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IPA President's Message

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The 2011 IPA Convention is now just around the corner! We are very excited to present a broad range of programming with the overarching theme of psychology and psychologists making a difference in the world. This has been a salient lifetime theme for me as you may recall that I quoted Rabbi Hillel in my editorial column exactly a year ago: "If you are not for yourself, who will be? If you are not for others, what are you? And if not now, when?" The Convention Book is now online at our website: <http://www.illinoispsychology.org>. We have a wide variety of sponsors and exhibitors to whom we are most grateful. Some of the Program highlights of the Convention include:

- a first-time "kick-off" luncheon event in my home, on Wednesday, November 9th,

with Dr. Heidi Squier Kraft, a clinical and flight psychologist, and former Lt. Commander in the Navy. She will talk,

in the most poignant and literate prose, about her challenges in dealing with significant and multiple traumas, as a psychologist/medic in Fallujah, Iraq for 7 months in 2004, while having had to leave behind her 15 month old twins and motherhood. You



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might want to get a head start on this program by reading her book, *Rule Number Two: Lessons I Learned in a Combat Hospital*.

- **an all-day program on Thursday, November 10th, given by Dr. Helen L. Coons on "Women and Cancer: Strategies to Improve Well-Being."** Dr. Coons is a nationally renowned clinical health psychologist who specializes in women's health and mental health. She is a Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Drexel University College of Medicine and has worked with women with cancer for three decades. Dr. Coons has been cited in several on-line media websites (Newsweek, Wall Street Journal, etc.) and popular magazines, including *Cosmopolitan*, *Women's Health*, and *Redbook*. Dr. Coons will discuss psychosocial assessment and treatment for women across the life span with early and advanced cancer.
- **a second all-day program, "Second Annual LGBTQQ Youth Symposium: Addressing the Challenges of Bullying, Suicide, and Homophobia 2011," on Thursday, November 10th, chaired by Dr. Gary Howell, Chair of the IPA Sexual Orientation Section, and core faculty at Argosy University, Tampa, Florida, and adjunct faculty at the Adler School of Professional Psychology, in Chicago.** Building on the success of Dr. Howell's all-day symposium last year, he has scheduled several different panels whose expert speakers will discuss the societal causes for homophobia; appropriate interventions; and the African American experience of being LGBTQQ. A young speaker will tell her story of "survival" and having "gotten better" after having been subjected to traumatic bullying.
- **our plenary address by Dr. Rose Weahkee, Director, Division of Behavioral Health, Indian Health Service Headquarters, "The Multigenerational Trauma Cycle and Family Violence among American Indians and Alaska Natives" on Friday, November 11, 2011.** An experienced and gifted clinician, administrator, and speaker, who has recently received a Presidential Citation from APA President Melba Vasquez, Dr. Weahkee will address issues related to the phenomena of the Multigenerational Trauma Cycle and Family Violence among American Indian children, youth, and families and how it impacts their behavioral health. An American Indian healing model will be examined which

incorporates contemporary practices with American Indian traditions and culture.

- **a panel of executive psychologists, chaired by Dr. Rose Weahkee, discussing their career paths and life journeys and the impact they have had on their respective institutions.** The panel members include Dr. Patricia Arredondo, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; Dr. Michael Horowitz, Founding President and Chief Executive Officer, TCS Education System; and Dr. Michael Markovitz, Chairman of the Board, Atlanta's John Marshall Law School and Past Chairman, Argosy Education Group.
- **an invited talk by Dr. Sharon Bethea, President of the Chicago Chapter of the American Black Psychologists' Association and IPA member, on "The History of Black Racial Politics in Chicago" on Friday, November 11th, 2011.** From liberated Africans'/African Americans' establishing the city's first black community in the 1840's, to being the home of one of the largest representations of African American politicians in the United States government, to being the seat of Black activism in America, Chicago Black Politics have had a profound effect on the quality of life for African Americans, not only in Chicago, but throughout the Black Diaspora. The fundamental task of this session is to discuss the historical and contemporary consequences of this phenomenon and how it has impacted the lives of all Chicagoans and helped to define the identity of a city.
- **a program entitled, "Taming the Lion: How are Psychologists and Community Activists addressing Violence in our Schools and Communities?" Friday, November 11th, 2011.** The speakers include: Dr. Sharon Bethea; Dr. Michelle Hoy-Watkins and Dr. Darlene Perry of The Chicago School of Professional Psychology; Mr. Christopher Mallette, Esq., Executive Director of John Jay College, CUNY and former Director, Safety Community Initiatives, Mayor Daley's Office; Clifford Nellis, Esq., lead attorney, Lawndale Christian Legal Center, Chicago; Sister Afrika Porter-Ollarvia, The Deborah Movement; Dr. Edgar Ramos, Director, Clinical Services, Maryville Academy, Des Plaines.

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- a program featuring DCFS deputy, Dr. Cynthia Tate, and Chair, Dr. Janet Chandler, on Saturday, November 12th, 2011. The program is entitled, "DCFS: Mental Health, Trauma, Child Welfare, and Clinical Practice." The DCFS Division of Clinical Practice and Professional Development endeavors to ensure that the societal/emotional, behavioral, and developmental needs of our children/families are identified/addressed from a family-centered, trauma-informed, strengths-based (FTS) perspective.
- other programs covering forensic topics with Chairs Dr. Carroll Cradock, on November 11th, and Dr. Antoinette Kavanaugh, on November 12th; professional practice programs with Dr. Susan Zoline and Dr. Abigail Sivan co-chairing and Dr. Barry Anton from Tacoma, Washington, both occurring

on November 11th; IPAGS programs on November 11th, with Dr. Vida Dyson chairing, and on November 12th, with Jessica Martin, M.A. and Derek Phillips, M.A., co-chairing; and the IPA legislative update with Dr. Patricia Pimental, Dr. Meaghan LeBlanc, and our legislative lobbyists, Larry Suffredin, Esq. and Tom Suffredin, Esq.

- a drumming ceremony led by Dr. Gregory Sarlo and a modern dance performance given by Kendall Mallette, on Friday, November 11th.

And, there are still many more fascinating and diverse Convention programs and personalities who will all compel our attention. I know that you will share my excitement about this major IPA event as we enter our Convention season. May you find great pleasure in the panoply of events. See you all soon! ■