

Garamendi Sworn in as Insurance Chief



John Garamendi was sworn in on January 5, 2003 as the Insurance Commissioner of the State of California. He won the position in November 2002 when almost 3 million voters cast their ballots in his favor, nearly 300,000 more votes than his closest rival in the political race.

Garamendi is expected to move forward quickly with his agenda for reform, considering that he had four years experience as California's first elected Insurance Commissioner in the early 1990s.

Among the pledges he made in his campaign, Garamendi promised to convene a Task Force on Marital Status Redlining to suggest responsible alternatives to the use of marital status for setting insurance rates or issuing joint policies.

He also promised to:

- Assign department staff to assist the Task Force in its research;
- Immediately audit the practices of a representative sample of companies; and
- Prepare a brochure to inform agents and the public about current legal protections against marital status discrimination in California.

During the campaign, Garamendi indicated that he would ask AASP Executive Director Thomas F. Coleman to serve as a consultant to the new Task Force.

AASP recently requested a meeting with Commissioner Garamendi to discuss implementation of these objectives and to establish a realistic timetable for this important work. ♪

Grant Awarded to Document Singles Research

A small grants program was recently established exclusively to support research on the psychology of being single. The program is administered by the Anthony Marchionne Foundation for the Scientific Study of Human Relations and Psychological Processes.

The first recipient of a Marchionne Foundation grant for the study of singles is Dr. Bella M. DePaulo, Chair of the Academic Advisory Board of Spectrum Institute, Research and Policy Division of AASP.

A \$25,000 grant was awarded to Professor DePaulo for her proposal entitled, "The Scientific Study of People Who Are Single: The State of the Research".

During 2003, Dr. DePaulo will compile the research and scholarship pertaining to some of the most important questions about people who are single.

These questions include: Who are the singles in America? How many are there, and how are their numbers changing? What is the nature of the personal relationships of people who are single? What do we know about the health and well being of singles? Are there stereotypes of people who are single? If so, how do such views of singles compare to what singles really are like? What is the nature of single life in old age? How do children who are living with one parent fare, relative to those who live with cohabiting parents or married parents?

Dr. Bella DePaulo is a Visiting Professor of Social Psychology at the University of California at Santa Barbara. She earned her Ph.D. from Harvard in 1979, taught at the University of Virginia for more than 20 years, is the author of more than 100 publications, and has lectured nationally and internationally.

"I was so delighted to learn about the Marchionne Foundation," Dr. DePaulo told *Unmarried America*. "This is exactly what is needed to jump start the scientific study of people who are single."

"The study of marriage and family has long had a highly developed infrastructure and many sources of funding. But until the Marchionne Foundation came along, there were no comparable resources available to people focusing on singles. It is not just the funding that has been lacking. There are no textbooks about people who are single, no scholarly journals devoted to the study of singles, and no conferences organized exclusively for the discussion of scholarship on singles. This is remarkable considering that on average, people now spend more years of their adult lives single than married."

Anthony "Toby" Marchionne was a clinical psychologist who practiced in Albany, New York. He was single all his life.

In his scholarship and clinical practice, Dr. Marchionne recognized the health, happiness, well being, and resilience of so many life-long singles. Before he died, he created a Foundation dedicated to the scientific study of single people, and provided enough funding for the Foundation to endure for decades.

Dr. Marchionne was the first student to be awarded a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Washington State University. It is especially fitting, therefore, that the Foundation is located at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. The Program Manager is Dr. Craig Parks, who is an Associate Professor of Social Psychology at WSU. ♪



Professor Bella DePaulo