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<http://www.thefederationonline.org/docs/Newsletters/NEWS080307.pdf>

This Week's News and Reflections (08/03/07)
The Federation of Behavioral, Psychological,
& Cognitive Sciences
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This email newsletter is sent to members of the Federation plus interested governmental agency officials. Its goal is to inform researchers in the field about Federation activities, funding issues, and other relevant topics.

If you would like to learn about the Federation's foundation, i.e., Foundation for the Advancement of Behavioral & Brain Sciences, please visit www.fabbs.org.

CONGRESS PASSES “AMERICA COMPETES ACT”: BENEFIT TO SCIENTISTS, STUDENTS, & TEACHERS, AND REP. BAIRD MAKES IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO OUR SCIENCES

This day has been a long time in the making! As of last night, the conference report for H.R. 2272, The America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science Act (COMPETES) passed both houses and rests now with President Bush for his signature. As you may recall, interest in beefing up federal resources to keep America competitive in science and technology arose from the National Academy of Sciences' report called “Rising Above the Gathering Storm” (RAGS). Various forms of legislation and the packaging of legislation (e.g. “American Competitiveness Initiative”) have been proposed and discussed the last couple of years to address this report. Finally the day has come, and literally this action makes it under the wire- before the summer recess!

Some important elements in this bill include doubling of the National Science Foundation (NSF) budget, and also that of the National Institutes of Standards and Technology, and the Department of Energy's Office of Science. This bill establishes a President's innovation award and makes available increased funding for early-career scientists plus allows for the funding of new teachers in math and science partnerships. This bill arranges for a DARPA-like entity (encouraging high-risk science) under an Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy (called ARPA-E). There are many aspects to this bill, and you can click below for the full text.

How did the behavioral and social sciences fare? A key issue that we (and other groups such as COSSA and APA) have been working on since RAGS was first published and legislation discussed, was the unfortunate position regarding whether the behavioral, social, and biological sciences (yes, biology also) should be included in this multiple-year initiative. As you may recall, some legislators voiced strong opinions about literally banishing these sciences (explicitly, and by name) in the legislation emanating from this initiative. Some suggested just not *mentioning* the social, behavioral and biological sciences in the legislation, and thus leaving things open to interpretation. The latter view was, of course, the lesser of two evils but since some scientific areas were clearly mentioned in draft legislation (e.g. physics and mathematics), the omission could lead to inequalities in funding priorities. However, this week, Rep. Brian Baird (D-WA), who

holds a PhD in Psychology, presented an amendment to the conference report asking for explicit inclusion of the social sciences to the NSF section of COMPETES. (For the text of Baird's amendment, see link provided below.) This amendment passed - and we all have an immense debt of gratitude to display to this congressman! Please consider visiting Rep. Baird's website and send him an email note of appreciation:

<http://www.house.gov/baird/contact/contact.shtml>.

Expect more information on this legislation in the Federation newsletter as time goes on and we see how things progress – but so far, “better-than” so good!

To read more about this legislation, visit the House Science Committee website on:

<http://science.house.gov/>

To read Rep. Baird's Amendment, visit:

http://democrats.science.house.gov/Media/File/Commdocs/conf_amnds_hr2272.pdf

And to read the bill in its almost-500 page entirety, visit:

http://democrats.science.house.gov/Media/File/Commdocs/hr2272_conference_report.pdf

FISKE, GERNSBACHER ELECTED TO FABBS' PRESIDENTIAL ROLES STARTING JANUARY 2008

The Foundation for the Advancement of Behavioral and Brain Sciences (FABBS) is pleased to announce that Susan Fiske, PhD, will assume the role of President, and Morton Gernsbacher, PhD, the role of President-Elect, on January 1, 2008. Both scientists currently serve on the FABBS board: Fiske as Vice-President, and Gernsbacher as an At-Large Member, and have been instrumental in making FABBS a visible and effective force in educating the public about the importance of the behavioral and brain sciences. Fiske will succeed James Pomerantz, PhD (Rice University) who will conclude a very productive and creative three-year term as President at the end of this year.

Susan Fiske, PhD, who received her doctorate from Harvard University, is Eugene Higgins Professor in Psychology at Princeton University and is a well-known and eminent scholar in the area of social psychology. She serves as Editor for “Annual Review of Psychology” and her honors and publications are too numerous to mention. For an appreciation of her contributions to science, this is a link to her vitae:

<http://weblamp.princeton.edu/~psych/psychology/research/fiske/cv.pdf>

Morton Gernsbacher, PhD, noted scientist in the area of language comprehension with a special expertise in autism, received her PhD from the University of Texas at Austin. She currently holds the post of Vitas Research Professor and Sir Frederic Bartlett Professor of Psychology at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She holds numerous awards in research and teaching, with an impressive publication record, and calls the study of autism her “passion.” To learn more about her, click on her vitae:

http://psych.wisc.edu/lang/pdf/Gernsbacher's_vita.pdf

Over the years, both scientists have served in key leadership roles with other scientific associations and societies (such as the American Psychological Association) and have dedicated much energy to providing outstanding service to our discipline. FABBS is fortunate to have such talented scientists serving in leadership roles! To learn more about FABBS, visit: www.fabbs.org.

NIH HOLDS SPECIAL MEETING ON PEER-REVIEW PROCESS: HOW CAN IT BE IMPROVED?

On Monday, Elias Zerhouni, MD, Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), convened a meeting with scientific society representatives to discuss NIH's peer-review process. The meeting was well-attended, with representation from a wide variety of societies. Zerhouni remarked that peer-review can't be of the highest quality without engaging the best reviewers and having a process that is transparent. Already the NIH is working on reducing the size of the grant application (he noted it currently stands at 25 pages) and they are considering issues such as: are there too many grant mechanisms, should NIH re-think timing and length of grants, should scientists need several grants to survive and flourish or should one be sufficient, and should reviewers be required to hold the status of full professor or some other senior designation.

Also discussed during the day was the inherently conservative nature of review which can reduce the likelihood of bold and exciting proposals being funded, the issue of whether it is necessary to hold reviews in Bethesda or could something be done as effectively using remote technology. One idea that received quite a bit of play involved the suggestion to follow an "editorial board" model of review which would be blind (and not in-person) of course.

At the conclusion of the session, Zerhouni noted that "the funding line is the ultimate problem" and that this has created high anxiety and the need for scientists to apply repeatedly for funding, thus resulting in possible damage to the research program. It was also noted that budding scientists may view their mentors as suffering too much, and they may seek alternate careers because of the tight budgets. Of course, losing talent in the scientific pool can devastate the nation's scientific progress.

NIH is in the "diagnostic phase" now of reviewing the peer-review process and commentary is encouraged through September 7th. To make comments, please visit: <http://www.nih.gov/about/director/newsletter/Summer2007.htm>.

NIH hopes to report back to all groups by the end of this calendar year and then conduct pilot experiments utilizing the suggestions to check feasibility. Finally, they expect to develop an implementation plan of the most successful pilots as soon as it is feasible.

SACHRP SUBCOMMITTEE ADDRESSES ALTERNATE IRB MODEL; SCHWETZ TO RETIRE

Meghan McGowan reports: The Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections (SACHRP) met on July 30th and 31st. A summary of the 2006 National Conference on Alternative IRB Models was presented. The stated purpose of this conference was to "enhance the protection of human subjects of research by encouraging the use of alternative Institutional Review Boards (IRB) models under appropriate circumstances." The increase of multi-institutional research creates an opportunity to be innovative when choosing IRB models. This conference addressed perceived barriers to the use of alternate IRB models. One example of a suggestion arising from this conference is to create a website available to institutions, IRBs, investigators and sponsors that will include model agreements, SOPs, and best practices.

To view the entire conference summary report, visit <http://www.aamc.org/research/irbreview/irbconf06rpt.pdf>

At this meeting it was announced that Bernard A. Schwetz, D.V.M., Ph.D., Director of the Office for Human Research and Protection would be retiring. Assistant Secretary of Health,

Dr. Admiral John O. Agwunobi, thanked Schwetz for his hard work and dedication leading this Office. Everyone joined Agwunobi in a standing ovation honoring Schwetz. For more information about SACHRP, click <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/sachrp/index.html>.

THE SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY: LEADING EDGE CONSORTIUM TO FOCUS ON INNOVATION STRATEGIES

This in from SIOP:

Managing the vagaries of innovation—creativity and the process of turning ideas into products and services that add value to an organization—is one of the greatest challenges facing business leaders. In the modern competitive global marketplace innovation is vital to maintaining growth and the organization that doesn't innovate may stagnate. Some of the top leaders in the research and practice of creativity and innovation in business will share their thoughts during the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology's third annual Leading Edge Consortium Oct. 26-27 in Kansas City.

The conference will examine organizational structures, leadership styles, management practices, cultures, processes, and individual characteristics that help innovation flourish. Ed Lawler, director of the Center for Effective Organizations at the University of Southern California, will deliver the keynote address. Additional speakers, registration information and a full conference program are available at siop.org/lec. Continuing Education credits will be available for conference attendees.

WASHINGTON POST FEATURES TWO BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE STUDIES THIS WEEK: POLITICS AND GENDER/WORKFORCE

I am not sure how long these links will be active, but it was good to see two in-depth articles in the Post this week involving the behavioral sciences. The first was written by social psychologist, Drew Westen, PhD, author of "The Political Brain," called: "Dems, You Gotta Have Heart." To read his article, click below:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/07/27/AR2007072701674.html>

The second article this week involved a review of several studies, written by Shankar Vedantam, called: "Salary, Gender and the Social Cost of Hagglng." To read this, visit:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/07/29/AR2007072900827.html>

FEDERAL REPORTS & GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH NATIONAL CENTER FOR RESEARCH RESOURCES

NCCR is seeking your input as it develops a new Strategic Plan covering 2009 – 2013. As you know, NCCR is a \$1 billion-a-year research center that enables NIH-funded researchers across the country to translate basic discoveries into improved patient care. To ensure that NCCR continues to meet the needs of biomedical investigators, we would like your input on six questions, which were published in the *Federal Register* on July 6, 2007.

Complete the response form, available at NCRR's Strategic Planning Web site: <http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/strategicplan>, by **August 24, 2007**. Your responses will help guide the discussion at our upcoming December 2007 Strategic Planning Forum. If you have any questions, please contact the NCRR Office of Science Policy and Public Liaison at 301-435-0866 or e-mail planeval@mail.nih.gov.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALCOHOL ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM

The Summer 2007 edition of the NIAAA Newsletter is now online.

To access the latest issue, cut and paste the following complete URL string into your Web browser: <http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/Publications/NIAAANewsletters/default.htm>

NIH FUNDS NEW PROGRAM TO TREAT AUTISM

<http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/aug2007/nichd-02.htm>

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Science and Technology Investments Strengthen Asia's Economic Future (PR 07-089) URL http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pr07089
News Releases, Social/Behavioral Sciences

Research on Gender in Science and Engineering FY 2008 [nsf07578]
http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf07578
Program Announcements & Information, Education

Innovative Research Technique Reveals Another Natural Wonder in Yellowstone Park: A Unique, Photosynthesizing Life-Form [pr07084]
http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pr07084
News Releases, Biology

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

Homeland Security: DHS's Actions to Recruit and Retain Staff and Comply with the Vacancies Reform Act. GAO-07-758, July 16.
<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-758>
Highlights - <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07758high.pdf>

Higher Education: Information Sharing Could Help Institutions Identify and Address Challenges Some Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Students Face. GAO-07-925, July 25
<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-925>
Highlights - <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07925high.pdf>

Federal Family Education Loan Program: Eliminating the Exceptional Performer Designation Would Result in Substantial Savings without Adversely Affecting the Loan Program. GAO-07-1087, July 26
<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-1087>

NASA Supplier Base: Challenges Exist in Transitioning from the Space Shuttle Program to the Next Generation of Human Space Flight Systems. GAO-07-940, July 25
<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-940>
Highlights - <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07940high.pdf>

FEDERATION SOCIETY NEWS CORNER...

Upcoming Federation society annual meetings:

AUGUST

American Psychological Association

August 17-20, San Francisco, CA

www.apa.org

Cognitive Science Society

August 1-4, Nashville, TN

www.cognitivesciencesociety.org

OCTOBER

Human Factors and Ergonomics Society

October 1-5, Baltimore, MD

www.hfes.org

International Society for Developmental Psychobiology

Oct 31 – Nov 4, San Diego, CA

www.isdp.org

Society for Experimental Social Psychology

October 11-13, Chicago, IL

www.sesp.org

Society of Multivariate Experimental Psychology

October 18-20, Chapel Hill, NC

www.smep.org

Society for Psychophysiological Research

October 17-21, Savannah, GA

www.sprweb.org

Society for Research in Psychopathology

October 4-7, Iowa City, IO

www.psychopathology.org

NOVEMBER

National Academy of Neuropsychology

November 14-18, Scottsdale, AZ

www.nanonline.org

Psychonomic Society

November 15-18, Long Beach, CA

www.psychonomic.org

Society for Computers in Psychology

November 15, Long Beach, CA

<http://home.scip.ws>

Society for Judgment and Decision Making

November 17-19, Long Beach, CA

www.sjdm.org

PLEASE SUPPORT THE BEHAVIORAL & BRAIN SCIENCES

No doubt the most significant activity the Federation has engaged in during the past year is the creation of the **Foundation for the Advancement of the Behavioral and Brain Sciences** (FABBS). The Federation developed FABBS as a vehicle for supporting and expanding this work. In short, FABBS was created to take over much of the task of educating the public and their congressional representatives about the behavioral and brain sciences and the contributions these disciplines make to society. FABBS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose work is supported by tax-deductible contributions and grants. We urge you to respond generously as the future health of our scientific enterprise is at stake. *The President of FABBS is James Pomerantz (Rice University), the Vice President is Susan Fiske (Princeton University), the Secretary is Elaine Hull (Florida State University), and the Treasurer is Judith Albino (University of Colorado).* Please visit: www.fabbs.org.

NOTE: The current featured scientist on the FABBS site is Robert Rosenthal. To read about this honor, visit: http://www.fabbs.org/rosenthal_honor.html.

Have a great weekend!

Barb

Barbara A. Wanchisen, Ph.D.
Executive Director

INTERESTED IN READING OUR PAST NEWSLETTERS?

All of our e-newsletters are archived on the American Psychological Association's "List Archives." To access the archives, visit listserv.apa.org. Click on "List Archives and List Management", which will take you to a list of options. For archived newsletters, click on the third option, "Online Mailing List Archives", which will take you to another long list of options. Scroll down this alphabetical list and click on "FederationNewsletter." You will now be viewing all of our past newsletters, archived by month. Click on each month to access the newsletters sent out during that time period.

FOR A LIST OF OUR COMPLETE LEADERSHIP, CLICK ON:
<http://www.thefederationonline.org/leadership.htm>

BRIEF REMINDER ON HOW TO HAVE YOUR MEMBERS SUBSCRIBE THE LIST SERV TO GET THIS NEWSLETTER....

1. Send an email to listserv@lists.apa.org <<mailto:listserv@lists.apa.org>>
2. Do not put any text in the subject line
3. In first line of the text area, by example, if your name is Joe Smith, type:
SUB federationnewsletter Joe Smith

If you have trouble getting onto the list, just send me an email and I will take care of it but this method above will be more efficient (well it should be!).

BRIEF REMINDER ON HOW TO UNSUBSCRIBE (SIGN OFF) FROM THE LIST SERV NEWSLETTER.....

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SIGNOFF federationnewsletter

In signing off, be sure you are emailing from the email account that is to be unsubscribed.
If you have any trouble, just send me an email and we will do it for you.

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Special acknowledgment is extended to Ms. Meghan McGowan, the Federation's Policy and Program Specialist and Mr. Steven Schwark, the Federation's Program Assistant. Also thanks are extended to the APA for hosting this list serve.
