

MPA NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023



IN THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE

DIVERSITY CHAIR
LETTER

CONVENTION RECAP

LETTER FROM REGION
1 REPRESENTATIVE

MPA AWARDS

STUDENT AWARDS

APA COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVES
UPDATE

BYLAWS AMENDMENT
REMINDER

2024 EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL LEADERS

UPCOMING EVENTS



MPA proudly
supports & endorses:



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello, MPA Members.

I am writing to you feeling energized, refreshed, and inspired having just come back from our annual convention. It was such a treat to get to interact with so many of you all, learn from you, and connect with you as both professionals and friends. I hope each of you had just as wonderful of a time as I did. Thank you Dr. Maack and all that were involved in helping to pull off such a memorable convention!

At the convention, a common theme of conversations was how MPA can continue to grow, improve, and expand. I love this energy, and I hope we continue to have these discussions so that our impact through MPA is one that is meaningful and far-reaching! An important part of that journey is ensuring that we have foundational documents and procedures to guide us. **That leads me to my call to our members today.**

Kristy McRaney, Ph.D.

This has been a year of transition for MPA. It has provided an opportunity to audit and analyze many of our

operations and procedures. After reviewing MPA's guiding documents (i.e., bylaws, policies & procedures), it became apparent that these needed to be updated so that they were meaningful, helpful, and relevant. As such, we have developed a plan to review each document in detail and propose updates and revisions. First up – our bylaws. Our bylaws were last updated 13 years ago in September of 2010. The world and field have changed a great deal since then. As you might expect, our bylaws need to be updated to better align with how our field and the world operates today. I'm happy to share that we have an updated draft of bylaws that we would like our members to review and vote on. You can find all the information about the current bylaws, proposed changes to bylaws, and rationale for changes on the MPA website by navigating to the [membership area of the website](#) and selecting the [Bylaws Update](#) button at the bottom of the screen. Please review these and reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or comments you might have. **Voting on bylaws opens October 9th and will remain open until October 23rd. I urge our members to vote on the bylaws.** We need your input and participation to ensure that MPA continues to have relevant guiding documents and processes. It is critical for the health and sustainability of MPA.

Wishing you all a wonderful October. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out if I can support you in any way.

Kristy McRaney, Ph.D.
MPA President
kristy.mcraney@usm.edu

MPA proudly supports and endorses



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



MPA Convention Recap!



MPA proudly supports and endorses:



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



PAST PRESIDENT AND NOW PAST CONVENTION CHAIR ADDRESS

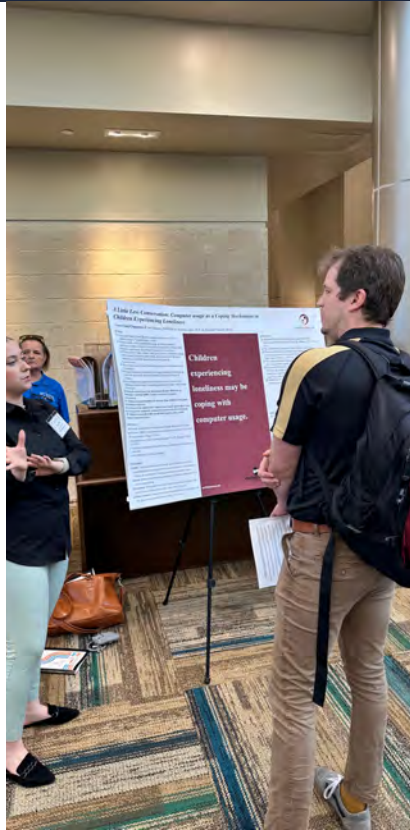
Wow everybody! Can you believe that Convention 2023 is actually over? Well, Elvis did leave the building, so I guess we had to say goodbye to Tupelo! What a whirlwind of events from connecting time with colleagues and new friends, learning opportunities, to a little fun as well (did anyone at the Thursday night extravaganza not sing or dance with Elvis?!?). We even raised over \$1000 from the Silent Auction to go towards student awards in the future! A big “Thank you!” to all who attended convention and a special gratitude to all our presenters! I hope that everyone enjoyed the panels and workshops and saw this as an opportunity to really connect/reconnect with others in the field while learning a bit as well! I know the time I had talking with others was a super important part of convention for me and something that I look forward to again at next year’s convention. Congratulations to our MPA award winners: students, early career and beyond. We have an impressive bunch of psychologists and aspiring psychologists in our group and I love that convention is a time to showcase the work that members have been doing! Thank you to our Executive Director, LaDarion Ammons and his team (Lauren Messina, Taylor Dickerson, and Julie Dickerson) for all the help making this convention be the success that it was!

Thank you! Thank you very much!



Danielle Maack, Ph.D.

STUDENT AWARDS



Undergraduate Student

1st Rachel Embry

2nd Jennilynn Hall

3rd Laura Ann Chapman

Graduate Student

1st Caitlin Shaw

2nd Abigail Kukay

3rd Jacq Strowd

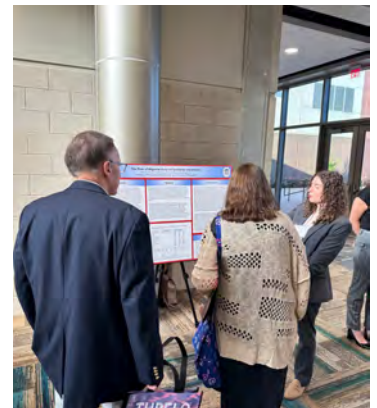
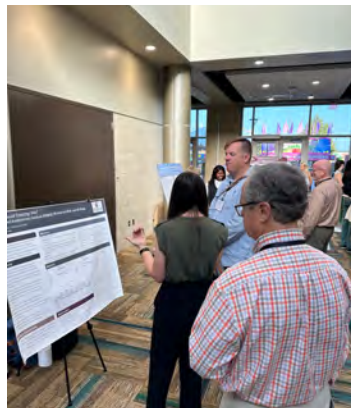


Data Blitz

1st place Jasmine Rios

2nd place Sydney Wicks

3rd place Elijah Mudryk



LETTER FROM THE DIVERSITY CHAIR



Ryan Liu-Pham, Ph.D.

Hello Members of MPA!

My name is Ryan Liu-Pham and I wanted to write this letter to introduce myself to everyone! I am so happy to be your Diversity Chairperson and cannot wait to meet everyone that I can and hope we can all have a wonderful time as a member of MPA!

To start off my journey to become a psychologist, I received my Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Houston in 2019 and proceeded to make the long journey to Hattiesburg, MS where I attended the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) and received oth my Master of Arts and

Doctorate of Philosophy in Brain and Behavior (Experimental) Psychology in 2022.

During my time at USM, I joined Jackson State University as an Assistant Professor where I run the Interpersonal Relationships Lab which has focuses on using all forms of relationships to help assist one in mitigating the negative effects of loneliness and dissatisfaction in one's life.

As your Diversity Chairperson, I promise to uphold the values of MPA and listen to the voice of the members when discussing our goals and ideas. Second, I am committed to staying up to date on multiple topics of diversity to ensure that discussion and topics are in line with what is currently affecting us not only as Psychologists but as citizens of Mississippi.

Since not many people knew of me prior to the convention of 2023, I went ahead and chose the topic of Women's Mental Health post the dissolution of Roe v. Wade; however, I hope to be able to give my ear to everyone who needs one when these discussions are taking place.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this introduction and hope to see you around!

Ryan Liu-Pham, Ph.D.

MPA AWARDS



Brittany Sapp, Ph.D. is presented the 2023 Outstanding Early Career Psychologist Award



Ty Stafford, Ph.D. is presented 2023 Distinguished Teaching of Psychology Award



Michael Nadorff, Ph.D. is presented with the Kinloch Gill Award for his contributions and service in the area of public interest and public service activities.



Sarah Irby, Ph.D. is presented with the 2023 Distinguished Practitioner Award



Amy Wilson recognized for her dedication to The Mississippi Psychological Association 2013-2022



Angela Herzog, Ph.D. is presented with the C.D. Gaston Spirit of MPA Award for her exceptional dedication to MPA through unrelenting advocacy for the professionalism of psychology in Mississippi.

MPA proudly supports and endorses:



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



LETTER FROM THE REGION 1 REPRESENTATIVE

Hello colleagues and neighbors,

As the Mississippi summer heat shifts to the slightly different Mississippi autumn heat, other things shift as well. Kids return to school, football starts again, and thoughts move to the last quarter of the year. As I was considering how best to approach this letter, I thought about how much work is being done by our field. While the need for greater mental health access has become a national conversation, Mississippi continues to rank in the lower 1/3 of states for mental health workforce (MHA, 2023). This while a number of local and national stressors lead more people to seek our services (APA, 2022). Due to these factors, each of us has likely spent the year doing more with less as we seek to meet the needs of our clients and our state.



Ty Stafford, Ph.D.

With this in mind, I ask, what do you need? How can MPA support you? As your representative on the MPA board I invite you to contact me and let me know what needs I can voice. I can be contacted via email at tws37@msstate.edu. Additionally, I look forward to our upcoming conference in Tupelo, September 27-29th. If you are planning to attend (and you should; Elvis will be there!), I would love to talk more in-person about how I can best represent you and how you feel MPA can serve you. That can be related to services you wish MPA offered, need for additional opportunities for CEUs, legislative desires, or really anything else with which you feel I can assist. Whether at the conference or through some other means, I look forward to meeting you and further discussing MPA and your needs.

Warmly,
Ty Stafford, PhD
Region 1 Representative

MPA proudly supports and endorses:



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



MPA Convention Recap!



MPA proudly supports and endorses:



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



APA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES UPDATE

According to the APA Bylaws, there shall be a Council of Representatives, which shall be the legislative body of the Association and shall have full power and authority over the affairs and funds of the Association. A business meeting of Council shall be held at the time and place of the Annual Convention and at such other times as shall be specified by Council. As a reminder, the Council consists of 183 representatives from divisions, state/provincial/ territorial associations, ethnic minority psychological associations and members of the Board of Directors, including the APA officers. The American Psychological Association of Graduate Students also has a representative that serves as a member of Council. The Council typically meets in February and August of each year.



Natalie W. Gaughf,
PhD, ABPP

The minutes from the February 2023 Council business meeting are available. <https://www.apa.org/about/governance/council/minutes-february-2023.pdf>

Minutes from previous meetings may be found on the Council of Representatives website. <https://www.apa.org/about/governance/council>

Prior to the most recent Council business meeting, which was August 1-3, 2023 in Washington DC, I shared the agenda items with you via our MPA member listserv. Agenda items that may be of interest to you are as follows.

- APA Race Conscious Admissions Policy Statement
- Resolution to Oppose Mental Health Screening Questions on Character and Fitness Examinations for Licensure to Practice Law
- Resolution on Psychological and Social Costs and Benefits of Adolescent Employment
- APA Guidelines for the Undergraduate Psychology Major: Version 3.0
- BEA Racial Disparities Task Force Report: Racism and Bias: Their Role in Maintaining Racial Disparities in PreK-12 Education
- Reiteration of APA's Values on Discrimination in Light of Contemporary Resurgence in Discrimination and Hate Crimes
- Forensic Psychology as a Specialty in Professional Psychology
- Healthcare Practice Guideline Policy
- APA Guidelines for Operational Psychology
- Board of Scientific Affairs Task Force Report on Tenure and Promotion for Faculty of Color

If you missed them or for a complete list, please go back to your listserv emails to find the information, or contact me, and I will email them to you. Once the August 2023 Council business minutes are available, I will share them.

Sincerely,

Natalie W. Gaughf, PhD, ABPP
APA Council Representative

MPA proudly supports and endorses:



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



MPA Leadership Recognition



Over the past few months, LDA Fellows have been surveying current MPA members as well as Mississippi licensed psychologists who are not members to help the association assess how it can better serve Mississippi psychologists. We were excited to hear their findings at the convention this year and look forward to using this data to adapt and improve MPA services.

We were honored to present awards of recognition to the 2023 LDA Fellows (Jennifer Ladner-Graham, Ph.D., Michael Prazak, Ph.D., & Brittany Sapp, Ph.D.), their Mentors (Natalie Gaughf, Ph.D., ABPP, Gus Sison, Ph.D., & Beverly Smallwood, Ph.D.), and to Amy Wilson and Kristy McRaney, Ph.D. for their service in establishing the Leadership Development Academy.



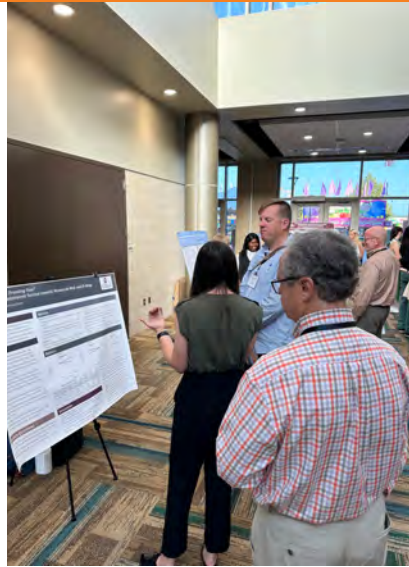
MPA proudly supports and endorses:



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



MPA Convention Recap!



MPA proudly supports and endorses:



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



2023 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President:

Kristy McRaney, Ph.D.
kristy.mcraney@usm.edu
Hattiesburg

President-Elect:

David Gavel, Ph.D.
steadfast.gavel@gmail.com
Hattiesburg

Immediate Past-President & Convention Chair:

Danielle Maack, Ph.D.
djmaack@deltaautumn.com
Oxford

Financial Officer:

Jeff Parker, Ph.D.
jparker@umc.edu
Jackson

Communications Officer:

Brian Thomas, PsyD, ABPP
drbrianthomas@drbrianthomas.com
Tupelo

Region 1 Representative:

Ty Stafford, Ph.D.
tws37@msstate.edu
Starkville

Region 2 Representative:

Liz Woodruff, Ph.D.
elissa@drelissawoodruff.com
Ridgeland

Region 3 Representative:

Geralyn Datz, Ph.D., MP
drdatz@southernbmed.com
Hattiesburg

Region 4 Representative:

Kathryn Waggoner, PsyD, ABPP
drwaggoner@phoenixpllc.com
Ocean Springs



PSYCHOLOGY CONNECT

PROVIDER-TO-PROVIDER REFERRALS FROM THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Psychology Connect is the National Register's new psychologist-to-psychologist patient referral website. Sign up and start immediately sending patient referral requests to licensed psychologists throughout the United States.



Scan the QR Code to send a referral today.

The National Register is proud to provide this **free public service** to all **licensed psychologists in the United States**. Help us spread the word about Psychology Connect by sending your licensed psychologist colleagues to Connect.NationalRegister.org.

MPA proudly supports and endorses:



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



MSBOP REAPPOINTMENTS

Molly Clark, Ph.D.
Lynwood Wheeler, Ph.D., ABPP



SAVE THE DATE



MPA DAY AT THE CAPITOL
January 17, 2024
8:00 am - 11:30 am

601-608-7677

WWW.MPASSOC.ORG

P.O. BOX 16544
JACKSON MS 39236

MPA proudly supports and endorses:



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

Ψ THE TRUST 14

INCOMING 2024 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President:

David Gavel, Ph.D.
steadfast.gavel@gmail.com
Hattiesburg

President-Elect:

Kathryn Waggoner, PsyD, ABPP
drwaggoner@phoenixpllc.com
Ocean Springs

Immediate Past-President & Convention Chair:

Kristy McRaney, Ph.D.
kristy.mcraney@usm.edu
Hattiesburg

Financial Officer:

Jeff Parker, Ph.D.
jparker@umc.edu
Jackson

Communications Officer:

Joshua Fulwiler, Ph.D.
cardinalclinical@gmail.com
Tupelo

Region 1 Representative:

Ty Stafford, Ph.D.
tws37@msstate.edu
Starkville

Region 2 Representative:

Liz Woodruff, Ph.D.
elissa@drelissawoodruff.com
Ridgeland

Region 3 Representative:

Geralyn Datz, Ph.D., MP
drdatz@southernbmed.com
Hattiesburg

Region 4 Representative:

VACANT

UPCOMING EVENTS

MPA Day at the Capitol

January 17, 2024

8:00 am - 11:30 am

Practice Leadership Conference

February 8–11, 2024

BYLAWS AMENDMENT REMINDER

Please review the proposed MPA Bylaws amendments on our website by navigating to the membership area of the website and selecting the Bylaws Update button at the bottom of the screen.

Voting opens October 9th and will remain open through October 23rd.

If you need assistance logging in, please contact us at info@mpassoc.org.

MPA proudly supports and endorses:



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



Save



**2024 MPA
CONVENTION**



25-27

September

The

MS
Gulf Coast

brate