

MPA NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2024



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ADJUST YOUR SAILS TO LEADERSHIP



MISSISSIPPI
PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
2024 CONVENTION

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2024

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Hattiesburg

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Region 4 Representative:

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APPOINTED POSITIONS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Kathryn Waggoner, PsyD, ABPP

Business of Practice Chair:

Liz Woodruff, Ph.D.

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Michael Nadorff, Ph.D.

Federal Advocacy Coordinator:

Danielle Maack, Ph.D.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



David Gavel, Ph.D.

Eric Erickson proposed a theory suggesting that optimal human development revolves around the formation of a stable and secure identity during the adolescent phase of life. At this critical juncture, Erickson argues, we are faced with the most important task in life: Identifying, questioning, and internalizing ideas about who we are. While many definitions of identity have been posited over the years, most will consistently describe identity as formed by the answers to questions like, “What do I believe?” About life. About the world. About religion. About occupations. About politics. About... well, you get the point. Erickson’s successor, James Marcia, furthered the concept with his theory of identity status and proposed four potential outcomes of this identity development phase. I’ll draw your attention to just two: Achieved and Foreclosed.

The Achieved Identity status is believed to be the ideal outcome in which an individual has considered options, critically considered their beliefs, queried their motivations, and reached conclusions for themselves. In this way, they have personally and intentionally decided on the things that form their identity. In contrast, the Foreclosed Identity status describes an individual who has also

reached conclusions about the kind of person they are. However, they did so by adopting and internalizing the beliefs of others without the process of exploring or critically thinking about WHY they believe those things. Research has demonstrated for years that individuals in the Foreclosed status are more vulnerable than the Achieved status for a host of negative outcomes when (not if) their firmly held beliefs are challenged. Why? Because they never formed their own personally articulated reasons for believing/acting/speaking/doing the things they do.

I happen to be a huge fan of the work that Erickson and Marcia did to blaze a trail for this theory of identity development. But I’m not here to brush you up on the theory or cause you to question your innermost being. Instead, I would propose that the task of critically thinking through what we believe and what we do should not be exclusive to matters of personal identity. In fact, I would argue that the more widely and firmly accepted the concept, the more critical it is to occasionally ask WHY that concept is held to be true. Like the scientific method, the question of why is not one of inherent doubt or disbelief. It is not one of criticism and it does not propose a lack of belief. Instead, it is rooted in a desire to seek understanding through observation and interpretation of data.

In the past 18 months, MPA leadership and committees have been engaged in the process of observing, exploring, and internalizing our organizational identity as defined by elements of structure, missions, goals, and purposes. You may have noticed this has led to some changes such as the updated website and membership events. Other changes are more subtle, such as annual convention structures or leadership opportunities. Plenty of elements have remained firmly unchanged and been solidified as remaining ideal for the MPA mission. I couldn’t be prouder of the groups of people who have made these things happen and as we enter into the fall convention season, I want to challenge everyone reading this (way too long) article to engage in the process of critically examining your professional identity as it relates to MPA.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED

Current Members: Why are you a member of MPA? Is it because that's what "good" psychologists in Mississippi do? Or maybe it's because that's what your mentors did and it's what you've always done? That's great, but let's build on it! Are there specific benefits you receive? Or maybe there are rewarding contributions you add to the MPA community?

Current Non-Members: You are hereby challenged to a dual! Wait, no. That's not cool. I meant, you are challenge to intentionally analyze the reasons that MPA membership is not currently part of your professional identity and articulate those reasons not only to yourself but to others. If you remain uninterested in joining, that is totally fine! But consider helping us better understand those reasons by sharing with a peer who is a member or send an email to the leadership team. Even better, tell us all about it at the Regional Mixer event in August or the Convention in September. Either way, please know that if you do not yet see a value of adding "MPA Member" to your professional identity, NOW is the perfect opportunity to be a part of creating the organization that IS of value.

Thanks for hearing me out and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,
David Gavel, Ph.D.
MPA President

JOIN MPA TODAY

Join MPA now and start tapping into exclusive member resources!

- ✓ Gain access to the MPA Listserv
- ✓ Receive members-only pricing at all MPA Events
- ✓ Get referrals from our online member database
- ✓ Grow your professional network

 **JOIN NOW**

Contact us with any questions!

-  (601) 608-7677
-  info@mpassoc.org



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT



Amanda Gugliano, PsyD

Hello, MPA Members.

I want to thank the MPA Executive Council for the opportunity to represent our membership as President-Elect. I was newly appointed to President-Elect on June 1, 2024. My predecessor, Dr. Kathryn Waggoner, unexpectedly moved out of state and made the difficult decision to step down. I am honored and excited to serve as President-Elect for the remainder of the year and know I have big shoes to fill.

For those of you who do not know me, I moved to Mississippi in 2007 to complete my predoctoral internship at Mississippi State Hospital (MSH). What I expected to be a one-year training experience turned into my career home. Since completing my internship, I have specialized in the field of forensic psychology. I have been the Director of the Forensic Evaluation Service at MSH since 2020. I also provide forensic psychological evaluations for federal and state courts through my private practice, Forensic Psychological Services, LLC.

Although I have been a longtime MPA member, I only became actively involved during the previous 3 to 4 years, when I became the Chair of the Psychology and Law Committee. Through this experience, and as I have taken on more leadership and administrative roles in my career at MSH, it has become abundantly clear that active MPA involvement is essential to both an individual's professional development and the overall development of the field of psychology within the state and even nationwide. MPA has provided me the chance to establish a network of professionals who have offered support and fellowship as I have navigated my career and personal hardships. On a broader scale, MPA has kept me abreast of relevant local and national psychology news and allowed me to have a voice in advocating for our profession.

As we look forward to the second half of this year, I strongly encourage all of our members to become involved in MPA. As the world and our field continue to evolve, your voice is needed to promote practices, policies, and legislation that foster advancements while maintaining the integrity of our profession.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions, concerns, or ideas, as I want to know what you think and how I can be most helpful. You can contact me at amanda.gugliano@msh.ms.gov.

I hope to see you at the MPA 2024 Annual Convention in Biloxi this September!

Sincerely,
Amanda L. Gugliano, PsyD
MPA President-Elect

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MPA Virtual Town Hall Recap

MPA hosted a successful Virtual Town Hall on July 30, 2024. The event, led by MPA Executive Director LaDarion Ammons, featured a diverse panel of experts and leaders.

MPA leadership, including Dr. David Gavel (President), Dr. Amanda Gugliano (President-Elect), and Dr. Kristy McRaney (Convention Chair), provided updates on the state of the association. Dr. Danielle Maack (MPA Federal Advocacy Coordinator) shared updates on Master's Level accreditation in psychology. Additionally, Janet Orwig (PSYPACT Executive Director) provided a brief overview of PSYPACT.

Below are the links to the presentations featured in the Town Hall.



**PSYPACT:
A BRIEF OVERVIEW**

**MASTER'S LEVEL
ACCREDITATION**

MPA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Following the successful efforts of the Mississippi Psychological Association (MPA), a psychology inter-jurisdictional compact was enacted, and PSYPACT became law on July 1, 2024. [SB 2157 - History of Actions/Background \(state.ms.us\)](#)

MPA members were invited to participate in an official bill signing with the Governor of Mississippi, Tate Reeves, on July 8, 2024. After the bill signing, participants walked to the Capital Club for a celebration social. It was a wonderful opportunity to commemorate MPA's achievement and network with colleagues.

I appreciate all who participated and know that you will enjoy these photos of the bill signing and social.

As always, please feel free to reach out to any Legislative Committee member to share information and ask questions: Dr. Hannah Ford, Dr. Natalie Gaughf (chair), Dr. Emily Thomas

Johnson, Dr. Nick McAfee, Dr. Cecile Morvan, Dr. Brittany Sapp, Jessica Utley, and Dr. Courtney Walker. I encourage you to be intentional about communicating with your regional representatives and MPA leadership about this law and others.

Sincerely,
Natalie W. Gaughf, PhD, ABPP
Chair, Legislative Committee



Natalie W. Gaughf,
PhD, ABPP



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SAVE THE DATE

REGION MIXERS

**REGION 1 - THE HOME OF ANGELA & JIM HERZOG IN
OXFORD, MS - AUGUST 9TH, 2024 - 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**

**REGION 2 - TEN ONE STRATEGIES OFFICE, 200 N. CONGRESS ST,
SUITE 501, JACKSON, MS - AUGUST 16TH, 2024 - 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**

**REGION 3 - KEG AND BARREL, 1315 HARDY ST,
HATTIESBURG, MS - AUGUST 15TH, 2024 - 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**

**REGION 4 - WHITE HOUSE HOTEL, 1230 BEACH BLVD,
BILOXI, MS - AUGUST 8TH, 2024 - 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**

RSVP: info@mpassoc.org

Letter from the Region 4 Representative

Greetings from the beautiful (and HOT) Mississippi Gulf Coast!

As I type this submission for our Summer Newsletter I cannot believe the summer is almost over. It is crazy to think that it has been almost a year since we were rocking with Elvis in Tupelo, yet registration for 2024 is already open. Before we know it, September will be here and you all will be joining me on the Coast for the convention.

More and more lately I find myself feeling like someone is hitting a fast-forward button and zooming me through life. In the midst of this fast pace, one of my personal and professional goals is to be mindful of my values and things that matter most. In my role as Region 4 Representative, this translates to a goal of increasing connection, strengthening relationships, and building support among psychologists in our state. While we all

love the convention, connecting once per year is not sufficient to maintain a level of collegial support that we all benefit from and (let's be honest) need.

To help facilitate this goal, I would like to pass along a new opportunity. I am very excited to invite you to the **Region 4 Mixer on Thursday, August 8th at the White House Hotel in Biloxi, MS from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.** I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to spend face-to-face time with colleagues. (And like all proper southern gatherings, there will be food and drinks involved.)

I am honored to be a representative of MPA and am looking forward to seeing you all soon. Please feel free to reach out me any time at jenniferladnergrahamphd@therapyllc.net. I would love to hear from you and welcome suggestions about how I (and MPA) can better serve you.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Ladner-Graham, Ph.D.
Region 4 Representative



Jennifer Ladner-Graham, Ph.D.





REGISTER TODAY!



BILOXI, MS

SEPTEMBER 25-27

2024

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



Irby Psychological SERVICES



LETTER FROM THE CONVENTION CHAIR



Hello, MPA Members.

I'm excited to see you all at the convention in just a few short months. This year's theme is focused on leadership, and we have a great line-up planned! I hope you will join us!

If you haven't caught it yet, our keynote speaker is one that many of you may know! I couldn't be more excited that our keynote this year will be Dr. Jana Martin. She has a wealth of knowledge in leadership having held numerous leadership positions, including CEO of The Trust. Dr. Martin also established The Trust SPTA Leadership Development Academy Pilot Program – the very program that provided the necessary supports to establish our very own Leadership Development Academy. We will also be back

Kristy McRaney, Ph.D. on the coast for the first time since pre-pandemic days!

Okay – are you as excited as I am now? I hope so, because registration is open! Check out the tentative agenda, and make sure to register before rates go up on September 3, 2024.

I'm also very happy to report that our second cohort of MPA's Leadership Development Academy (LDA) will be kicking off at the convention. LDA is a great opportunity for members of all stages of their career to become involved with! Head over to www.mpassoc.org/leadership-development-academy to learn more and see what LDA fellows and mentors have to say about their experiences in LDA!!

I cannot wait to see all of you in September! As always, please don't hesitate to reach out if I can support you in any way.

Kristy McRaney, Ph.D.
Immediate Past-President & 2024 Convention Chair
kristy.mcraney@usm.edu



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AGENDA



DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH

- 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM: **CE Workshop I: (7.0 CE credits)** *Separate Registration Required*
(1-hour lunch break on your own 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM)
Introduction to Competence to Stand Trial Evaluations as a Certified Forensic Evaluator – Amanda Gugliano, Psy.D. (Room 1)
Leadership Development Academy (LDA) (Room 3)
- 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM: **CE WS II: (2.0 CE credits)** *Separate Registration Required*
Sailing Through Rough Waves: Navigating Behavior Chains to Understand Problematic Behaviors – Danielle Maack, Ph.D. (Room 2)
- 2:30 PM – 3:00 PM: **Break**
- 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM: **CE WS III: (2.0 CE credits)** *Separate Registration Required*
Assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorder Across the Lifespan: Best Practices and Current Trends – Tera Bradley, Ph.D. (Room 2)
- 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM: **Welcome Reception with Exhibitors!**

DAY 2: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

- 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM **Gavel Club Breakfast** (Board Room)
- 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM **Breakfast with Exhibitors & Poster Session** (Room 1)
- 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM **General Session: (1.0 CE credit)** Diversity – Dr. Holloway (Room 1)
- 10:30 AM – 10:45 AM **Break with Exhibitors**
- 10:45 AM – 11:45 AM **Session 1A: (1.0 CE credit)**
Lie Detection 401, David Gavel, Ph.D. (Room 1)
- Session 1B: (1.0 CE credit)** Introduction to Assessment and Treatment of Children with OCD – Leslie C. Higgins, Psy.D. (Room 2)
- 11:45 AM – 12:00 PM **Break with Exhibitors**
- 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM **Lunch Session: (1.0 CE credit)**
Setting Sail for Your Successful Leadership Journey
Jana Martin, Ph.D. (Room 1)
- 1:00 PM – 1:30 PM **Poster Voting** (Room 1)

SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

AGENDA



DAY 2: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

- 1:45 PM – 2:45 PM **Session 2A:** Data Blitz (Room 1)
- Session 2B: (Non-CE)** Trauma-Informed Organizational Leadership, C. Randy Cotton, Ph.D. (Room 3)
- Board Meeting:** MS Board of Psychology (Room 2)
- 2:45 PM – 3:00 PM **Break with Exhibitors**
- 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM **Session 3A: (1.0 CE credit)** Grant Funding for Clinical Services: A Primer with Case Examples, Kelsey Bonfils, Ph.D. (Room 1)
- Session 3B: (1.0 CE credit)** Utility of Psychologists in Responding to Behavioral Health Needs within the Public Education Systems in Mississippi, Emily Thomas Johnson, Ph.D. (Room 2)
- 4:00 PM – 4:15 PM **Break with Exhibitors**
- 4:15 PM – 5:30 PM **General Session: (1.25 CE ethics credits)** Leadership Through Legislation, Natalie W. Gaughf, PhD, ABPP (Room 1)
- 6:30 PM **Dinner & Awards** (location TBA)

DAY 3: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH

- 8:30 AM – 9:15 AM **Breakfast & Membership Meeting**
- 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM **General Session: (1.0 CE ethics credit)** Intro to Practicing under PSYPACT: Everything You Wanted to Know about PSYPACT, Janet P. Orwig, MBA, CAE (Room 1)
- 10:15 AM – 10:30 AM **Break**
- 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM **Closing Session: (2.0 CE ethics credits)** National Trends in the Regulation and Practice of Psychology, Panel Discussion with Lisa Yazdani, Ph.D. (Room 1)

SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE



MPA is an APA-approved CESA sponsor and an approved CE provider by the MS Board of Psychology.

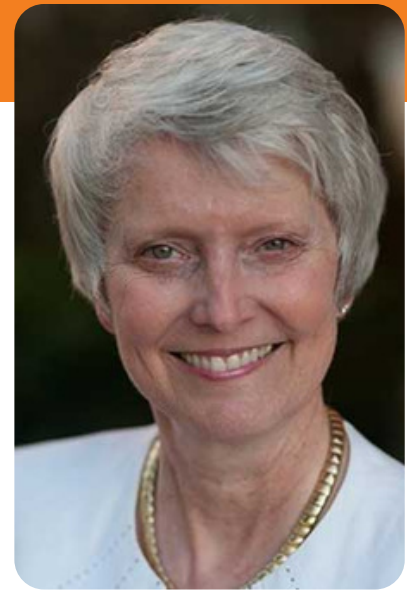
Regular Convention attendance provides up to 8.25 CESA/APA credits, including 3.25 ethics credits
Pre-Convention Workshops offer an additional 7.0 CESA/APA credits*
(*separate registration required)

In addition to the APA CE credits above, the MS Board of Psychology will also accept up to 3.0 additional credit hours for attending the full Regular Convention (see [Rule 12.3B](#))

The Mississippi Psychological Association is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Mississippi Psychological Association maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

CONVENTION KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Martin has a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and years of experience in leadership both within the profession of psychology (e.g., CEO of The Trust; Los Angeles County Psychological Association and California Psychological Association President and Board member; APA Council of Representatives for Division 42); and outside of the profession (e.g., Chief Psychologist, East Mississippi State Hospital; Director of Human Resources for the MS Department of Mental Health; President of Soroptimist International of Long Beach, CA). Additionally, she has provided keynote addresses and workshops throughout her career, including many on the topic of leadership. At The Trust she established The Trust SPTA Leadership Development Academy Pilot Program.



Jana Martin, Ph.D.

THROWBACK FROM OUR HISTORIAN

MPA welcomes the return of Dr. Jana Martin as keynote speaker at our 2024 Convention! Dr. Martin has maintained her membership in MPA since leaving after her PhD at Ole Miss and eventual role as CEO of the Trust, from which she recently retired.



Pictured L to R: the late Dr. CD Gaston, Dr. Jim Herzog, Dr. Angela Herzog, Dr. Tom Lombardo, Dr. Martin, Dr. Mike Roberts, Dr. Mike Oliver, Dr. Phil Cooker, Dr. Karen Christoff

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annual conference in September



NOMINATION FORM

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Ψ THE TRUST 15

LETTER FROM THE FEDERAL ADVOCACY COORDINATOR



Danielle Maack, Ph.D.

Federal Advocacy Coordinator:

Hi everyone, I wanted to update the membership on the most recent Federal Advocacy happenings as well as APA's current Grassroots Advocacy focus. June 9th-12th I traveled to Washington D.C. and participated in the APA Grassroots Fly-In and Capitol Hill Visits. Following a lovely meet-and-greet reception Sunday evening with all the advocates, we started Monday off with a full day of advocacy training. The day was awesome, and we learned more about the current congressional environment (and differences related to this being an election year), were provided with training related to the current bills that are the APA's focus, and solidified strategies for making our advocacy requests.

On Tuesday, during our Capitol Hill Visits, I was able to connect with the offices of Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, Senator Roger Wicker, and Representative Trent Kelly. The three main topics of conversation included the need for continued flexibility in the delivery of telemental health services; how independent practice for psychologists in Medicare will improve access to

services; and the benefits of integrating mental and behavioral health specialists into team-based primary care systems.

Here are the factsheets for the proposed bills (specifically for the Senate) that we brought to congressional attention:

- Increasing Mental Health Options Act, S.669 ([factsheet](#))
- Connecting Our Medical Providers with Links to Expand Tailored and Effective (COMPLETE) Care Act, S.1378 ([factsheet](#))
- Telemental Health Care Access Act of 2024, S.3651 ([factsheet](#))

In the meetings with the Mississippi offices, all congressional staff and Senator Wicker himself agreed that telehealth access for psychologists is instrumental, and added that they are in full support of continuing allowances for telehealth services as a part of health care. The main concern that was shared by both APA and congressional staff was uncertainty if bills will be getting through committee and having floor votes during this legislative cycle (with the upcoming elections). Especially with CMS having telemental health coverage (including audio only) sunsetting December 31, 2024, this advocacy is important. There might be some "Call to Actions" this fall related to this bill, so please be on the lookout for any of those emails.

With Senator Wicker, in addition to meeting with his staff and receiving a VIP tour of the Capitol Building (a real behind-the-scenes tour including raising the tram in the underground tunnels-very cool if you can get the chance to do this!), I had the opportunity to attend his "Mississippi Morning". Individuals from Mississippi who were in town for advocacy (or visiting D.C.) were invited to have breakfast with Senator Wicker, his wife, and staff. It was a nice time to meet and talk with the Senator and other Mississippi advocates more informally. If you are ever in D.C. visiting and the Senate is in session, you can request to be a part of "Mississippi Morning" with Senator Wicker and his office (<https://www.wicker.senate.gov/mississippi-morning>).

(continued...)

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LETTER FROM THE FEDERAL ADVOCACY COORDINATOR CONTINUED

Once again, being in D.C. really accentuates the need for Grassroots Advocacy (at state and federal levels). I am appreciative of the opportunity to represent the concerns and needs of Mississippi psychologists to our federally elected officials, and to continue to develop the relationships with other APA advocates representing their states. Dr. Jennifer Kelly also says hello to everyone and mentioned that she is very happy that PSYPACT legislation was passed in Mississippi!

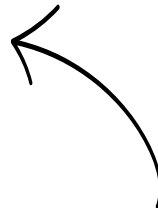
If there are any areas that you are particularly interested in for our state, please let me know so we can have more discussion and I can relay to the APA Grassroots team what our members are seeing as in need of attention by our federal lawmakers. If you have any questions or would like more details about the congressional visits, please don't hesitate to contact me!

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

**Pictured on the right:
Danielle Maack, Ph.D. with
Senator Roger Wicker**



**Pictured below: Danielle
Maack, Ph.D. with
Jennifer Kelly, Ph.D.,
ABPP**



**Pictured above: Danielle Maack, Ph.D.
with Abbey Herfurth, J.D.; Legislative
Director/Counsel for Representative
Trent Kelly**



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SPTAS SPECIAL SUPPORT PROGRAM



We are thrilled to announce that the Mississippi Psychological Association has been selected as one of six recipients of the SPTA's Special Support Program! Initiated by Division 31 President, Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD, this program provides applicants the chance to receive up to three original paintings for fundraising purposes.

We are excited to include the two paintings we received in our upcoming silent auction at our annual convention. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for this generous selection!

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