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SPSP Goes to Vegas in 2010

The 2010 SPSP convention will be at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, January 28 – 30. This famous hotel, located right on "The Strip," has been featured in a number of films, including *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery*, *Casino*, and *Ocean's Eleven*. Its original opening, in 1955, was hosted by Joan Crawford and Liberace, and its owners over the years have included Harpo Marx, Gummo Marx and Dean Martin.

The hotel recently completed a \$50 million renovation project that involved upgrading rooms (including the creation of more non-smoking rooms), and improving the sizeable convention space attached to the hotel. The block of rooms for SPSP will be in a tower that is totally non-smoking, and conference goers will not have to walk through the hotel casino when going from the hotel rooms to the non-smoking convention hall (unless, of course, one wants

to)! Rooms will be priced lower than in past years (around \$160 per night), and the many relatively inexpensive direct flights to Las Vegas from various parts of the country should lower the costs even more.

The 2010 Convention Committee includes Monica Biernat (Chair), Wendi Gardner, and Toni Schmader. Chairing the Program Committee this year are Serena Chen and Will Fleeson. ❖

President's Column: More Than You Wanted to Know about the Founding of SPPS

By Richard E. Petty,
2009 SPSP President

As I write this, our new journal, *Social Psychological and Personality Science (SPPS)* has opened its doors (or web portals) for business for two weeks. In just the first week of operation alone, 35 papers were submitted. In the next week, a similar number of papers was added. Clearly, this rate cannot continue, but *SPPS* seems to be off to an exceptionally fast and healthy start. What follows is a brief summary of how our new journal came into being – at least as far as my sometimes faulty memory allows.

As far as SPSP's involve-

ment in the new journal is concerned, I'll begin the saga with a special publications task force that was charged by 2007 SPSP President Harry Reis to look into changes in publication practices (e.g., "open access") and new publishing opportunities. This task force was chaired by then president-elect Jack Dovidio and included Matt Lieberman, Julie Norem, Nicole Shelton and Eliot Smith as members. David Dunning and Harry Reis served in an ex officio capacity. The task force made several key recommendations to the SPSP Executive Committee (EC) at its 2008 annual meeting in Albuquerque. Of most relevance here

was the recommendation for the society to explore the establishment of a new short reports journal modeled after the highly successful *Psychological Science*, but focusing exclusively on personality and social psychology. Short reports were becoming an increasingly popular format in longstanding social psychology journals with the current wave perhaps being stimulated when Russ Fazio created a special section for brief reports in *JESP*.

As many long time members of SPSP might recall, our very first journal, *PSPB*, began as an outlet for short reports with rapid publication.

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President's Column (continued from page 1)

The short report tradition continued until a certain editor of *PSPB* (that was me, I guess) decided to remove the highly restrictive page limits as a requirement for submission. Although this move might have been one small step in the progression of the journal into the high impact outlet future editors brought about, it also (unfortunately) removed from our field a place where brief scientific papers could flourish. As just noted, however, the short reports form did not disappear when *PSPB* abandoned it, but rather it eventually moved to other places.

In any case, prompted by the recommendation from the Dovidio task force on publications, the SPSP EC talked extensively about the need for a new journal, what its possible benefits might be, and what risks might be present. In addition to consideration of the merits of establishing such a journal (versus implementing a short reports section in *PSPB*), a practical consideration was the rumor that one or more other societies and publishers were independently considering establishing such a journal. Thus, a core consideration was whether SPSP should compete with others in a race to initiate a new journal, or whether some sort of cooperative arrangement among societies might be struck. Although it was agreed that as the largest organization devoted to personality and social psychology, SPSP would likely emerge victorious in any horse race to establish a new journal, it was also agreed that the field of personality and social psychology would be best served by a spirit of cooperation rather than competition. After due consideration of the key issues, the EC decided to go ahead with the journal and to explore cooperation with other societies who were simultaneously considering a new short reports journal. To enhance the breadth and appeal of the new journal, the EC also recommended seeking out societies that were not known to be exploring a new journal but would provide better representation for personality psychology.

With a formal motion to explore a new journal in cooperation with other societies in place, the EC ap-

pointed me to make connections with specific other societies and report back at the mid-year August, 2008, meeting in Boston. I first set a meeting with Linda Skitka who was representing the Society of Experimental Social Psychology (SESP) in their attempt to start a new journal. Beginning with SESP was ideal because rumor had it that they were furthest along in their planning for a new journal and the SESP co-membership with SPSP is very high.

Linda and I met in Chicago during the MPA meeting in May, 2008. This meeting was a crucial one because if Linda and I could not agree on the basic ground rules of cooperation for the journal, then it was unlikely to go forward – at least as a joint venture. Fortunately, the meeting went very smoothly and Linda and I hammered out the basics of an agreement for sharing costs and revenues. Rather than a traditional approach in which each society might bear the cost of its own members, we concurred on a plan in which societies would buy “shares” of the journal. For example, a society with a 20% stake in the journal would bear 20% of the costs of the journal and earn 20% of the profits regardless of membership size. Linda and I also agreed on other societies to approach about the journal. Next up was the European Association of Social Psychology (EASP).

Taking advantage of an already planned conference in the Netherlands I was attending, Carsten de Dreu, President-elect of EASP, and I met in Amsterdam in June, 2008. Like Linda, Carsten was enthusiastic about a joint venture among several societies and was interested in having EASP purchase shares. With some tweaking of the agreement that Linda and I had struck in Chicago, we were ready to approach one more organization, the Association for Research in Personality (ARP), to ensure that personality was represented. Like the others, Brent Roberts, representing ARP, was interested in collaborating on the project after learning about it via e-mail and in a phone call.

Although there were various other societies that could be approached – and that would be approached shortly

– the four of us decided to have a joint venture agreement prepared that we could pass by our respective societies for approval. The joint venture agreement would specify all of the rules of the consortium and how the journal would be run. In hindsight, it is hard to imagine a better group with whom I could have worked than Linda, Carsten, and Brent. Each of these individuals effectively represented the interests of their own societies but also always had the larger interests of the scientific community in mind. Thus, the articulation of consortium governance and journal policies, rules, and procedures, went very smoothly. With our joint venture details spelled out, the group put together a prospectus for the new journal and began to contact publishers. Four publishers were contacted and each sent in a bid for the journal.

By the Boston mid-year EC meeting in August, 2008, a tentative joint venture agreement among the four societies had been fashioned, and four publisher proposals were in hand. Surprising to me, at least, these proposals differed dramatically in their details and in the potential revenue they would generate for the societies. Notably, two of the proposals were clearly superior to the other two. The two top proposals became finalists and each publisher was asked to prepare a revised proposal that was even better than their first one. The EC endorsed the progress the consortium had made so far and agreed to have its attorney examine both the joint venture agreement and the eventual publishing contract before signing on the dotted line.

Following the Boston meeting, the consortium continued negotiations with publishers and solicited suggestions from society members for editors and the name of the journal. In addition, several other societies were contacted about sponsoring the journal. The following groups heeded the call and also gave input on possible editors: The European Association of Personality Psychology (EAPP), The Asian Association of Social Psychology (AASP), and the

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President's Column (continued from page 3)

Society of Australasian Social Psychologists (SASP). There were a number of superb nominations for editor including several individuals who had already served as either editor or associate editor of a leading journal. Progress on the journal was proceeding rapidly even though a formal publishing agreement was yet to be signed. By the Tampa SPSP meeting in 2009, the joint venture agreement was translated into legalese, and the first face-to-face meeting of the sponsoring society representatives took place. Vincent Yzerbyt was named as inaugural editor of the new journal and he began immediately to pull his editorial team together.

Shortly after the Tampa meeting, the joint venture agreement was signed by the four founding societies, and Linda, Carsten, Brent, and I were officially named by our respective socie-

ties to the governing board of the journal. There were just a few more critical details to be settled such as the name for the journal. Across the participating societies, there were over 100 different titles that were suggested by over 100 different people. Many of the suggestions had Personality, Social, and Psychology in the title along with a descriptor such as Reports, Advances, Letters, Updates, or Briefs. One of the most popular descriptors was "Science," however, and the governing board ultimately settled on the title *Social Psychological and Personality Science*. Although it turned out that this title was not one of the many nominated by society members, the governing board felt that it was a title that described exactly what the content of the journal would be.

A final step was for the consortium members to sign an official pub-

lishing contract with Sage. The contract is a good one, we think. It will provide all members of the four owning societies (ARP, EASP, SESP, and SPSP) with free access to an electronic subscription to the journal. A print copy will be available at cost. In addition, several co-sponsoring societies will be able to offer the journal to their members at significantly reduced rates – though these arrangements have not yet been formalized. When all is said and done, the journal will have an instant subscription base of over 6,000 personality and social psychologists worldwide. And, in a few years, as library adoptions take hold, it is expected to pay dividends to SPSP and the other owning societies.

With all of the i's dotted and t's crossed, the new journal is off and running. May *SPPS* live long and prosper!



Publication Committee— End of Year Report, 2008

By Randy Larsen

SPSP's publications continue to flourish even though there have been a number of editorial changes. The most obvious editorial change to readers of this report is the change in editors of the *Dialogue*, commencing with this issue. The editorial team of Monica Biernat and Chris Crandall ended their term on December 31, 2008 (after eight years). Starting January 1, 2009, Hart Blanton and Diane Quinn (both at University of Connecticut) began a four-year editorial term. Over the years *Dialogue* has developed into an informative and entertaining professional newsletter, and we are confident that it will continue along these lines under the new editorial team.

Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin also underwent a change in editor during this period. Judy Harackiewicz' editorship ended September 30th, 2008, and on October 1st Shinobu Kitayama became the new editor of *PSPB*. Shinobu had a crack editorial team in place at the start, and so the journal has experienced a very smooth transition to his editorship. Shinobu has

two Senior Associate Editors, nine Associate Editors, and 90 editorial board members. *PSPB* set a record for new submissions in 2008, with 665 new submissions coming in during the year. Editorial lag time continued to be impressive (at 9.4 weeks for July and 4.4 weeks for Shinobu as of Dec. 2008). The impact factor of *PSPB* has continued its yearly increase (rising to 2.58 in 2007, ranking *PSPB* #4 out of 47 journals in Social Psychology). *PSPB* is on very solid footing and in good hands.

One new feature at *PSPB* is that it has transitioned to SageTrack as the web-based manuscript management system. The previous editorial team used RapidReview, but Sage encouraged us to transition to SageTrack. The transition has not been entirely smooth, mostly on the editorial end. The high-volume manuscript flow through *PSPB* places extreme demands on SageTrack. Since it is a Sage product, they are working with us to improve user experience.

PSPR Editor Galen Bodenhausen reports that the journal received 67 new submissions during 2008, which consistent with previous years. Galen and his associate editors provided authors with timely feedback, averaging an

editorial decision lag of 9.7 weeks. The rejection rate for 2008 was 78.8%, down slightly from 84.7%, the year before. The impact factor of *PSPR* jumped substantially during the 2007 year (4.76, up from 3.35 for the previous year). This makes it the first year that the impact factor for *PSPR* surpassed that of *JPSP* (which was 4.50 in 2007). Congratulations to Galen and his editorial team for this outstanding achievement!

Galen's four-year term as editor of *PSPR* will come to and end on Dec. 31, 2009. Consequently, the Publication Committee initiated a search for his replacement by placing calls for nominations on the SPSP listserv and in the society's journals. This call resulted in 16 persons receiving one or more nominations. After much discussion the Publication Committee forwarded a short list to the Executive Committee, who voted to offer the editorship of *PSPR* to Mark Leary (Duke University). Mark accepted the offer and will begin receiving manuscripts for *PSPR* on Jan. 1, 2010. We wanted to express our gratitude to Mark for taking on this important editorial duty for SPSP and to wish him the best as he prepares to start his editorial term. ◆