

THE PLANET NEEDS YOU

Invited Speaker, John Aikin, on Conservation Psychology

by Susan D. Clayton, Ph.D. (Division 34 President-elect)



John Aikin

Division 34 Invited Address
Saturday 3:00 PM
Moscone Center, Room 220

John Aikin, Director of Conservation at the San Francisco Zoo, will give a special invited address at the APA convention, titled “The planet needs you: Psychologists and the biodiversity crisis.”

Aikin has been intimately involved with nature from an early age. When he was twelve, his family pooled their money to purchase him a freezer. As his fascination with wildlife expanded into falconry and taxidermy, they were tired of sorting through frozen chicks, magpies and the occasional barn owl looking

for ice cream in the kitchen refrigerator. By the age of sixteen, John had started a vertebrate museum for his high school. After a few distractions from academics, like opening a rehabilitation facility for wildlife, he secured a diploma in zoology from San Francisco State University. Since then, John has made a career of wildlife conservation at the San Francisco Zoo.

For eight years he served as the Curator of Planning and Design, translating between the planners and the zoologists. As the Director of Conservation since July of 2006, John works to enact policy and implement programs focused on wildlife conservation. While he administers conservation grants to organizations throughout the world, some of his favorite projects are close to home—in San Francisco. One project aims to restore the native flora and fauna of the San Francisco peninsula with the official City bird as a flagship—the California quail. Another project that will launch next year aims to personally introduce San Franciscans to many of the endangered species that live in and

DIVISION 34

Division 34 members explore the interactions between human behavior, cognitions, and emotions, and environments or populations. Typically, this research is subdivided into three areas:

1. *Population*: The psychological consequences of population, such as affects of population density.
2. *Built Environments*: Research regarding human interactions with built environments, such as the influence of school facilities on learning.
3. *Conservation and Natural Environments*: Human interactions with natural environments (including Conservation Psychology), such as how individuals’ identities are affected by natural settings.

Division 34 invites all APA members to join. There is no membership charge at the time you join—Your first year is free! Learn more about this Division: Attend our joint Social Hour (Saturday at 5:00) or go to WWW.APA34.ORG.

near San Francisco; there are over two-dozen. John says “most people in the City are not even aware that they can see snowy plovers, bald

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

“THE PLANET NEEDS YOU” CONT.

eagles, and checker spot butterflies within 20 minutes of their home—or that their actions day to day affect the lives of these endangered animals.”

The survival of wildlife and wild places rests in the collective hands of us all. But unfortunately, the biggest challenge to worldwide conservation efforts is our ability to influence people to alter their daily activities in ways that will preserve the environment, biodiversity, and ultimately, ourselves. John believes that people have the intelligence and compassion to turn the current extinction crisis around; they just need some help to get motivated. That’s why the zoo has set a goal of inspiring the one million people who visit the zoo each year to take some form of conservation action. Over 150 million people in America, and more than 650 million worldwide, visit accredited zoos each year. Individually and collectively, zoos already have tremendous reach into large audiences of interested individuals who come to them to be entertained, amazed, moved, and even inspired.

John’s dream is to inspire a love of wildlife and a commitment to conservation. In speaking at the APA conference, John represents the voice of conservationists who hope to enlist the help of psychologists in order to conserve nature and protect the environment upon which human well-being so profoundly depends.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

by Gary D. Gottfredson (2006–2007 Division President)



Gary D. Gottfredson, Ph.D.

2006–2007 Division President
Professor, Counseling & Personnel
Services, Univ. of Maryland
GGOTTFRE@UMD.EDU

Many of the most important, complex, and scientifically interesting problems facing humanity involve the interface of population and environmental psychology. These include international migration patterns in the U.S. and other countries that broadly influence the health and education of children and place pressures on the environments of origin and destination countries. They include land-use policies in the Western U.S. that place pressures on families whose livelihoods and way of life depend on grazing on public lands. They include population and environmental pressures that contribute to continuing tragedy in Somalia. They include human ecological shifts resulting from contemporary migration from rural areas to cities in China, as well as historical migrations of Blacks from the South to Northern industrial cities in the U.S. And they include foreseeable future problems arising from continuing population growth in Pakistan.

Alternative policies to cope

with these problems will produce outcomes differently valued by different stakeholders. The practice of program evaluation has taught us that different stakeholders perceive dif-

ferent needs, sometimes value the same outcome in different ways, or seek different outcomes altogether. Too often, research, theory, and policy recommendations are framed narrowly rather than in terms of the ecology of human populations or fail to connect environment to culture.

The Division of Population and Environmental Psychology must be the intellectual home for psychologists and kindred scientists who develop, integrate, and apply scientific knowledge of human ecological phenomena. We must lead in encouraging psychologist, public, and policy maker understanding of not only of problems of migration, population growth, and environmental quality but also of tradeoffs in the environmental and population outcomes of alternative solutions.

Attend our sessions at the San Francisco meeting to experience the vigor and diversity of our division, and attend the Division Business Meeting on Sunday to begin getting involved in the activities of the Division.

NEW BLOG CONNECTS DESIGN AND SCIENCE

Research Design Connections has launched a pioneering new blog to connect design practitioners with recently-released scientific research. The blog also links members of the design community focused on environment-behavior research and practice. The RDC blog is available to everyone, even nonsubscribers. To reach the blog, or find out more about *Research Design Connections*, go to www.RESEARCHDESIGNCONNECTIONS.COM. For more information contact Senior Editor Sally Augustin, Ph.D., at SALLYAUGUSTIN@PLACECOACH.COM or 323-244-9850.

APA CONVENTION 2007 ♦ DIVISION 34 PROGRAM

	(8/17) FRIDAY	(8/18) SATURDAY	(8/19) SUNDAY	(8/20) MONDAY
9:00 AM		Moscone Center, Rm 222 Symposium: <i>Being an us instead of a them—Facilitating teamness</i> . Sae L. Schatz, M.S. (Chair)		Moscone Center, Rm 2018 Symposium: <i>Human adaptation to the extreme environment of outer space</i> . Douglas A. Vakoch, Ph.D. (Chair)
10:00 AM	Moscone Center, Rm 3018 Symposium: <i>Consequences of environmental identity for attitudes, preferences, and behavior</i> . Patricia L. Winter, Ph.D. (Chair)		Moscone Center, Rm 2000 Symposium: <i>Promoting social competency and school achievement—A place-based experiment</i> . Gary D. Gottfredson, Ph.D. (Chair)	San Francisco Marriott, Sierra Conference Suite G Executive Committee Meeting, lead by Susan Clayton, Ph.D. (10:00–10:50 AM)
11:00 AM				Moscone Center, Rms 258/260 Symposium: <i>Greening our future—Conservation psychology in the field</i> . Elise L. Amel, Ph.D. (Chair) (10:00–11:50 AM)
12:00 PM	Moscone Center, Rm 3002 Symposium: <i>Psychological connections to nature—Measurement and meaning of environmental identity</i> . Susan Clayton, Ph.D. (Chair)		Moscone Center, Rm 2000 Symposium: <i>Take a walk on the wildlife side—Applying conservation psychology</i> . Elise L. Amel, Ph.D. (Chair)	
1:00 PM				
2:00 PM	Moscone Center, Hall ABC Poster Session: <i>Research in population and environmental psychology</i> .		San Francisco Marriott, Sierra Conference Suite I Executive Committee Meeting, lead by Gary D. Gottfredson, Ph.D.	
3:00 PM		Moscone Center, Rm 220 Invited Address: <i>The planet needs you: Psychologists and the biodiversity crisis</i> . John Aikin		
4:00 PM			San Francisco Marriott, Yerba Buena Salon 15 Business Meeting and Awards, lead by Gary D. Gottfredson, Ph.D.	
5:00 PM		San Francisco Marriott, Golden Gate Salon A1 Social Hour: Divisions 9 (Psychological Study of Social Issues) and 34 (Population and Environmental Psychology)	San Francisco Marriott, Yerba Buena Salon 15 Presidential Address: <i>Work environments and their influence: Theory and measurement</i> . Gary D. Gottfredson, Ph.D.	

BITE-SIZED SUMMARIES

A Sample of Active Research, Projects, and Publications

Nicholas Watkins, Ph.D.

Research Dir., Cannon Design, NWATKINS@CANNONDESIGN.COM

The Power of Memorial Places

Can experiencing a memorial help reduce post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms? Actually, *yes*. Nicholas Watkins has demonstrated that, like bad tasting medicine, multiple visits to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial can keep Vietnam veterans' PTSD symptoms in check. An increase in the helpfulness ratings of the Memorial's design features was associated with decreases in PTSD severity, and the helpfulness of different features of the Memorial changed with time. For instance, veterans noticed the names on the Memorial during earlier visits; while during later visits, the veterans noticed their reflections behind the names. Currently, Watkins is applying the lessons-learned from his study of the Vietnam memorial to a conceptual design for an Iraq War memorial for a Marine battalion. To read more, and see initial sketches of the Marine battalion memorial, visit the Division web site: WWW.APA34.ORG.

Robert Gifford & Cécile Lacombe, Ph.Ds.

University of Victoria, RGIFFORD@UVIC.CA

The Habitability of the ISS: An Exotic POE

In this study, conducted for the Canadian Space Agency from 2003 to 2006, we evaluated the habitability of the International Space Station (ISS) for men and women from six cultural groups. Spaceflight is and will continue to be decidedly multicultural, and culture is the basis for differing preferences in living and working environments and practices. The habitability of a necessarily isolated and confined spacecraft may well magnify or accelerate tensions. For the study, we created an 18-minute narrated video tour of the full existing ISS; this was shown, using virtual-reality goggles. The study found quite a number of differences in preferences for work and living practices. Preferences for sleeping arrangements, eating, chain-of-command, territoriality, water use, and other elements of life on board differed between the genders and cultures. Those who wish to read the details may email us for them.

Peter N. Jones, Ph.D.

Bauu Institute, PNJ@BAUUISTITUTE.COM

Indigenous Peoples of North America

The Society for Applied Anthropology has officially formed the American Indian, Native Alaskan and Hawaiian, and Canadian First Nation Topical Interest Group (TIG). Anyone who shares a common interest is encouraged to join the TIG, regardless of Society membership. The group consists of members from a wide range of disciplines, including anthropology, psychology, sociology, economics, as well as tribal members and government officials. Division 34 members who are interested in indigenous peoples of North America, and their population and environmental psychological issues are encouraged to join and participate. The group maintains an email list for discussions, and they encourage all interested individuals to join the email list. If you are interested in joining, or if would like to post an announcement to the group, contact Peter N. Jones at PNJ@BAUUISTITUTE.COM.

Barry Blesser, Ph.D., Co-author

MIT Professor (Ret.), BBLESSER@ALUM.MIT.EDU

Spaces Speak, Are You Listening?



Spaces Speak, Are You Listening? Experiencing Aural Architecture.
Written by Barry Blesser and Linda-Ruth Salter, MIT Press.

Spaces Speak examines the psychology of space from an aural perspective—complementing the traditional visual bias. However, unlike most discussions that consider sound (which often focus on physical and perceptual acoustics) *Spaces Speak* examines the social, psychological, behavioral, cultural, architectural, and artistic implications of the aural architecture in built and natural spaces; the discussion establishes the language of aural architecture and then applies it to many cultures over the millennia. See WWW.SPACESPEAK.COM for more information.

APA COUNCIL UPDATE

by Bruce Walsh, (Division 34 APA Council Representative, 2004–2007)

The 2007 APA Council of Representatives met in Washington, D.C., Feb. 16–18, 2007. APA President Sharon Brehm, Ph.D., chaired the meeting and listed her three major presidential initiatives: 1) health care for an aging population, 2) the importance of psychology in improving math and science education, and 3) the working relationship between institutional review boards and psychological science.

APA CEO Norman B. Anderson, Ph.D., introduced new chief information officer Tony F. Havbash, D.Sc., and reported that APA is currently making steady progress on upgrading the Web. He also announced the release of the first APA *Dictionary of Psychology* and noted that the revenue from electronic publications has continued to increase while reve-

nues from printed products continue to fall. He also spoke of the value of strategic planning and the Council established a new strategic planning process for the Association.

APA's finances are substantially sound. Approximately \$65 million are invested in a long-term portfolio, and APA has equity in two downtown Washington, D.C. buildings. In total, APA is worth about \$200 million. The Council passed a balanced budget with approximately a \$23,000 surplus.

The Council also passed resolutions rejecting intelligent design and reaffirming support for the theory of evolution, and a resolution opposing discriminatory legislation and initiatives aimed LGBT persons.

Of particular importance to Division 34 is a recent request for



W. Bruce Walsh, Ph.D.

Emeritus Professor of Psychology, Ohio State
WALSH.1@OSU.EDU

the APA Council to approve the formation of a task force to develop a report and policy recommendations regarding the interface between psychology and global warming. Human behavior is the root cause of many environmental and population problems, and psychologists in our Division make important contributions to understanding and solving these person-environment problems. I think it is very important that Division 34 support and be involved in this effort.

APA's Council of Representatives is the ultimate governing body of APA. The minutes of each meeting are available on the APA web page, and I encourage you to refer to this resource.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM PSYCHOLOGY • ECOLOGY • SUSTAINABILITY 2007

by Charlene Hosenfeld, Ph.D. (CHARON@HAWAII.RR.COM)

The newly created Psychology · Ecology · Sustainability Conference was held this June in Portland, Oregon. The conference was cosponsored by the non-profit Center for Earth Leadership and the Department of Counseling Psychology at Lewis & Clark College. Concurrent sessions afforded the opportunity for participants to choose from a wide variety of workshops and presentations on topics such as how psychology can make meaningful contributions to the sustainability movement, the relationship between health and nature, incorporating connectedness with nature into therapeutic interventions, the application of research findings from conservation psychol-

ogy for increasing public environmental stewardship behaviors, and the effects of green building design on the planet and symptoms such as depression and attention deficit.

One of the many highlights of the conference was the keynote address by Allen Kanner, Ph.D., entitled "The Corporatized Child." Another was the "Psychology in a New Key: Ecopsychology and Ecological Consciousness" keynote address by Sarah Conn, Ph.D., who called for psychologists to expand their view and develop an ecological consciousness.

The conference concluded with a panel discussion and an open dialogue related to specific ways to

continue the work of participants and to support new ideas/projects. The Center for Earth Leadership has established a network of mental health professionals, Psychology for a Sustainable Future (PSF), to further these projects. See the PSF section of the Center for Earth Leadership website for more information (www.EARTHLEADERSHIPCENTER.ORG/PSF).

Overall, the conference was high-quality, and offered an opportunity for professionals to learn, plan, and be inspired about ecopsychology, conservation psychology, and environmental psychology.



SEE MORE ONLINE
AT WWW.APA34.ORG

THIRD CLASS MAIL

Division 34
American Psychological Association
750 First St., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002-4242 USA

VISIT US ONLINE: WWW.APA34.ORG

DIVISION ELECTION RESULTS

by Sae Schatz, Division Editor

This year, elections were held to fill the Division offices that are opening at the end of this term. Current Division secretary Britain Scott, Ph.D., worked with Garnett Coad, APA Director of Elections, to ensure the votes were accurately and completely counted. The results follow:

Saundra Murray Nettles, Ph.D., will serve as the Division's president in 2009, and act as president-elect during Susan D. Clayton's, Ph.D., presidential term in 2008. Nettles is a professor at the Georgia Southern University, where she studies human development in community contexts and the resilience of children and adolescents. She is also the author of *Crazy visitation:*

A chronicle of illness and recovery (U. of Georgia P., 2001), an inspiring chronicle of her fight against an undiagnosed brain tumor.

Britain Scott will continue to serve as the Division secretary until 2009; her position was not open for re-election at this time.

Current member-at-large James H. Bray, Ph.D., will become the Division's treasurer. While Ethel Tobach, Ph.D., and Patricia L. Winter, Ph.D., will fill the two member-at-large positions for the upcoming cycle.

Finally, Former Division president ('04-'05) Gregory H. Wilmoth, Ph.D., will become the Division's representative to APA council.

Current Division Officers

PRESIDENT: Gary D. Gottfredson
PAST-PRESIDENT: Jack Aiello
PRESIDENT-ELECT: Susan D. Clayton
SECRETARY: Britain Scott
Treasurer: Donna K. McMillan
APA REP.: Bruce Walsh
MEMBER-AT-LARGE: James H. Bray
MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Stair Silver
BULLETIN EDITOR: Sae Schatz

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The Executive Committee is proposing a dues increase to \$15 yearly to fund new Division initiatives. Members will be asked to vote on this matter in a few months time. In the meantime, comments may be directed to Susan D. Clayton, Ph.D. (SCLAYTON@WOOSTER.EDU).