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FEATURED NEWS

Save the Date: COSSA Annual Meeting & Advocacy Day, March 15-16

COSSA will hold its 2016 Annual Meeting and Social and Behavioral Science Advocacy Day on March 15 and 16 in Washington, DC. The meeting brings together more than 100 members of the social and behavioral science community and provides a platform for COSSA members to engage with leaders of federal agencies, Congressional staff, and colleagues from across the science and higher education communities.

The meeting on March 15 will take place at the George Washington University Marvin Center and will feature updates from leaders at federal science agencies and panels highlighting issues impacting the social and behavioral science community. On March 16, COSSA members will take to Capitol Hill for Social and Behavioral Science Advocacy Day. They will have the opportunity to meet with their congressional delegations in the House and Senate and educate staff about the importance of federally funded social and behavioral science research.

Keep an eye on COSSA’s annual meeting page for more details as they become available. Early bird registration will open in December.
CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

Sam Farr, Ranking Member on House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, Announces Retirement

Rep. Sam Farr (D-CA) announced his retirement from Congress at the end of his term after 22 years in the House. Farr is the Ranking Member on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies. As Ranking Member, Farr has been a vocal advocate for agricultural science and statistics, memorably speaking out on the House floor against a proposed amendment to cut funding for the Economic Research Service (ERS) in 2014. It remains to be seen who will fill Farr’s spot. Currently, only three other Democrats serve on the Subcommittee.

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

NIH Seeks Input for Alzheimer's Disease-Related Dementia 2016 Plan

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), National Institute on Aging (NIA), and the Office of Disease Prevention (ODP) within the National Institutes of Health recently released a time-sensitive request-for-information (RFI) (NOT-NS-15-045) seeking the input of the scientific and broader community regarding the "most important needs and promising opportunities for research" on Alzheimer's Disease-Related Dementia (ADRD). The information received will be used to update the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease, which is congressionally mandated to be updated annually (see Update, August 10, 2015).

Additionally, the RFI announces a March 29-30, 2016 ADRD 2016 Summit sponsored by NINDS and NIA "to assess progress and review and update the recommendations" from the Alzheimer's Disease-Related Dementias: Research Challenges and Opportunities 2013 Summit. Those recommendations and priorities were used to develop the ADRD research budget and were incorporated in the recently released Alzheimer's bypass budget for FY 2017 (see Update, November 3, 2015).

The revised recommendations will be made public for additional comment at the March 2016 Summit to be hosted on the NIH campus. That meeting will be free and open to the public. The final recommendations will guide NIH-funded ADRD research for the next decade. Comments are due December 18, 2015. For more information and/or to comment see the notice.

NIDA Announces New Challenge: "Addiction Research: There's an App for that"

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has announced a new Challenge/Prize Competition, "Addiction Research: There’s an App for that." The objective for the challenge is to "promote the development of innovative mobile applications (apps) for future addiction studies." According to the notice, three prizes may be awarded: $50,000 (first place); $30,000 (second place); and $20,000 (third place).

The NIDA Challenge is enabled by the DHHS IDEA Lab program. Challenge partners include U.S.
NCATS Issues RFI for Input into Strategic Plan

The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking the scientific community's input into the development of its five-year strategic plan. This is NCATS' first strategic plan since its creation in the National Institutes of Health Reform Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-482). Accordingly, NCATS has issued a request for information (RFI), "Soliciting Input for the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) Strategic Planning Process" (NOT-TR-16-002).

NCATS "focuses on what is common across diseases and the translational process" emphasizing "innovation and deliverables, relying on the power of data and new technologies to develop, demonstrate and disseminate improvement in translational science that bring about tangible improvements in human health."

Specifically, NCATS is seeking input on such issues as breaking down "professional, cultural, and scientific silos;" emphasizing inter-operability of data systems; "focusing on patient-driven research and patient/community engagement; forming innovative partnerships with a wide variety of stakeholders; identifying skillsets and competencies needed for training the next generation of translational scientists," using "modern communication and dissemination tools to expand awareness of translational science to a wide variety of stakeholders."

Comments are due January 8, 2016. For more information and/or to provide input see the notice.

OBSSR Hosts Seminar on Video Games and Neuroscience

Neuroscientist Adam Gazzaley, University of California, San Francisco, discussed his research and what he described as "the new frontiers" in video games and neuroscience. The November 5 presentation was part of the NIH Behavioral and Social Sciences Seminar Series, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR).

Read on for more details.

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

COSSA Members among World’s Top 100 Social Science Universities

The London-based magazine Times Higher Education has released its 2015-2016 World University Rankings for the social sciences. The U.S. leads in terms of number of universities represented, with 43 in the top 100, 35 of which are COSSA member universities. COSSA congratulates all the universities and colleges that made the list.

In an article accompanying the rankings, James Wilsdon, chair of the UK's Campaign for Social
Science, suggests that the relative dominance of American universities on the list should give pause to those in Congress looking to cut funding for the social and behavioral sciences. "If I was [looking at the ranking] as a US policymaker, I would take it as a powerful warning to think twice before I start to chip away at what's clearly a very strong US position."

**AERA Holds Annual Brown Lecture on "Indigenous Pathways toward Justice"


McCarty's lecture considered the legacy of the 1953 *Brown v. Board of Education* case and the "broader issues of education equity, in the context of research, policy, and practice in Indigenous education." She also examined the "hard-fought pathways toward educational justice forged by Indigenous educators, parents, leaders, and allies; the larger colonial project in which those efforts are embedded; and the ways in which Indigenous initiatives are braided with those of others." McCarty spoke about the continuing challenges associated with achieving Brown's promise, specifically, "the simultaneous homogenizing and stratifying effects of current education policy-and what can be learned from diverse models of contemporary Indigenous education practice." The lecture is available on [AERA's website](#).

**EVENTS CALENDAR**

- [American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting](#), Washington, DC, November 18-21, 2015
- [National Communication Association Annual Convention](#), Las Vegas, NV, November 19-22, 2015
- [History of Science Society Annual Meeting](#), San Francisco, CA, November 19-22, 2015
- [American Historical Association Annual Meeting](#), Atlanta, GA, January 7-10, 2016
- [Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting](#), Washington, DC, January 7-10, 2016
- [Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting](#), San Juan, PR, January 7-9, 2016
- [Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention](#), San Diego, CA, January 28-30, 2016

A list of COSSA members' annual meetings and other events can be found on the COSSA [webpage](#).

COSSA members who have an upcoming event they would like to see listed in the Events Calendar and on our website should send an email to jmilton@cossa.org.

**Save the date!**

**COSSA's 2016 Annual Meeting will take place on March 15 & 16.**
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American Anthropological Association
American Association for Public Opinion Research
American Economic Association
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Council on Social Work Education
Economic History Association
History of Science Society
Midwest Sociological Society
National Association of Social Workers
North American Regional Science Council
Rural Sociological Society
Social Science History Association
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for Social Work and Research
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Southern Political Science Association
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association

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University of Texas, Austin
University of Texas, San Antonio
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Virginia Tech
West Virginia University
Yale University
The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research.

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