

**COSSA ANNUAL MEETING
LOOKS AT SCIENCE AND
POLICY**

The 1996 COSSA Annual Meeting brought over 60 representatives of COSSA's Members, Affiliates, and Contributors together to hear leading science policy makers discuss challenges and opportunities facing the social and behavioral sciences as the 20th Century ends and we look forward to the 21st.

**WHITE HOUSE'S MONIZ
DISCUSSES SCIENCE AGENDA** *MB*

Ernest Moniz, Associate Director for Science, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, discussed the social sciences in U.S. science policy. He began by commenting that U.S. science policy occurs in the post-Cold War era of rapid and uneven technological change and a dynamic, highly competitive world economy. These changing realities mean that the federal research and design portfolio must undergo "necessary but contested expansions," he said. Moniz said that there is bipartisan support for the "core" of this, which entails basic and applied research, university research, and r&d. There is some disagreement about the specifics, he commented, particularly federal support for government-industry-university partnerships.

Moniz cited two keys areas for the social and behavioral sciences in these efforts: the environment and developing human capital. While there are many areas of dispute over the environment, he said that the human impact remains certain. He spoke of the need to link social and behavioral sciences with policy makers to better understand individual and societal behaviors and their impacts. "Social and behavioral preventative research" should exist in the environment, not just in health areas, he stated.

Developing human capital, according to Moniz, reflects the fact that a modern economy's needs are different than that of a manufacturing economy. He cited administration efforts in one component of human capital, education standards, and said that the federal government's science policy brings together

both industry and states to research how children learn, including the role of new technologies in learning. Moniz spoke of brain research as comprising the contributions of a wide range of scientific disciplines.

The social and behavioral sciences, Moniz contended, are at the center of the research-policy linkage. Moniz spoke of the importance of strengthening the research-policy links, and said that the "synergy between social and behavioral science and policy" can help create "continuous feedback loops." He outlined two OSTP efforts to create these links. One is a multi-agency initiative on child development to assess the size and scope of current federal research efforts, identify gaps in research funding, and improve the communication of research results to policy makers. The other initiative he cited was the creation of a portfolio to assess federal efforts in the social and behavioral sciences. This would enhance understanding by communicating the contributions and methodologies of these disciplines and outlining the areas where more research is needed. According to Moniz, this portfolio could serve as an advocacy document for social and behavioral research.

Moniz lamented that too many policy makers carry a prejudice that social and behavioral science is

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irrelevant if it does not reinforce their previously held views. He spoke of the need to not only strengthen the bipartisan support for science, but also strengthen the credibility scientists have with policy makers.

ORNSTEIN ON IMPLICATIONS OF 1996 ELECTIONS

Norman Ornstein, Senior Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and a widely-known commentator on American politics, discussed the results and implications of the 1996 elections and the political climate in which the second Clinton administration and the 105th Congress will operate.

What was most striking about the presidential race, Ornstein said, was its stability. Both Bill Clinton and Bob Dole's levels of support barely wavered, he said. So why did the media speak of fluctuations in the race between the two men? Ornstein decried what he called "pollitis" -- the proliferation of surveys with little or no distinction between high and low quality polls, leading to a "polluting and diluting" of opinion surveys. In criticizing "sham surveys" he specifically cited the proliferation of tracking polls, and noted that social scientist Everett Ladd has found that Republicans are less likely to be home on weekends than Democrats. This, Ornstein noted, had the effect of showing Clinton polling better on Mondays than later in the week. Ornstein said that the survey research community needs to establish better

standards and better educate publishers and editors on the science of sampling.

Despite what outwardly appears to have been a status quo election, Ornstein said it will bring significant change. There is a sizable freshman class in the Senate and in the House. When the new House freshman are grouped with the classes of 1992 and 1994, nearly two-thirds of the House entered in the 1990s, making it a "post-Cold War Congress." These legislators generally look at the world in "domestic, insular terms," he said.

Science Spending Faces "irrational squeeze"

While the anger of the Class of 1994 has been replaced by a more personally ambitious class of 1996, Ornstein said that balancing the budget remains a bipartisan goal, creating often "irrational squeezes" on domestic discretionary spending. This does not bode well for programs such as science and education, he said. While basic research enjoys bipartisan support in the abstract, there is not a "strong constituency" for these programs and it is difficult for policy makers to focus much attention on them, Ornstein said. He urged scientists to educate new legislators on these issues, saying of the newly elected, "they are not dumb . . . they just have not thought about these things."

Ornstein predicted problems for the states in coming years. He said they are highly vulnerable to fiscal change as many -- including ones that are currently doing well -- have a fragile revenue base. Ornstein said that while the prospects for a balanced budget amendment are promising, he said that many states do not realize they are highly vulnerable should such an amendment be adopted.

Ornstein expressed skepticism over the promises of bi-partisanship in the next congress. This would have been easier in previous years when most Members were clustered somewhat near the ideological center. Now, he said, Members are clustered further apart. Particularly in the House, he said that the leadership of both parties mirrors that alignment, making coalitions difficult to form.

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President: Charles Schultze

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 scientists. *Update* is published 22 times per year. Individual subscriptions are available from COSSA for \$65; institutional subscriptions, \$130, overseas mail, \$130. ISSN 0749-4394. Address all inquiries to COSSA, 1522 K Street, NW, Suite 836, Washington, D.C. 20005. Phone: (202) 842-3525, Fax: (202) 842-2788.

**THE VIEW FROM THE HILL;
STAFF SPEAK OUT**

MB

Two leading congressional staff members on science policy issues offered their assessments of the likely tone and agenda of the 105th Congress.

Skip Stiles, Legislative Director for the Democratic staff of the House Science Committee, predicted that the next session of Congress will likely be more calm and businesslike than the strident, contentious tone that prevailed for most of the last congress. He said that the rise in power of moderate members of both parties that began late in the 104th Congress will continue. With the small majority the Republicans hold, coupled with the growing influence of moderates, Stiles said attaining the votes needed to pass legislation will be a "retail operation," where one seeks out small pockets of votes.

Research and development, Stiles said, will be primarily affected by the debate over balancing the budget. Barring entitlement reform, he said that deep cuts in domestic discretionary spending will hurt science and education. He urged the research community to be "agile and politically connected." With Science Committee chairman Robert Walker's retirement, Stiles sees threats to the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) directorate as unlikely to resurface. Stiles said that his boss, Rep. George Brown (D-CA), the committee's ranking Democrat, has already met with incoming panel chair Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) to restore bipartisan cooperation on the committee.

Stiles lauded the social and behavioral science community for its overwhelming response to threats against the directorate. He said that the number of letters Congress received made a difference, and allowed him the opportunity to educate many on Capitol Hill about these disciplines. He urged the science community to continue its political advocacy, saying it is an ideal constituency to mobilize, with its vast horizontal distribution and its vertical links to policy makers providing opportunities for an excellent information flow. Stiles said that 1997 would be a good opportunity to educate Members, as it is not an election year where legislators would be more distracted.

David Goldston, Legislative Director to Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY), the second-ranking Republican on the committee, was skeptical of the talk of bipartisan cooperation and common ground in congress. "Common ground is where you find yourself when you don't have the votes do what you want," he said, adding that the disputes and bad feelings of the last two years will linger into the future.

Echoing Stiles' concerns about discretionary spending cuts, Goldston said that funding prospects in these areas, including research and development, are "not all that bright." He cautioned, however, "it is not an attack on science, per se," it is just the effects of a tight budget. He commented that agencies such as the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health have fared well while other agencies have been slashed. In the 104th Congress, he said budget-cutters went after long-targeted programs, but in later years science could be more vulnerable.

Educate Members in Home Districts

The proper response for scientists, Goldston said, is twofold. First, the science community should rethink its own priorities and how it can adapt to changing fiscal times. Leaving this up to Congress, he said, would be a mistake for scientists. Second, educate Members and their staff through meetings in their home districts and through quality teaching of undergraduates which would enhance public perception of science, particularly in the social and behavioral sciences. Goldston agreed with Stiles that an SBE attack is unlikely, but said that the Walker criticisms revealed vulnerabilities and researchers should heed that warning.

In response to an audience question, both staff members were not confident about the future of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Goldston said it is on "shaky ground" and is a "very visible target [with] a vague, diverse, and not especially strong constituency." Stiles concurred, saying NEH "does not have a bright future" on Capitol Hill.

WALLMAN ON CHALLENGES TO THE STATISTICAL SYSTEM mb

Katherine Wallman, Chief Statistician of the United States at the Office of Management and Budget, was the meeting's luncheon speaker and discussed issues facing the federal statistical system.

Wallman noted that there have been several proposals in recent years to reorganize the federal statistical system, particularly in light of calls to abolish the Commerce Department, which houses the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. She noted that her office and leaders of the statistical community testified in Congress last year on legislation sponsored by Rep. Steve Horn (R-CA) calling for a Canadian-style consolidation of several agencies (see *Update*, April 29). The bill, opposed by the administration, was not acted upon in the 104th Congress.

Another issue she highlighted was the devolution of federal programs to the states through the new welfare reform legislation signed into law earlier this year. Wallman said that the bill has the unintended consequence of losing the data that came with the federal government running some of these programs. As many functions will now be assumed by the 50 states and 39,000 local governments, both data and data comparability will be adversely affected, she said. Wallman noted that the legislation's data requirements have not been adequately funded. The National Academy of Sciences is studying data issues pertaining to the new welfare bill.

Wallman also noted that the government shutdowns of last winter have several lasting effects. She said it has hurt morale within the federal government as employees and their programs were deemed "nonessential" and that numerous programmatic effects of the closure are only now being realized.

Addressing future areas of attention within the system, she cited three: national accounts, demographic statistics, and improving the Consumer Price Index. She cautioned the statistical community to be "strong but careful" in protesting cuts or lobbying for enhancements in federal statistics. By this, she meant that the community needs to go beyond

parochialism and take a broad view at the system's needs and the effects of proposed changes.

Wallman said that a number of statistical agencies are looking at their own programs, both to better evaluate them and to try to better articulate their benefits within and across agencies. Specifically, she cited Labor Department efforts to better understand compensation and benefit dynamics. Wallman also praised the growth in interagency cooperation, including a forum on family and children data needs. She said that the Clinton administration has proposed data sharing legislation to streamline the government's statistical programs, and has also created several "one-stop shopping" mechanisms to better access federal data. These include the creation of the Economic and Social Statistics Briefing Room on the White House home page (see *Update*, May 27) and a broader service to be inaugurated shortly.

In concluding her remarks, Wallman offered advice to the statistical community: increase awareness of debates in Congress over the design and methodology for the 2000 Census; work with the federal statistical agencies on efforts to expand data sharing; seek consensus among data users and statistician over future needs; and support the fiscal well-being of federal statistical programs.

NIJ's TRAVIS LINKS CRIME RESEARCH TO POLICY mb

National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Director Jeremy Travis outlined the work of his crime and justice research agency, and discussed ways in which he seeks to link research to policy makers and practitioners.

Travis gave an overview of his agency, the research and development arm of the Justice Department, and said that Attorney General Janet Reno has "made an enormous difference in the centrality" NIJ has played within the Department. Travis said that Reno has appreciated and maintained the independence of NIJ research, and that the Clinton Administration has been both supportive of research and has advocated a different, innovative approach to crime control and prevention.

The 1994 crime bill, modified in 1996, has provided NIJ the opportunity to embark upon a "far-

reaching and robust program" of innovation broadly defined by four titles of the bill: community policing, violence against women, corrections, and drug courts. Through both provisions in the bills and administrative actions, set-asides in major anti-crime programs have allowed NIJ the funding to dramatically expand its research portfolio.

Travis outlined five goals he has set for the agency in the coming years: *Rethinking Justice*, a critical examination of the role of the criminal justice systems in society, with an eye toward innovation; *Understanding The Nexus*, basic and applied research on the various intersections of social phenomena affecting crime; *Breaking the Cycle*, which examines and supports demonstration programs; *Creating The Tools*, new technologies for law enforcement and criminal justice; and *Expanding Our Horizons*, looking at both international crime and justice and new areas of crime.

Despite the gains made by his agency in recent years, Travis decried the "meager national commitment to research," on crime and justice, saying that it is a "national shame." He said that crime consistently rates high in opinion polls regarding problems facing the nation. Travis said that NIJ is respected by justice practitioners, commenting that at the state and local levels NIJ is viewed as being at the "cutting edge" and showing "respect for the people in the trenches." Lauding the contributions of criminology, Travis said, "community policing exists today because of research."

Travis discussed bridging the research and practitioner and policy maker communities. He said that practitioners sit on all NIJ peer review panels, something he believes is unprecedented in government and benefits both researchers and practitioners through a better understanding of each other. NIJ has a sizable dissemination element, with a strong emphasis on concise, timely communication of research findings. While saying the agency has had success reaching the practitioner community, Travis said it has "done a poor job" with policy makers. NIJ has begun to focus more effort on this group through a series of seminars in Washington and reaching out to state legislatures throughout the country.

In response to an audience question about policy makers who do not listen to the findings of research,

Travis urged both understanding and perseverance. Because they believe a certain way, he said, "doesn't mean they are dumb . . . there's something else that is going on in that person's mind" that is producing that response. While that in itself is a separate research question, the challenge, he added is to look at that as a research opportunity. For example, if one wants to eliminate television watching for inmates, Travis said, conduct research on what the effect of that would be. Offering a polite critique of criminologists, Travis cautioned against disengaging from the policy process out of frustration, saying that researchers should "continue that engagement or we will have no chance" in making a difference.

NEAL LANE SEES TOUGH TIMES AHEAD FOR NSF HS

On November 19, Neal Lane, Director of the National Science Foundation, spent a busy day addressing the future of his agency to two groups with great concern about that future: the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate's Advisory Committee and the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF). Lane warned both groups that projected cuts in domestic discretionary spending by the federal government will force the Foundation to "make tough decisions."

He told the Advisory Committee that NSF emerged from the past two years of budget battles in "relatively good shape." However, if the projections of 20 percent reductions in domestic spending hold, NSF will be forced to eliminate some of the things it is already doing in order to focus on new emerging areas. One of these new areas is an initiative on Learning and Intelligent Systems (LIS). This initiative will bring together researchers studying human, animal and machine learning. Supported in its early stages through the Director's discretionary opportunity fund, LIS is expected to graduate into a full-fledged NSF initiative in the FY 1998 budget.

Lane called on the Advisory Committee to help the scientific community understand the difficult times ahead. He admitted that there will be "disappointments in the community" over the decisions that will have to be made as "science gets squeezed" in the budget deliberations. He asked CNSF, an organization of 80 groups across all the

sciences, engineering, higher education, and industry, chaired by COSSA Executive Director Howard Silver, to continue its efforts advocating for the Foundation. Lane did see some bright signals for the future in President Clinton's admission in the *Atlantic Monthly* that the country had been underinvesting in science and in House Speaker Newt Gingrich's vocal support for basic scientific research.

He discussed with both groups the impact of the coming implementation of the Government Performance Results Act (GPRA) on NSF. Beginning with the FY 1999 budget submission, GPRA requires NSF to prepare an annual performance plan as a mechanism for evaluating how well the agency is doing its job. The FY 1998 budget will serve as a dry run for GPRA compliance. According to Lane, NSF's goals will remain "making major discoveries," and "making advances in education." Lane suggested that NSF will focus on qualitative, descriptive measures of performance and rely on peer review for the evaluation of the agency's success. The peer reviewers will include not only the usual scientific experts, but others concerned about scientific achievement.

Lane noted that NSF is currently examining its merit review process. The assessment is aimed at helping to clarify the old rules and devise new ones that will provide more flexibility to reviewers.

MACCOBY ELECTED COSSA PRESIDENT; THREE JOIN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the recent Board of Directors meeting on November 17, Eleanor Maccoby, Professor Emeritus of Psychology at Stanford University, was elected President of COSSA. She will serve a two-year term commencing on January 1, 1997. She replaces Charles Schultze, Senior Economics Fellow at the Brookings Institution and former Chair of President Carter's Council of Economic Advisers.

Maccoby has been a member of the Psychology Department faculty at Stanford University since 1958. Her primary field of interest has been in the development of children's social behavior, particularly as it relates to family functioning and parental child rearing methods. Her book Patterns of Child Rearing

(with Sears and Levin, 1957) was an early contribution to the research on parent-child interaction, and she has published numerous papers and chapters on this subject since. In 1974 (with Carol Jacklin) she published The Psychology of Sex Differences, a compendium of the research information available at that time, which attempted to explode some myths concerning sex differences, as well as to document those that had been reliably established.

Since that time, Maccoby has been concerned with how same-sex and cross-sex relationships differ at different points in the life cycle. This work will appear in her forthcoming book The Two Sexes: Childhood Divergence and its Implications for Adult Relationships. Recently she has been studying the post-separation lives of divorcing families, and two books have been published: Dividing the Child: The Social and Legal Dilemmas of Custody (1992) by Maccoby and Mnookin; and Adolescents After Divorce (1996) by Buchanan, Maccoby and Dornbusch.

Maccoby was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1993 and is a Senior Member of the Institute of Medicine. She has served as President of the Society for Research in Child Development, as a member of the Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development, a member of the Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (CBASSE) of the National Research Council. She has received many awards for her teaching, research and service from the American Psychological Association, the American Sociological Association, the American Educational Research Association, the Society for Research in Child Development, and the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues. This year she received the Gold Medal Award for Lifetime Achievements in the Science of Psychology from the American Psychological Foundation.

Maccoby received the Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

JUSTUS, KASARDA AND WOLPERT JOIN COSSA BOARD

Three new at-large members join the COSSA Board of Directors on January 1, 1997 for two-year terms.

Joyce Justus is currently Special Assistant to the Chancellor of the University of California at Santa Cruz. From 1994 to 1996 she served as the Assistant Director for the Social and Behavioral Sciences at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. An anthropologist, Justus served the University of California system in a variety of administrative capacities prior to her coming to Washington.

John Kasarda is The Kenan Distinguished Professor of Business Administration and Director of the Frank Hawkins Institute of Private Enterprise at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A sociologist and expert on regional economic development, he has worked to create linkages between social science research and businesses in this country and around the world.

Julian Wolpert is Professor of Geography, Public Affairs, and Urban Planning at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public Affairs at Princeton University. Elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1977 and a past president of the Association of American Geographers, Wolpert also served as a charter member of the National Science Foundation's Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate Advisory Committee.

NEW AFFILIATE JOINS COSSA MB

The National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration is the newest Affiliate of the Consortium. We look forward to working with its members on issues of mutual interest.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH KC

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

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) invite research grant applications addressing development of community-based strategies aimed at prevention and intervention activities in economically disadvantaged and/or underserved populations adversely impacted by an environmental contaminant.

Awards in this program of Community-Based Prevention/Intervention Research in Environmental Health Sciences will: stimulate further advances in the design and implementation of prevention and intervention methods that are appropriately applied to environmental health; develop community-based public health research approaches to diseases and health conditions having an environmentally related etiology and determine the impact of these methods; and bridge the gaps between basic and clinical research in environmental health science as well as gaps between institutional researchers and community members.

Funds Available: The estimated funds (total costs) available for the first year of support for this program are expected to be \$1.5 million in fiscal year 1997. The actual amount may vary, depending on the response to this announcement and the availability of funds. The anticipated number of awards is four.

Deadlines: Letter of Intent Receipt Date: December 10, 1996; Application Receipt Date: February 11, 1997

Contact: Inquiries should be directed to: Allen Dearry (919) 541-4500 or DEARRY@NIEHS.NIH.GOV

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Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association
Speech Communication Association

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