



# MPA

## Mississippi Psychological Association Newsletter

### President's Message

by Danielle Maack, Ph.D.

Wow- how time does fly by! Looking at the year in review as MPA President, I can say that I am very proud to be a part of this organization that really supports the mission of advancing psychology as a science and profession! At the planning retreat last January, I set out three major areas that I wanted the Executive Council to prioritize this year: embracing MPA history, Increasing/enhancing government relations, and member recruitment and engagement.

This year we saw Dr. Angela Herzog step into the role of our first Historian with the creation of an ad hoc committee. She has been working to create an accurate list of past presidents since MPA was incorporated, has added lovely pictures in the newsletter from past MPA events (you can look and see if you're in any!), and has brought back the focus on member tributes at the convention. Moving forward, the Executive Council now has a standing committee: History and Archives with the Chair being the Historian.

We've also seen an increase in member involvement related to state legislative interests. After months of discussion, Town Hall meeting, and much consideration, the vote was made by the Executive Council to focus our legislative and lobbying energies on moving forward PSYPACT legislation for the 2023 legislative session.

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Dr. Natalie Gaughf (Chair) and the Legislative Committee have been making solid movement working with Chip Reno (MPA's lobbyist) on finding congressional leaders to support the bill and planning for MPA's Day at the Capitol in January. The more our membership stays informed about legislative happenings and continues to develop relationships with state officials, the better we can advocate for psychology as a profession and science.

The MPA currently has 120 members on record, which is a solid membership, yet it represents approximately 1/3 of the licensed psychologists in Mississippi. Dr. Barbara Martin, Chair of the Membership Committee has made great efforts this year reaching out to previous members who had not renewed and encouraging others to join. We hope to keep this momentum moving forward to expand membership to Mississippi psychologists and trainees who may not be aware of all that the MPA offers!

These are just the presidential initiatives that I've highlighted, and there are many other members of the Executive Council who have been working for the betterment of MPA across positions and committees. If you are interested in becoming more involved, I encourage you to contact any member of the Executive Council or Committee Chair to see what options there are in line with your interests.

As many of you have already heard, Amy Wilson has tendered her resignation as our Executive Director. Beginning in 2014, Amy began her time with the MPA in the role of Executive Director. Amy came to the association when dramatic restructuring and rebuilding were needed. She really helped give the MPA a solid foundation for continuing the mission of advancing psychology in Mississippi. I can definitively say that the MPA would not be where it is today without her guidance and support. The MPA has seen many positive changes over the past eight years with Amy wearing many hats as an advisor, networker, connector, financial representative, and event planner (just to name a few). Please join me in wishing Amy the best in her next endeavors and voicing your appreciation for her years of dedicated service to our association. She will be missed.

As I finish the last newsletter of my presidential term, I want to say how much I have appreciated the support, guidance and feedback of many members, past-presidents, students, and of course, Amy, during my term. The initiatives I emphasized would not have come to fruition without the dedication and talents of all who have volunteered their time and efforts. I thank you all for the continued advocacy, education, and leadership in this organization- all of which are key to MPA's mission moving forward. There will be many continued and new initiatives we will see with Dr. Kristy McRaney Presidential term, and I have no doubt that MPA will continue to grow and flourish!

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President and look forward to the coming year of continuing service as Past-President and the 2023 Convention Chair!

Danielle Maack, Ph.D.  
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## President-Elect Report

by Kristy McRaney, Ph.D.

Happy Holidays MPA members. It was so wonderful getting to see so many of you at the convention this year. After so much time connecting virtually, it was such a treat to be able to connect with so many members at the convention. Hats off to our Immediate Past President, President, Executive Director, and Convention Planning team. They really pulled off an amazing event, and I can't wait for the convention next year (yes, I'm already looking forward to it, and I hope all of you are, too!).

As we gear up for a new year, I'm looking forward to seeing what 2023 will bring us. Dr. Maack has been an amazing leader for MPA this year, and I have big shoes to fill (thankfully, I'll get to tap on her frequently as she will be our Immediate Past President). I hope to continue her initiatives as we continue to build and grow MPA!

With that in mind, I have a few calls to our membership. First, we would love to have our members join some of our committees! If you have been interested in getting involved with the EC, or are passionate about a particular topic/area, a committee is a great way to get involved. We have several committees including Rural/Telehealth, Diversity, Academic/Training, Early Career, Public Education, and that is just to name a few! Please reach out if you are interested in learning more about committees.

Second, we are in need of a Diversity Chair and an Early Career Chair. If you are interested in serving MPA in this capacity, please reach out to me. I'd love to connect with you and discuss these opportunities with you!

Finally, MPA is tasked with presenting the Governor's office with nominations for the Mississippi Board of Psychology (MBOP) when there is an upcoming vacancy. In 2023, two MBOP members' terms are scheduled to end. As such, we will need to put forth names to the Governor's office in the very near future. If you are interested in serving on the MBOP, or if you have recommendations on individual(s) that might be good candidates to put forth, please email me so I can connect with you, or the recommended individual you have in mind.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out if I can support you in any way.

I hope I get to see many of you at Day at the Capitol (January 18th)!

Wishing you all Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

Kristy McRaney, Ph.D.  
President-Elect and Early Career Chair  
kristy.mcraney@usm.edu

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## Executive Director's Message

To Mississippi Psychological Association Members,

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Executive Director since the Fall of 2013. Recently, I made the very difficult decision to step down as your Executive Director. I have struggled with this for months and after serious consideration and prayer feel that a transition is in the best interest of MPA and my resources.

MPA and my other association clients deserve the excellence that I expect from myself professionally. Without a full-time employee, I am not able to provide the time and level of service MPA needs. I am committed to assisting a new Executive Director, or Association Management Company, in making a complete and smooth transition.

Through these years, I have gained a huge respect for your professional training and the very important and specialized treatment you provide to Mississippians. I hope in some small way, I have supported you in that effort.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Wilson  
Executive Director  
Mississippi Psychological Association

## MPA Capitol Day

January 18, 2023  
8:00 am - 10:30 am  
Mississippi State Capitol Building  
Downstairs Rotunda

Let's show our lawmakers how strong and important psychologists are in Mississippi! Please attend!

If you would like to help provide food for this event for the Elected Officials and the Capitol staff, please email [mpa@mpassoc.org](mailto:mpa@mpassoc.org) to sign up for an item or make a financial contribution.



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## Convention Highlights

MPA members, presenters, and students were glad to meet in person at the Annual MPA Convention. The convention was held at the Thad Cochran Center at USM Campus in Hattiesburg. Conference Chairperson Mallory Malkin offered attendees evidence-based programming and a change in location and activities. Evaluation results confirmed the positive and successful convention experience.

Mississippi Psychological Association's 2022 Awards were presented at the Membership Breakfast Friday, September 30th during the annual convention. This year's awards included the Outstanding Early Career Psychologist Award, Distinguished Legislative Achievement Award, Distinguished Practitioner Award, Kinloch Gill Award, and the Distinguished Teaching of Psychology Award. *Click each award recipient to read the nomination submission.*

- Kristy McRaney, Ph.D. was nominated for the award of "Outstanding Early Career Psychologist" by Danielle Maack, Ph.D.
- Penni S. Foster, Ph.D. was nominated for the "Distinguished Legislative Achievement Award" by Natalie Gaughf, Ph.D., ABPP
- GERALYN DATZ, Ph.D., MP was nominated for the "Distinguished Practitioner Award" by David Gavel, Ph.D.
- Alyssa Killebrew, Ph.D. was nominated for the "Kinloch Gill Award" by Angela Herzog, Ph.D.
- Bryman Williams, Ph.D. was nominated for the "Distinguished Teaching of Psychology Award" by Danielle Maack, Ph.D.

**Make your plans NOW to attend the 2023 MPA Annual Convention!**



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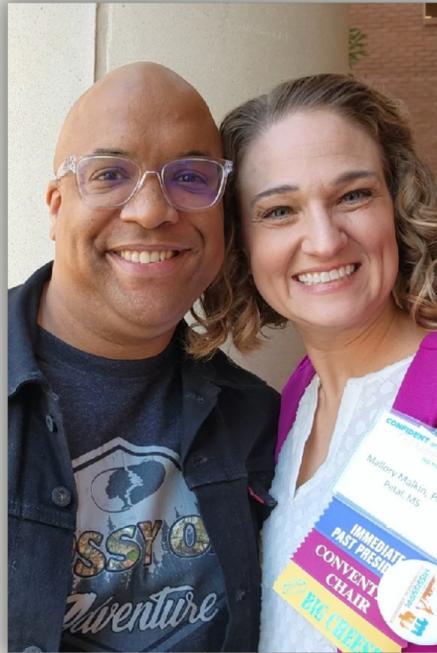
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(Convention Highlights cont...)



*MPA adding a little entertainment*



*Immediate Past President/Convention Chair greets keynote speaker Mike Veny*



*MPA President Dr. Danielle Maack, Convention Chair Dr. Mallory Malkin, Guest Speaker Dr. Jennifer Kelly, and President Elect Dr. Kristy McRaney enjoy a moment together*



*Dr. Angela Herzog presents the Kinloch Gill Award to Dr. Alyssa Killebrew*



*Dr. Bryman Williams accepts the Distinguished Teaching of Psychology Award from Dr. Danielle Maack*



*Keynote Speaker, Dr. Jennifer Kelly presents her own leadership story from graduating from USM to becoming 2021 APA President*

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## Leadership Development Academy

Friday, December 9th was the official kick-off to the Trust-sponsored MPA Leadership Development Academy! Leadership Fellows include:

### **Jennifer Ladner-Graham, Ph.D. – Mentor: Dr. Beverly Smallwood.**

Dr. Ladner-Graham owns her own private practice, and she shared that she hopes to build her leadership skills and confidence so that she can be more active in the psychological community. She believes that effective communication, empathy, organization, honesty, openness, and boundaries are some qualities of good leaders.

### **Michael Prazak, Ph.D. – Mentor: Gustave Sison, Ph.D.**

Dr. Prazak is a Staff Psychologist at the Biloxi VA. His philosophy of leadership is developmental. He believes that individuals and organizations with excellent leadership grow to their full capabilities through mentorship, encouragement, support, and the removal of unnecessary barriers. He stated that he would like to become more involved and hopefully lend any skills, training, or abilities whether socially, professionally, or clinically/academically to help the organization continue to grow and flourish.

### **Brittany Sapp, Ph.D. – Mentor: Natalie Gaughf, Ph.D., ABPP**

Dr. Sapp works as a psychologist at Delta Autumn Consulting. Dr. Sapp shared that during her graduate program, she was actively involved in the supervision of undergraduate research assistants, coordinating research activities, and maintaining meaningful connections with healthcare providers for the pregnancy initiative study her lab was working on. She is excited about the leadership training, education, and mentorship opportunities LDA offers and believes these, as well as the meaningful connections with current leaders in the state, would set her up for success as a future leader in psychology.



## 2023 Executive Council

### **President:**

Kristy McRaney, Ph.D.  
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### **President-Elect:**

David Gavel, Ph.D.  
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### **Region 3 Representative:**

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### **Region 4 Representative:**

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