

MPA January 2018 Newsletter.

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MISSISSIPPI PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
November 2018 NEWSLETTER

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Convention Chairperson Address

Thanks to all who attended the 2018 MPA Annual Convention in September at the Golden Nugget Casino and Resort. Along with seasoned psychologists and early career psychologists, we had a record number of graduate and undergraduate psychology

My sincerest thanks to all who contributed their time and expertise in making this convention so successful. Our speakers were outstanding in their presentations and knowledge of their topics. Thanks to all who donated to the Silent Auction. The Silent auction netted almost a thousand dollars to be put to good use in helping provide educational opportunities for our volunteers on the Executive Committee. The Convention Committee was invaluable in reviewing program submissions for continuing education programs, regular programming, student poster and data blitz presentations.

I want to give a special thankyou to Amy Wilson, our Executive Director, for her expert guidance and management of all the details that went into producing this great convention. It has been my pleasure to serve as the Director of the 2018 MPA Convention. I have enjoyed the past three years of service to the MPA organization and will continue to support those in leadership in the years to come.

Ruth M. Shoemaker, Ph.D.

2018 Past President and Convention Chairperson

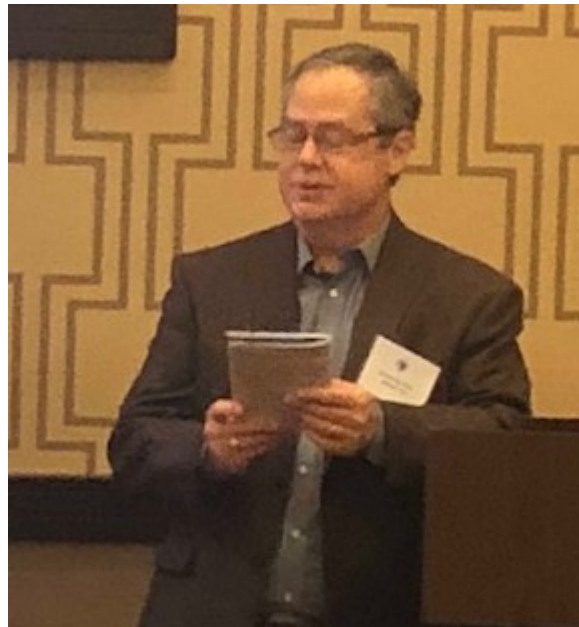
Highlights from MPA Convention



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From the President's Desk

Winter 2018 Newsletter

Dear MPA Members,

It has been an honor to have the privilege of serving as President of MPA this year. In reflecting on progress we've made toward our goals this year, I am pleased to report that it has been a very good year.

First, we have been successful in recruiting new (and long-time) members into leadership positions representing a range of employment sectors and areas of expertise. This has allowed for fresh perspectives and new ideas to address challenges faced by our organization. I am ever grateful to those who have been willing to give of their time and talents to sustain and strengthen MPA.

Second, we have worked hard to protect the professional practice of psychology in Mississippi. In late 2017 and early 2018, MPA leadership worked with representatives from the Mississippi Board of Psychology to draft a new licensure bill, which was set to sunset in July 2018. Our bill passed and was signed into law in March 2018. We have also fulfilled our duty to work with the Governor's office to fill two seats on the Board

Third, we have continued to address our initiatives geared toward long-term sustainment of MPA. We aim to maintain a vibrant and strong organization by demonstrating the value that MPA has to offer trainees and new professionals. To that end, we have worked to build our membership through inviting newly licensed psychologists to join and have worked to better meet the needs of early career psychologists and students in training. This year, we built upon the initiative started in 2017 by offering a dedicated student/ECP track at convention. This year, we added a Student Data Blitz session where students were able to give brief oral presentations of their thesis or dissertation studies. In addition, we added a Rapid Submission mechanism, providing an opportunity for new interns to present their work. Lastly, we were able to expand member contributions to support student travel expenses to attend convention. We appreciate the generosity of our members in donating to this cause in order to make this program a success. As we look toward 2019, we are also extending calls to recruit one graduate student representative and a new ECP Committee Chair to continue to develop and lead these activities.

Finally, we have worked to offer timely, practical, and high-quality, evidence-based continuing education programming. I am pleased to see increased interest and involvement by scholars within and across Mississippi as well as continued support from APA in contributing to our programming. For 2019, I will be moving into the role of Past President and Convention Program Chair. Convention planning has begun for next year, and is scheduled for September 25-27, 2019, at the I.P. Hotel and Casino in Biloxi.

In closing, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to serve this vital organization and for your continued support of MPA.

Author: Sara Jordan, Ph.D.

SAVE THE DATES

CAPITAL DAY: February 6th, 2019

**2019 Convention at IP Casino:
September 25-27, 2019**

Membership 2018 Update

We had a wonderful student presence at our 68th Annual MPA Convention in Biloxi, MS. The inaugural Student Data Blitz was a huge success. Six graduate students representing four institutions presented their research in a brief oral presentation format. We also had six poster presentations from students representing five institutions. **Thank you to all the students that presented, along with their faculty advisors!**

Poster Presentations:

1. Yann Kaufman-- Undergraduate Student, Belhaven University
2. Cailey Ness-- Undergraduate Student, Millsaps College
3. Jaedyn Bonner—Graduate Student, Jackson State University
4. Felicia Gray—Graduate Student, The University of Southern Mississippi
5. Elizabeth Lown—Graduate Student, University of Southern Mississippi
6. Jennifer Petell—Graduate Student, University of Mississippi

Data Blitz Presentations:

1. Benjamin Wright—Graduate Student, The University of Southern Mississippi
2. Lillian Spadgenske—Graduate Student, University of Southern Mississippi
3. Alexandria Delozier—Intern, University of Mississippi Medical Center
4. Arica-Ann Norzagaray-Graduate Students, Jackson State University
5. Daniel Pineau—Graduate Student, University of Mississippi
6. Brittany Sapp—Graduate Student, University of Mississippi

Author: Cynthia Karlson, Ph.D.

Membership

Region 2 Report

Greetings! I wish well to all as we enter the busy holiday season.

In a previous newsletter I highlighted the important role MPA plays in preserving and shaping our licensing law. Today I'd like to point to another important and largely behind-the-scenes role that MPA plays for the profession of psychology in Mississippi.

[Mississippi Code 73-31-5](#) creates and defines the Mississippi Board of Psychology and later defines its duties. Those can be summarized as regulating the profession of Psychology in Mississippi, protecting the public, and having the authority to raise funds to support its activities. What I want to highlight is that written into the Code is the stipulation that when there are vacancies on the Board, the Mississippi

has a pivotal role in populating the Board of Psychology. This is immensely important and in my mind is by itself reason enough to be an MPA member!

Once again, I thank you for the opportunity to be your representative. As your Region 2 representative I take seriously the responsibility to convey any input I receive to the MPA Executive Council. Please feel free to contact me by email (jparker@umc.edu), telephone, phone, or text (601-214-9564).

Jeff Parker

Region 4 Report

Gulf Coast MPA members had a great time catching up with our colleagues from all over the state (and even a few from our neighboring states!) and enjoying excellent programming during September's Convention. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting and talking with both new and veteran members from across the Coast. Life gets so busy sometimes that it's difficult to find time to get together and celebrate our profession. Convention is a wonderful way to do that, and I'd like us to find another time in the spring to do so as well. Please email me at salterfussell@gmail.com with ideas for a Gulf Coast gathering you would find meaningful, as well as with anything else I may do to serve you well as your Region Representative.

Shannon Salter Fussell

MPA Student Representative: Call for Applications

Become a liaison to the Executive Council of the Mississippi Psychological Association (MPA) by submitting your application to become a graduate student representative. Graduate student representatives must be student members of MPA interested in learning about the purpose and regular activities of a state guild association, gaining experience with service and advocacy for the profession of psychology, and networking with psychologists and students from around the state. Graduate students that are not current members may join MPA and be eligible for consideration. (First year membership is free!)

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appointed to serve the association as a liaison to the Executive Council. For this position, the student representative shall:

1. Attend executive council meetings and conference calls of the MPA and, if feasible, attend the annual convention. He/she will provide a student member report regardless of whether he/she can attend the meetings.
2. Terms shall be for 2 years, commencing in January of even years for one position and of odd years for the second position.
3. Write a column in the spring and fall issues of the MPA newsletter.
4. Work with the program chair to plan a student meeting and/or student sponsored presentation at the annual convention.
5. Act as a liaison between student members and the Executive Council on ideas, problems, concerns and suggestions.
6. Sit on the Student/Early Career committee of the MPA and/or assist the ECP chairperson in the selection of a student for the committee.
7. Assist the Public Education Committee Chair and Communications Officer with MPA's social media presence.
8. Perform any other job agreed upon by the President and/or Executive Council.

Eligibility:

- Currently enrolled and in good standing in a Mississippi doctoral program in Clinical, Counseling, or School psychology
- A Student Member of MPA
- Ability to serve a 2-year term (exclusive of internship)
- Permission and support of your doctoral program

For those student members who are interested in applying, please send:

(a) 1-page statement of interest in the position and

(b) a current vita

(c) a brief letter of support from your major professor/academic advisor or the training director of your doctoral program noting the following: your eligibility for the position, that you are a student in good standing in your doctoral program, and indicating program support for your participation in MPA Executive Council activities (i.e., Executive Council meetings, conference calls, annual convention).

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representative(s), will select the new student co-representative.

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