ORGANIZATION PROFILE: BRAZILIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

By Lúcia Williams and Martha Hübner

The Brazilian city of Ribeirão Preto, situated approximately 200 miles inland from São Paulo, Brazil's largest city, is famous for the excellent coffee cultivated in surrounding plantations, and more recently, for its popular local draft beer. It was in Ribeirão Preto that the Brazilian Psychological Association *(Sociedade Brasileira de Psicologia–SBP)* was founded in 1971 by a few well-known Brazilian researchers from the University of São Paulo's local campus and their respective students. Originally called the Ribeirão Preto Psychological Association, the entity became active in organizing a yearly conference every October that became known for its high scientific standards and eagerness to promote the advancement of the science of psychology in Brazil. What was initially supposed to be a local yearly gathering soon started to attract participants from all over Brazil, from the Amazon states to Southern cities near the Argentinian border. Thus, the Ribeirão Preto Psychological Association changed its name in 1992, becoming the Brazilian Psychological Association or *SBP*.

SBP's main accomplishment is still its Annual Convention held in different cities throughout Brazil: Brasilia, Rio de Janeiro, Florianopolis, and so forth. The 2003 Annual Meeting was held in October in Belo Horizonte, where close to 1400 participants gathered for four days and had a chance to attend 10 keynote speaker presentations, 22 workshops, 33 chaired symposia, and 677 poster presentations, in addition to cultural and social events of different natures.

SBP strives (among other goals) to promote psychological research as well as the teaching and application of psychology to enhance human well being. The main feature of the *Association* is its multiplicity of approaches, representing the different views of current psychological knowledge. Although there are several other specific psychological associations in Brazil, *SBP* stands alone in its efforts to assemble different researchers with the common goal of the advancement of psychological science. A list of our convention program thematic areas illustrates this diversity: Experimental Analysis of Behavior, Environmental Psychology, Sports Psychology, Psychobiology and Neurosciences, Clinical and Personality Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology, School and Educational Psychology, Family and Community Psychology, Training in Psychology, History of Psychology, Research Methodology and Assessment, Ergonomics, Organization, and Work Psychology, Health Psychology, Mental Health, Social Psychology, and Psychological Testing.

SBP also publishes two journals in Portuguese, *Temas em Psicologia* (Psychological Themes) and *Cadernos em Psicologia* (Psychological Journal), which follow the APA Publications Manual, in addition to a newsletter. *SBP* is also active in consulting with educational and scientific governmental agencies in terms of analyzing pertinent topics.

SPB has approximately 1100 members, all researchers and students. Although the great majority of members are from Brazil, *SPB* is proud of its five international members from the United States. The present Board of Directors has among its goals the enhancement of *SBP*'s international relations with other psychological associations worldwide and in particular with APA. Thus, this publication of this article s one step in this direction.

In August 2004, the Meeting of the International Association of Behavior Analysis will take place in Brazil, in the city of Campinas (state of São Paulo), and *SBP* is supporting the event. The Brazilian Psychological Association Convention will be held in October 2004 in the city of Ribeirão Preto to celebrate the Association's early beginnings.

Lucia C.A. Williams, PhD, is Secretary and Martha Hübner, PhD, is President of the Brazilian Psychological Association. The Association site is www.sbponline.com.br and the authors can be reached at sbp@sbponline.org.br

Sociedade Brasileira de Psicologia—SBP

Presidente
Maria Martha C. Hübner

Vice-Presidente
Vera Lúcia A.R.do Amaral

Secretário Geral
Brígido Vizeu de Camargo

Primeira Secretária
Lúcia C.A. Williams

Segundo Secretário
Roberto Alves Banaco

Primeira Tesoureira
Márcia R.B. Rubiano

Segunda Tesoureira
Maria Júlia F.X. Ribeiro