfully asked the Office of Management and Budget for an

additional \$25 million for a second year of funding. According to Williams, the program announcement is expected soon, with a May 15 deadline and awards made in early FY 1993, which begins October 1.

As NSF directors have done in the past few years, Massey pleaded for more dollars for salaries and expenses. He noted that the large increase proposed in the budget included \$16 million for NSF relocation to the Northern Virginia suburbs of Washington, which Chairman Traxler jokingly referred to as "overseas". Last year the House and Senate HUD-VA-Independent Agencies bill removed the funds for the relocation, but Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA) restored in the Treasury-Post Office appropriations bill the funding necessary for NSF to relocate in his Northern Virginia district. This scenario may be played out again this year, as Traxler indicated his displeasure with NSF moving out of Washington.

The sole question concerning the proposed 26 percent increase in the SBE budget for FY 1993 was about how the \$2.3 million proposed for the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) would be spent. Harris said he would provide information on that matter for the hearing record.

The Senate VA-HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), will meet on March 19 to discuss the proposed FY 1993 NSF budget.

## COALITION HONORS CONGRESSMAN TRAXLER *HS*

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), feted Rep. Bob Traxler (D-MI), chairman of the House VA-HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations Committee on the evening of February 25. The coalition, of which COSSA is a member, is an organization of 122 scientific, engineering, mathematics, and professional societies, universities, higher education associations, independent research institutes, and industrial corporations, that advocates for increased funding for the National Science Foundation.

Rep. Traxler was presented with an award for his efforts to enhance the NSF's status and funding. Traxler was presented with a crystal disk with an engraving representing "a size twelve foot trying to fit into a size nine shoe." This symbolized the

Chairman's words from last year's debate on the HUD-VA-Independent Agencies appropriations bill. The congressman thanked the group and shared credit with his cohort on the Subcommittee, ranking Republican Bill Green (R-NY), who also was in attendance.

The eighty-seven guests gathered at the new headquarters of the American Psychological Association included Reps. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) and Jim Bacchus (D-FL) and former Rep. Doug Walgren (D-PA) as well as appropriations committee staffers, NSF officials, and representatives of the coalition members.

During the past three years CNSF has produced a brochure highlighting the accomplishments of NSF and discussing its pressing needs. This year it has inaugurated a bimonthly briefing sheet "Frontiers in Science and Technology" which is sent to congressional staff who deal with NSF matters. For more information please contact: CNSF, 1550 M Street, NW, Box #3, Washington, DC 20005, phone: (202) 452-2127.

## HOUSE SCIENCE COMMITTEE EXAMINES NSF: CONCERN ABOUT FCCSET, FACILITIES *HS*

Walter Massey outlined the National Science Foundation's (NSF) proposed FY 1993 budget at an oversight hearing held by the House Science Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Rick Boucher (D-VA), on March 3. Using comparable testimony to his presentation before the House appropriations subcommittee the previous week, Massey defended the mix of increases for research, education and instrumentation in the proposed budget.

Chairman Boucher was quite supportive of the requested increases, especially those that enhance individual investigator and small group research. He did evince some concern that the presidential initiatives developed by the Federal Coordinating Council on Science, Engineering, and Technology (FCCSET) were responsible for an ever-growing part (he claimed 40 percent) of the NSF research budget. Boucher worried about the impact on the core disciplinary programs and the capacity of NSF to be flexible enough to take advantage of unexpected research opportunities.

Massey assured the chairman that the FCCSET initiatives did not hinder NSF, and while he

wondered where the 40 percent figure came from, he said they would enhance research opportunities in areas already receiving support, such as biotechnology. The director also suggested that FCCSET initiatives and core disciplinary programs are not mutually exclusive. Furthermore, Massey remained confident that NSF still could adapt to promising research openings.

Boucher and Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY) also chastised NSF for neglecting to request FY 1993 funds for a research facilities modernization program. Boucher reminded Massey that the authorization bill Congress passed in 1988 provided \$250 million for this program for FY 1993. Massey, as he explained to the appropriations committee, noted that the zero-funding request was a matter of priorities, and given budget constraints, he would opt for people and instrumentation over facilities. Boehlert said his priorities would be to fund an NSF research facilities program before funding the superconducting supercollider.

The previous week the Subcommittee heard testimony from public witnesses. F. Sherwood Rowland, President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, commended Massey for implementing the recommendations of the Task Force "Looking to the Twenty First Century" by creating the new directorate for social, behavioral and economic sciences.

## SENATE LABOR COMMITTEE PASSES NIH REAUTHORIZATION BILL WITH RESEARCH FREEDOM PROVISIONS

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On February 5, 1992, the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, chaired by Edward Kennedy (D-MA) passed the NIH Reauthorization bill (H.R. 2507) by a vote of 13 to 4. The bill includes many controversial provisions, most notably those in Title II that would lift the moratorium on federally funded fetal tissue transplantation research.

Also included in Title II of the bill are "research freedom" provisions aimed at disallowing the withholding of funds from peer reviewed and approved grants on "ethical" or political grounds (See Update, January 13, 1992). These provisions are designed to encompass any area of research supported by the Department of Health and Human Services, including research on sexual behavior,

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contraception and infertility, and fetal tissue transplantation, all of which have experienced political interference. Under the bill the Secretary is allowed to withhold funding from a peer reviewed and approved grant for "ethical" reasons only if he or she convenes an Ethics Advisory Board (EAB) -- composed of experts in research, law, ethics, and consumer issues -- which then recommends such withholding. If, on the other hand, the EAB determines that the research is appropriate for federal support, the grant must be funded.

Although these provisions are significant, there was virtually no discussion of them during the Senate Labor Committee mark-up. Instead, debate focused on the fetal tissue issue. Proponents of lifting the moratorium argued that this was a research issue, noting the potential medical advances to be gained in areas such as Parkinson's Disease, Alzheimer's Disease, Diabetes, AIDS, and other debilitating illnesses. Opponents of the legislation argued that it was an abortion issue, claiming that the research would serve as an incentive for women to have abortions. (The possibility of two very different interpretations of the bill explains the unlikely vote by Strom Thurmond (R-SC) in favor of its passage. Although he has been an ardent opponent of abortion rights, his own daughter suffers from Juvenile Diabetes, one of the disorders for which fetal tissue transplantation research is believed to have promise.)

In the end, the issue was left unresolved at the Committee level, and will be raised again, in an undoubtedly more heated fashion, when the bill comes to the Senate floor, probably within the next two months. At that point, it is likely that action will occur on the research freedom provisions, as well as other controversial areas in the bill (eg., authorization for an Office of Research on Women's Health and for contraception and infertility research centers at NIH). Opponents of the bill likely will offer an amendment to eliminate Title II entirely.

**ACTION ALERT:** It is very important for every Senator to hear from those who support the research freedom provisions. This is where the

issue of sexual behavior research, and research freedom in general, will be addressed most significantly this session. The message, in short, is: "Support the Committee-passed NIH Reauthorization bill (H.R. 2507); and oppose any attempts to modify, weaken, or eliminate the Research Freedom Act provisions embodied in Title II of the bill." If you would like a sample draft letter, and/or more information about how you can help, please contact Judy Auerbach at COSSA. Letters to Senators should be sent as soon as possible. Thanks!

### RAVITCH FACES APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: OBEY CRITICAL OF DISSEMINATION PLAN *HS*

Diane Ravitch, Assistant Secretary for Education Research and Improvement (OERI) at the Department of Education, defended her office's proposed FY 1993 budget before the House Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Subcommittee on March 4. When asked by subcommittee chair Rep. William Natcher (D-KY) if the 53 percent requested increase was justified, Ravitch emphatically answered "Absolutely!"

Ravitch advocated increased funding on the grounds that expanded research on school improvement will lead to higher expectations and higher standards for schools which, in turn, will lead to higher achievement. Other important components of this higher achievement are a challenging curricula and parental involvement, Ravitch added. While noting that the FY 1993 proposed research budget is slightly over 1 percent of the total departmental budget, Ravitch declared that the mission of OERI is to promote "equity and excellence" in education.

Chairman Natcher inquired if the current mix of research conducted by regional laboratories, research centers, and individual investigator awards was "about right," and Ravitch replied that it reflects a "balanced portfolio." However, subcommittee member Rep. David Obey (D-WI) raised questions about the proposed increases for the labs, centers, Field Initiated Studies (FIS), and the ERIC Clearinghouse. He noted that for these four traditional components of the research budget the increase was only \$500,000. Ravitch noted that FIS was increasing from \$1 to \$2 million. Ravitch did not explain which programs would see decreases in order to allow for this increase. The bulk of the requested increase, \$43.5 million, is slated for

research on standards, frameworks, and assessments and education technology.

### Computer Network Questioned

Obey also expressed concern over OERI's proposal to spend \$6 million on the SMARTLine electronic dissemination network, which would begin to develop new data bases and networks to allow the public to access education research and practice results via modem or an 800 telephone number. Obey argued that in the absence of a comprehensive plan encompassing the conceptual and financial framework of SMARTLine and an assessment of this plan by both the General Accounting Office and the Office of Technology Assessment, he would be unwilling to support the requested \$6 million "down payment." After some contentious exchanges between himself and Ravitch, she agreed to provide such a plan.

OERI's reputation on Capitol Hill for having supported what some have perceived to be poor quality research and for politicizing its research agenda does not appear to have been shaken, as both Chairman Natcher and Ranking Republican Carl Pursell (R-MI) asked about research quality, and Rep. John Porter (R-IL) noted the "politicization" problem. Ravitch defended her office as non-partisan and suggested the political problems were from ten years ago. While admitting that there is some "bad" education research, she argued the same could be said for research in any discipline, and that to believe that schools will get better in the absence of research is "unrealistic."

### CSRS DEFENDS BUDGET: NRI PRAISED, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AN ISSUE *HS*

The Cooperative State Research Service (CSRS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture defended its budget before a March 3 hearing of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Development Appropriations Subcommittee chaired by Sen. Quentin Burdick (D-ND). In between questions about commodities, biotechnology, and plant diseases, a number of Senators raised questions about the National Research Initiative Competitive Grants (NRI) program and research on the social and economic conditions in rural areas.

Sen. Christopher 'Kit' Bond (R-MO) was concerned about the economic decline of rural

areas. Referring to an article in the March 2 Washington Post that reported on a study of rural poverty, Bond suggested we still lack "a base of information" to explain these situations. He was particularly disturbed by the zero funding proposed for the Food and Agriculture Policy Research Institute at the University of Missouri and Iowa State University and the Rural Policy Research Institute at the Universities of Missouri, Arkansas, and Nebraska. Both of these have been funded by the Special Grants program in the past.

John Patrick Jordan, administrator of the CSRS, defended the decision not to include funding for these institutes by noting that the Markets, Trade and Policy component of the NRI was "a strong growth area." None of the Senators questioned this, although in the proposed \$53 million increase for NRI for FY 1993 MTP receives only \$1 million.

Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-OR), ranking Republican on the panel, praised the NRI and the proposed significant increase. According to Jordan, in 1991 10,000 reviewers examined 2,800 proposals requesting \$600 million in funding. Since only \$73 million was available, only 22 percent of proposals were funded and most of the funds requested by these grantees was cut in half. The authorized level for NRI of \$500 million was still a distant goal on the horizon.

## CNSTAT CELEBRATES TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY *HS*

The Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) celebrated its twentieth anniversary during its meeting on February 21. Joining in the celebration were Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) and Rep. Tom Sawyer (D-OH), as well as members of the President's Commission on Federal Statistics, the group that recommended the creation of the Committee. CNSTAT is a major division of the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education.

Moynihan, who spoke at dinner, urged more data collection on issues of public policy. He particularly advocated the development of a statistical system to permit the measurement, analysis, and reporting of welfare dependency, which is included in legislation he has introduced. The Senator noted that there are basically no data on whether welfare dependency is transferred from one

## 1920 CENSUS DATA NOW OPEN TO RESEARCHERS *MB*

The National Archives announced that the data from the 1920 census are now available to the public through the National Archives in Washington, D.C., the 12 regional archives across the nation, and through microfilm sales and rentals. To protect individual privacy, federal law prohibits release of personal census data for 72 years. The data sets from the censuses of 1790 through 1910 have been publicly released, though most of the data collected in the 1890 census were destroyed by fire.

For more information on the 1920 census, contact the National Archives, Reference Services Branch, Washington, D.C. 20408, phone: (202) 501-5400.

generation to another, an assertion that is often made by politicians. He also mentioned the need to collect data on teenage sexual behavior and AIDS. Last summer, Moynihan led Senate opposition to Senator Jesse Helms's (R-NC) successful amendment that effectively killed the Survey of Health and Aids Risk Prevalence (SHARP). The New York Senator has also been an outspoken opponent of HHS Secretary Louis Sullivan's cancellation of the American Teenage Study.

Sawyer was responsible for a new CNSTAT study of the census in the year 2000. As Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Census and Population, the Ohio representative has been a leading player in the debate over the quality of the data collected by the 1990 census. During his remarks to CNSTAT Sawyer urged a fundamental rethinking of census design and a comprehensive review of why and how the population is measured.

CNSTAT's study of the census in the year 2000 will be conducted by two panels. One, mandated by Congress, will focus on census requirements and examine alternative ways of enumerating the population, evaluate the needs for data currently collected in the census, and identify whether the census or other types of data collection may be more effective in meeting the nation's statistical needs. Charles Schultze, former Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, currently a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a member of the COSSA Board of Directors, will lead this panel.

The second panel, requested by the Bureau of the Census, will focus on the more technical aspects of evaluating alternative census methods. Norman Bradburn, Director of the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, will chair this panel. Both panels are expected to have an important impact on the future of the federal statistical system.

The Committee will also soon be embarking on a new study, also requested by the Congress, that will address statistical issues involved in measuring and understanding poverty. The study will focus on the concepts, information, and measurement methods needed for decisions on poverty thresholds and minimum welfare benefits.

During the meeting, Allen Wallis, former Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, who served as Chair of the President's Commission on Federal Statistics, and Frederick Mosteller, distinguished professor at Harvard University, who served as vice-chair, offered a retrospective look at the work of the commission and its vision for the Committee on National Statistics. Current Committee chair Burton Singer of Yale University, and past chairs, William Kruskal of the University of Chicago and Stephen Fienberg of York University, also offered their perspectives on the activities of CNSTAT during the past twenty years. All proclaimed the merits of having a distinguished group to select and study statistical topics to improve the national statistical system and the data that help policymakers make public policy decisions.

For further information about the Committee on National Statistics, its recent publications, and current activities, contact Miron L. Straf, Director, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20418. 202/334-3096.

**Editor's note:** COSSA would like to thank Flossie Wolf of CNSTAT for her assistance in preparing this article.

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES FELLOWSHIPS *MB*

The Department of Education's Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI) recently announced it is accepting applications for its FY 1992 fellowship program. Fellows will engage in research at OERI in Washington and will receive a stipend and travel allowances. The

department is inviting research on a wide range of issues relevant to education in America.

Deadline for applications is April 17. For more information contact: Dr. Jeffrey Gilmore, U.S. Department of Education, O.E.R.I., 555 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20208, phone: (202) 219-2243.

## NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR FIRST UNITED STATES PEACE MEDAL *MB*

Nominations are being sought for the first annual Spark M. Matsunaga Medal of Peace honoring the late Senator from Hawaii, a longtime proponent of peace education and a federal peace institution. The medal, the first of its kind authorized by United States law, acknowledges extraordinary achievements in research, education, or training in the fields of international peacemaking and conflict resolution. In addition to the bronze medal designed by the U.S. mint, laureates will receive a \$25,000 award.

The United States Institute of Peace is an independent federal institution created and funded by the U.S. Congress to promote research, education, and training in the fields of international peacemaking and conflict resolution. Its activities include grantmaking, fellowships, in-house research projects, citizen education programs, and publications.

Nominations must be received by April 30, 1992. For more information, contact: U.S. Institute of Peace, 1550 M Street, N.W., Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20005, phone (202) 457-1700.

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