2007

Brief Note from the Editor

Irvin Sam Schonfeld
CUNY Graduate Center

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Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Society for Occupational Health Psychology Newsletter!

Volume 1, Issue 1 (2007)

Editor's Welcome

Brief Note from the Editor

I welcome the reader to the inaugural issue of the Newsletter of the Society for Occupational Health Psychology. The Society for Occupational Health Psychology has been recently organized, as an article in this issue describes. Like other organizations, the Society needs a newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to communicate important information to the members and to other interested individuals. OHP is an emerging, cross-disciplinary field that includes scientists and practitioners; I expect that the newsletter will help add to the growth of the field and the membership of the Society. I anticipate that the Society will publish the newsletter one or two times per year.

I thank the contributors for their efforts. I thank the associate editors, Joe Hurrell and Kizzy Parks, for their work in making the newsletter possible. And I thank Janet Barnes-Farrell and Kim Davies-Schrisl for their work on the layout of the newsletter.

Irvin Sam Schonfeld, Editor
City College of the City University of New York
ischonfeld@ccny.cuny.edu

Personal Reflection

The Meaning of Occupational Health Psychology

Peter Chen, President of SOHP
Colorado State University

A few years ago, the company I worked for merged. On a fall afternoon, a colleague came to inform me of his sudden "departure" due to company-wide layoffs. I thought it was a joke, but a few moments later I realized by looking in my colleague's eyes it was not. As we walked through the parking lot covered in fallen leaves, I listened to my colleague give voice to his frantic emotions and disbelief. After approximately 30 minutes had passed, my colleague experienced a bad stomachache. It was my very first encounter with the reality of job stress, even though I had been working on job stress research for quite some time. I felt ashamed and guilty that evening because I just realized that I have been ignoring the true meaning behind the stress data that I have enjoyed analyzing and publishing!

So, how do my personal experience and confession connect with the SOHP? I have learned that we can do a better job to improve the quality of work life and to build a healthy workplace when we find the meaning of the data we all have lived with. We can also do a better job to protect and promote the safety, health, and well-being of workers when we expand our traditional professional roles (whatever they may be) to apply our knowledge and understanding about human and organizational behaviors. To me, that is what the Society for Occupational Health Psychology is all about! Please join us to help us accomplish these goals. Your expertise and passion will make a difference for the working world.

Irvin Sam Schonfeld, Editor
City College of the City University of New York

Special points of interest:

- Work Stress and Health 2008: Announcement
- Become a member of SOHP!

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