FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT…

Patricia Arredondo, Ed.D.
Arizona State University

Happy New Year! The year 2003 represents a new era for the National Latina/o Psychological Association (NLPA). With this edition of “El Boletín”, we begin writing bilingual columns. It is important for us, as the leadership, to model the value of bilingualism and to provide accessibility to our monolingual Spanish readers. We also hope to hear from those in the health and mental health professions in Spanish-speaking countries.

Since August 2002, our membership has continued to grow and we now have nearly 100 members. This is also our second newsletter, thanks to the leadership and organizational skills of Lisa Sánchez-Johnsen. Our website will be completed by Spring 2003, under the direction of Andrea Romero. These two professionals, along with all members of the NLPA Executive Committee, are committed to the growth and success of our/your organization. We also had exhibits at 3 conferences: the Latino Psychology Conference, the RACE 2003 conference, and the National Multicultural Conference and Summit. We are now exploring the possibility of hosting the 2004 Latino Psychology Conference in Phoenix. Latinos represent the fast-growing and youngest population in Arizona. A national conference will offer multiple opportunities to the organization, to professionals, and ultimately to clients and families who deserve culturally competent services. Please send us suggestions for keynote speakers and conference themes.

Finally, I invite you to consider how you can support the goals of the NLPA. First, we invite you to financially support the registration of students at the 2003 American Psychological Association conference. These funds would allow us to offer scholarships to deserving students. Second, we need help with the printing and mailing of newsletters. If your institution is interested in this contribution, please contact Lisa Sánchez-Johnsen.

I have always liked the expression from the movie Stand and Deliver as well as from family elders, “hay que tener ganas” (“one has to have the motivation, desire, willingness”). With the collective desire of students and professionals, the NLPA can make great progress, creating and leaving legacies for those who will follow us. Hasta pronto! Patricia Arredondo
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student and Professional Development: Maríe L. Miville, Jeanett Castellaños, and Verónica Leal-Muñiz

The NLPA Student and Professional Development subdivision is designed to recruit, retain, and ultimately assist with the graduation and professional advancement of Latina/o students, faculty, and staff in higher education pursuing the field of psychology. More specifically, the goal is to facilitate: (1) student development and (2) professional development. Student development targets both undergraduate and graduate students in pursuit of educational excellence. The professional development effort targets academicians and practitioners throughout the entire professional career span (early, mid and late). This division endeavors to:

• Assist APA, higher education institutions, and psychology programs to create an environment that acknowledges, respects and includes the Latina/o culture.
• Establish working relationships with institutions of higher education to develop academic opportunities for Latina/o undergraduates, graduates, and faculty and staff.
• Establish partnerships with local Latina/o communities and agencies to develop internship/employment opportunities for Latina/o students.
• Provide support to Latina/o students and professionals in helping them to achieve their highest educational and professional potential.

Specific programming ideas include: developing a coordinated events calendar for the association; developing a mentoring program that will provide peer and professional mentorship for Latina/o students and faculty (e.g., sponsoring roundtables at conferences); establishing NLPA chapters across university and college campuses; helping to organize regional 1-day conferences; and developing websites focusing on graduate programs and scholars who have specialties in Latina/o issues and summer institutes and employment for students; and a Recognition Program for students, professionals and programs. Now is the time to get involved in setting up these programs! If you are interested in helping with student and professional development programs, please contact Marie (miville@okstate.edu) or Jeanett (castellj@uci.edu).

Membership and Treasury: Jari Santana-Wynn and Edward Delgado-Romero

As of 1/5/03, there were 77 dues paying members and 2 institutional/organizational members (Finch University of Health Sciences/The Chicago Medical School and the Midwest Association of Latina/o Psychology). There is $2,732.00 in the NLPA treasury.
Health Care Access Among Mexican/Mexican Americans Seeking Services For Depression

This edition of El Boletín features the innovative research of Dr. Andrés Consoli, associate professor of counseling, San Francisco State University. Dr. Consoli recently received a NIH-R24 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to research the decision making process in health care access among Mexican/Mexican-Americans currently seeking services because of depression. In this two-year project, Dr. Consoli will contribute to the ongoing attempts at understanding health care access patterns by articulating an integrative model of decision-making that resorts to the strengths of contingency models and complements them with the unique contributions of sociological (illness career and social networks), psychological (social representation of practices), and cultural (norms, values, beliefs) dimensions assessed via qualitative and quantitative methodologies. Personal accounts of access engaged in by low-income patients seeking mental health care for depression in the public, general or specialty sector will be obtained and analyzed to refine this integrative model. For more information, contact Dr. Consoli at consoli@sfsu.edu. ¡Buenas Suertes, Dr. Consoli!

My name is David Marquez, and I am working on my Ph.D. in Kinesiology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Specifically, my area of study is Exercise Psychology. I am interested in the physical activity patterns of Latinos and the psychosocial correlates of this activity. Given my area, I was a bit apprehensive about the conference in that I wasn’t sure that the research that would be presented would directly relate to my own work. On the contrary, I found that the presenters had a tremendous amount of pertinent information. Information relative to acculturation, the importance of studying cultural values, and Latino health orientations, among other information, was extremely helpful.

Perhaps presentations relative to personal, professional, and social development were most helpful. Hearing about the developmental challenges faced by past and present Latino psychology faculty not only helps us to prepare for those challenges, but also helps us to appreciate the path that has begun to be laid. These presentations were moving and inspirational, providing additional motivation to be a successful Latino faculty member.

Networking is always an important aspect of conferences, especially for a young investigator. However, networking at the Latino Psychology conference was not networking in the usual sense. It was networking with a personal, caring aspect. People were not only interested in talking to you because they wanted to know who you were, but rather they were genuinely interested in you and how your research can help Latinos.

Finally, having the opportunity to hear renowned scholars such as Dr. Lillian Comas-Díaz and Dr. Steven R. López was an honor. Given my experience at the 2002 Latino Psychology conference, I am happily anticipating future conferences and the people and research it will bring together.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

New and Improved NLPA Name and Motto

A very special muchas gracias to everyone who helped to develop the NEW and IMPROVED NLPA logo and motto! In order to be more inclusive, we included both Latinas and Latinos in the name of our Association, as well as included our name en Español: “Asociación Nacional de Psicología Latina”. The new NLPA motto is: “Celebrando nuestro pasado y creando nuestro futuro: Celebrating our past and creating our future”.

NIAAA Alcohol Research Mentoring Program for Minority Investigators

The Alcohol Research Mentoring System (ARMS), sponsored by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) and the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities of NIH, is recruiting new, minority investigators interested in alcohol-focused social or behavioral science research projects. ARMS will match new, Ph.D.-level, investigators with senior, NIAAA-funded researchers who will serve as mentors. Non-minority faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities are also welcome to apply. To request an application, contact Ms. D’Elio (mdelio@cdmgroup.com). To discuss research, contact Dr. Scott at NIAAA, 301-402-6328.

HONORS AND AWARDS

On behalf of the NLPA, we congratulate the following individuals who received awards, honors, or grants. We wish you continued success! ¡Felicitaciones y buena suerte!

Andrés Consoli, associate professor of counseling, San Francisco State University, who was awarded a NIH-R24 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health. See “Focus on Latina/o Psychology” for more information.

Bernardo M. Ferdman, Ph.D., who was elected as a 2002 Fellow of the American Psychological Association (Div. 9, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues).

Fred Millán, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chair of the Psychology Department at SUNY/College at Old Westbury, who received the 2002 State University of New York’s Chancellor’s Award for Teaching Excellence.

Melba Vásquez, who won two prestigious awards: the 2002 Senior Career Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology in the Public Interest from the American Psychological Association, and the 2002 Janet E. Helms Award for Mentoring and Scholarship, from the Winter Roundtable on Cross-Cultural Psychology and Education at Columbia University.

The NLPA Executive Committee extends their sincerest gratitude to the following individuals and institutions:

Finch University of Health Sciences/The Chicago Medical School, Department of Psychology and The Midwest Association of Latina/o Psychology, for being the first and second institutional/organizational members of the NLPA.

María Garrido and the 2002 Latino Psychology Conference Planning Committee (Yolanda Flores Niemann, Cynthia de las Fuentes, Brian McNeill, and Joseph Pittle), for their tireless dedication to Latino mental health and for organizing an outstanding conference.

Miami University of Ohio, for printing the NLPA brochures.

Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs, American Psychological Association, for printing the NLPA stationary and envelopes.

Azara Santiago-Rivera, Patricia Arredondo, and Maritza Gallardo-Cooper, for generously donating the proceeds from the sale of their books at the book signing at the 2002 Latino Psychology conference.

The NLPA Executive Committee extends their sincerest gratitude to the following individuals and institutions:

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UPCOMING AND RECENT PUBLICATIONS


CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

National Multicultural Conference and Summit
January 23-24, Hollywood, California
For more information, go to: www.multiculturalsummit.org

20th Anniversary Teacher’s College Winter Roundtable on Cross-Cultural Psychology and Education
For more information, go to: www.tc.edu/roundtable

Ethnic Minority and Multicultural Health Special Interest Group, at the Society of Behavioral Medicine Meeting
March 20, 2003, Salt Lake City, Utah
For more information, e-mail Dr. Sánchez-Johnsen at l-johnsen@northwestern.edu

American Counseling Association
March 23-27, 2003, Anaheim, California
For information, go to: www.counseling.org/convention

Interamerican Congress of Psychology
Sponsored by the Interamerican Society of Psychology (SIP)
July 13-18, 2003, Lima, Peru
For more information, e-mail sip2003@universia.edu.pr or go to: www.am.org/sipsych

American Psychological Association
August 7-10, 2003, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
For more information, go to: www.apa.org

ADVERTISEMENTS

Book Advertisement

Counseling Latinos and la familia, provides an integrated approach to understanding Latino families and increasing competency for counselors and other mental health professionals who work with Latinos and their families. It provides essential background information about the Latino population and the family unit which is so central to Latino culture. The book also includes practical counseling strategies, focusing on the multicultural competencies approach.

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REQUEST FOR ARTICLES
Please submit research, clinical, or training articles relevant to Latina/o psychology to: Lisa A. P. Sánchez-Johnsen, Ph.D. at l-johnsen@northwestern.edu

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NLPA Membership Form

Name: ____________________________     Degree: __________     Title / Position: __________________________

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