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COMMITTEE UPDATE



2025 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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& Convention Chair:**

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Hattiesburg

Region 4 Representative:

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Picayune

APPOINTED POSITIONS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Kathryn Waggoner, PsyD, ABPP

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Sarah Irby, Ph.D.

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MPA proudly supports and endorses:



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Amanda Gugliano, PsyD

Hello MPA Members,

Summer often brings a welcome shift in pace, allowing us a chance to step back, reflect, and explore new perspectives. In this spirit, our summer Town Hall Series has created a platform for shared learning opportunities and discussion about prominent topics in the practice of psychology in Mississippi (and it doesn't hurt that you can obtain valuable CE credits!). In June, the Town Hall focused on emerging licensure for masters-degree psychology professionals. In July, we discussed prescriptive privileges (RxP) for psychologists in Mississippi. In August, I plan to lead a Town Hall on the topic of using artificial intelligence (AI) in psychological practice.

Much of the world, including the field of psychology, is undergoing a revolution, driven by advances in AI. While the therapeutic alliance and human connection remain central to clinical practice, AI offers a powerful tool that can augment and support psychologists in providing more

effective, personalized, and accessible care. AI-driven tools can analyze speech, text, or behavioral patterns to help identify symptoms of mental health conditions. These technologies can serve as screening tools, helping clinicians make more informed diagnostic decisions. In therapy, AI can assist with treatment planning by identifying which interventions may be most effective for a particular individual, based on large datasets and outcome trends. Additionally, AI-powered chatbots and mobile apps can provide psychoeducation, coping strategies, and between-session support, increasing access to mental health resources.

Despite the benefits, the integration of AI into clinical practice raises important ethical and practical concerns. Issues around data privacy, algorithmic bias, and the accuracy of AI-generated insights must be carefully managed. Psychologists have a responsibility to ensure that any AI tools used in practice are evidence-based, secure, and applied with informed consent.

Furthermore, AI should always serve to support—not replace—the human expertise and empathy at the heart of psychological care.

As AI technology evolves, so too will its role in clinical settings. Rather than viewing AI as a threat to the profession, psychologists can see it as a collaborator—one that enhances their ability to deliver compassionate, data-informed care. The key lies in thoughtful integration, ongoing research, and a steadfast commitment to ethical principles. Want to learn more about AI in psychology? I hope to see you at our upcoming Town Hall webinar on ethical technology use in psychology.

Sincerely,
Amanda L. Gugliano, PsyD
MPA President

KARL F. HEISER APA PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR ADVOCACY

Congratulations to Dr. Natalie Gaughf!

The Mississippi Psychological Association proudly congratulates Dr. Natalie Gaughf on being awarded the 2025 Karl F. Heiser APA Presidential Award for Advocacy, one of the American Psychological Association's highest honors.

Dr. Gaughf has dedicated her career to advancing psychology through legislative and regulatory advocacy. She played a key role in bringing PSYPACT to Mississippi, making it possible for psychologists to provide telehealth across state lines and increasing access to care for rural and underserved communities. She also led efforts to extend the state's psychology licensure law and championed legislation adding new seats to the Mississippi State Board of Psychology, ensuring stronger professional representation.

In addition, Dr. Gaughf has worked tirelessly to block harmful legislation, strengthen insurance parity, and raise the visibility of psychologists in important policy conversations. Her leadership, vision, and voluntary service have strengthened the profession and benefited communities across the state.

This well-deserved national recognition highlights the profound impact of Dr. Gaughf's work, and we are thrilled to celebrate her achievements.



Natalie W. Gaughf, PhD, ABPP

MPA INVITES YOU TO SEEK FELLOW STATUS!

MPA's Nomination Committee invites eligible members to self-nominate or to be nominated for Fellow status. This invitation reflects MPA's desire to recognize individuals who have been leaders and representatives of the Association and those who have advanced the discipline of psychology in the State of Mississippi. Please submit your name and completed narrative application OR the name of a MPA colleague for consideration by SEPTEMBER 15, 2025 by emailing Angela Herzog at aoherzog56@gmail.com.

CURRENT MPA FELLOWS

Pat Alexander, Ph.D.
Mardi Allen, Ph.D.
Karen Christoff, Ph.D.
Molly Clark, Ph.D.
Jesse Dees, Ph.D.
Natalie Gaughf, Ph.D., ABPP
Angela Herzog, Ph.D.
Jim Herzog, Ph.D.
Suzanne Jourdan, Ph.D.

Angela Koestler, Ph.D.
Criss Lott, Ph.D.
C. Gerald O'Brien, Ph.D.
Jeff Parker, Ph.D.
Michael Roberts, Ph.D.
Beverly Smallwood, Ph.D.
Patrick Smith, Ph.D., ABPP
John Stoudenmire, Ph.D.



76TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE
MISSISSIPPI PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

STRANGER MINDS



Exploring the
Uncharted Territories
of Psychology

SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2025

IP RESORT & SPA
BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

REGISTRATION OPEN

KEYNOTE SPOTLIGHT DR. TIM HOYT

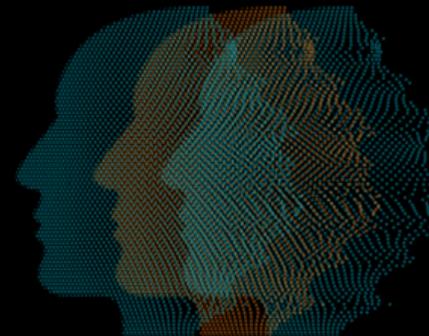
SESSION 1: MY JOURNEY IN
MILITARY PSYCHOLOGY:
ADAPTING CARE OUTSIDE THE
CLINIC

SESSION 2: THE FUTURE OF
MILITARY PSYCHOLOGY:
MENTAL HEALTH PREPARATION
FOR THE NEXT CONFLICT



Dr. Tim Hoyt is currently the Deputy Director for Force Resiliency in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and is a career member of the Senior Executive Service. Dr. Hoyt was commissioned as an Officer in the Medical Service Corps of the United States Army in 2007 through the Health Professions Scholarship Program, and began his professional career as the Chief Psychology Resident at Madigan Army Medical Center. After deploying as the lead of a behavioral health team supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, Dr. Hoyt subsequently served in civilian roles as the chief of an embedded behavioral health clinic, director of an intensive outpatient program for posttraumatic stress disorder, director of the National Center for Telehealth & Technology, and director of the Psychological Health Center of Excellence. As a Military Psychologist he has authored over 100 scientific research articles on combat-related stress, posttraumatic stress disorder, and adapting treatment for deployed settings. He received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of New Mexico.

Agenda



Day 1: Wednesday, September 24th

- 9:00 AM - 12:15 PM: **Leadership Development Academy (LDA) (Board Room)**
- 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM: **CE Workshop I: (4.0 CE credits) *Separate Registration Required***
Stranger Minds on Trial: Exploring the Boundaries Between Mental Illness and Legal Insanity – Stephanie M. Howard, Psy.D. **(Ballroom G)**
- 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM: Lunch Break
- 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM: **CE WS II: (2.0 CE credits) *Separate Registration Required***
Introducing the WAIS-5: A Clinician's Guide to Administration and Scoring – Ashley Jones, Ph.D. **(Ballroom F)**
- 3:30 PM - 3:35 PM: **Break**
- 3:35 PM - 5:35 PM: **CE WS III: (2.0 CE credits) *Separate Registration Required***
Invisible Wounds: The Mystery and Misconception of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury – B. Heath Gordon, Ph.D., ABPP; Anne Carlew, Ph.D., Jessica W. Utley, M.S. **(Ballroom F)**
- 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM: **Poster Session Setup**
- 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM: **Welcome Reception with Exhibitors!**

Day 2: Thursday, September 25th

- 7:30 AM - 8:00 AM: **Poster Session Setup**
- 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM: **Gavel Club Breakfast (3rd Floor Ballroom H)**
- 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM: **Breakfast with Exhibitors & Poster Session (Ballroom B)**
- 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM: **General Session: (1.5 CE credit) My Journey in Military Psychology: Adapting Care Outside the Clinic - Tim Hoyt, Ph.D. (Ballroom A)**
- 10:30 AM - 10:45 AM: **Break with Exhibitors**
- 10:45 AM - 11:45 AM: **Session 1A: (1.0 CE credit) Integrating Evidence Based Practices in Clinical Care: Core Components, Limitations, and Treatment Recommendations - Shannon Fussell, Ph.D., Michael Prazak, Ph.D. (Ballroom A)**
- Session 1B: (1.0 CE credit) SOARing into New Territory: Lauching Mississippi's First Statewide Preventive Care Clinic for High Risk of Psychosis - Ashley Jones, Ph.D. (Ballroom B)**
- 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM: **The Stranger Social: Region Networking Lunch (Ballroom)**
- Poster Voting (Pre-Function Area)**

Schedule is subject to change

Agenda



STRANGER MINDS

Day 2: Thursday, September 25th

- 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM: **Session 2A: (1.5 CE credit)** Stranger Dreams: Three Empirically-Supported Treatments for Nightmare Disorder and Considerations for Special Populations - Michael R. Nadorff, Ph.D. **(Ballroom B)**
- Session 2B: (1.5 CE credit)** An Introduction and Primer for Using the Alternative Model of Personality Disorders in Clinical Practice - Hilary L. DeShong, Ph.D., Chris Guadalupe, M.S., Yasmine Griffin, M.S. **(Ballroom A)**
- Session 2C: (Non-CE)** Demystifying the Psychology Internship: Insight from Internship Training Directors - Panel Discussion
- 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM: **Open Meeting: MS Board of Psychology (Board Room G-F)**
- Data Blitz (Ballroom A)**
- 3:45 PM - 4:00 PM: **Break with Exhibitors**
- 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM: **Session 3A: (1.0 CE credit)** Improving Culturally-Competent Mental Health Care for Individuals of Immigrant Origin - Cecile I. Morvan, Ph.D., Shannon M. Moore, Ph.D., Tanja Seifen, Ph.D. **(Ballroom A)**
- Session 3B: (Pending 1.0 CE credit)**, Role of Neuropsychologists in Awake Craniotomy - Nathan Ross, Ph.D. **(Ballroom B)**
- 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM: **Break with Exhibitors**
- 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM: **Awards Reception, Dinner, & Silent Auction (Ballroom B)**

Day 3: Friday, September 26th

- 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM: **Breakfast & Membership Meeting (Ballroom A)**
- 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM: **General Session: (1.5 CE credit)** The Future of Military Psychology: Mental Health Preparation for the Next Conflict - Tim Hoyt, Ph.D. **(Ballroom A)**
- 10:35 AM - 11:35 AM: **Session 4A: (1.0 CE credit)** Men (or Lack Thereof) in Psychology: Examining Causes, Impacts, and Ways Forward - Panel Discussion **(Ballroom B)**
- 10:35 AM - 12:05 PM: **Session 4B: (1.5 CE credit)** Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management - Kristi Crane, Psy.D. **(Ballroom A)**

Schedule is subject to change

Early registration ends September 2nd! Registrations received after that date will incur an additional \$50 fee.

Regular Convention attendance provides up to 8.00 CESA/APA credits
An additional 8.0 CESA/APA credits are offered in Pre-Convention Workshops (separate registration required)

Return the completed form by September 2, 2025. Email: info@mpassoc.org
Mail: MPA, P.O. Box 16544, Jackson, MS 39236, or register and pay by credit card, go to www.mpassoc.org

MPA Hotel Rates are available Tuesday, September 23rd through Thursday, September 25th, IP Resort & Spa – \$89.99/night – cutoff date September 2nd, 850 BAYVIEW AVENUE • BILOXI, MS 39530 • 888-946-2847 Group's Code: MPAI25C

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

Call For AUCTION ITEMS

Now accepting silent auction donations! Whether it's a unique item, a memorable experience, or a crowd favorite, your contribution will help raise valuable funds and enhance this year's event.



This year, the auction spans both realms: virtual and in-person. Some items will be available online for our remote adventurers, while exclusive treasures will be up for grabs onsite at the convention.

All proceeds of this year's silent auction will support the MPA Political Action Committee (PAC). Please complete the form and return it to: MPA Convention Chair, David Gavel, steadfast.gavel@gmail.com or MPA Executive Director, LaDarion Ammons, at mpa@mpassoc.org.

76TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE
MISSISSIPPI PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

STRANGER MINDS

Exploring the
Uncharted Territories
of Psychology

SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2025

IP RESORT & SPA
BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

RAPID SUBMISSIONS

The Mississippi Psychological Association invites student first-authors to submit abstracts for the 2025 Annual Convention in Biloxi, MS.

Undergraduate and graduate students may submit in two categories:

- Student Poster Presentation
- Student Data Blitz (oral presentation)

Winners will be announced at the Convention Dinner on Thursday, September 25, 2025. Eligibility:

- Students must be first authors and present at the MPA Annual Convention in Biloxi on Thursday, September 25, 2025.
- Presenting authors must register for the convention.

How to Apply:

- Submit your proposal using the online Google Form:

DEADLINE:

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

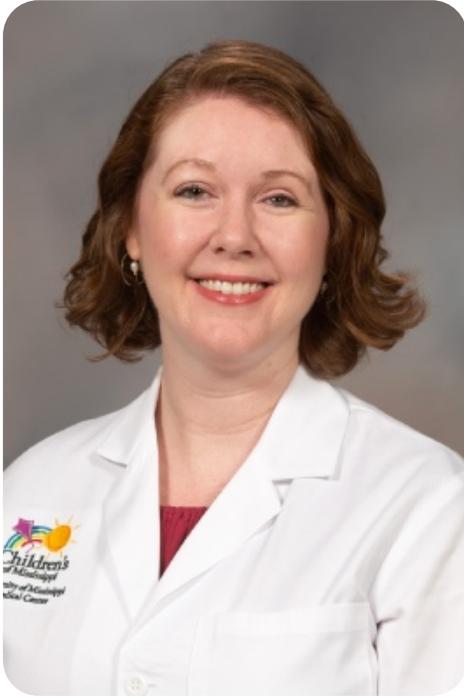
NOTIFICATION:

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025



SCAN HERE

INTRODUCING OUR NEW APA REPRESENTATIVE: DR. CYNTHIA KARLSON



Cynthia W. Karlson, PhD

We are pleased to announce that, as of January 1, 2026, Dr. Cynthia Karlson will serve as our new representative to the American Psychological Association (APA). Dr. Karlson brings a wealth of experience, dedication, and leadership to this important role.

As APA Representative, Dr. Karlson will serve as a vital connection between our association and the APA, ensuring that our members' voices are heard at the national level. She will work to keep our organization informed of developments within the APA, advocate for policies that support psychologists and the profession, and foster collaboration between our state and the larger community of psychology professionals.

Dr. Karlson has a distinguished background in psychology, with extensive experience in both clinical practice and academic leadership. She has been deeply involved in advancing the profession, championing issues of advocacy, education, and professional development. Her commitment to strengthening the role of psychologists and her passion for representing the needs of our members make her an outstanding choice for this position.

We look forward to working with Dr. Karlson as she begins her term as APA Representative. Please join us in congratulating her and welcoming her to this important leadership role.

MPA RECEIVES APA LEGISLATIVE AND ASSOCIATION SUPPORT GRANTS

The Mississippi Psychological Association is grateful to the American Psychological Association (APA) for awarding us both the Legislative Grant in the amount of \$10,000 and a Small State Operational Grant in the amount of \$5,000. These grants play a vital role in helping us advance our mission. The Legislative Grant strengthens our advocacy efforts on behalf of psychology in Mississippi, while the Association Support Grant provides resources that allow us to enhance member services, improve organizational initiatives, and expand opportunities for professional growth.

We sincerely appreciate APA's partnership and continued support as we work to promote psychology and serve our members across the state.



**AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION**

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND ADOLESCENT WELL-BEING

AN APA HEALTH ADVISORY



The use of artificial intelligence (AI) is expanding rapidly, with increasing adoption among youth.¹ AI offers new efficiencies and opportunities, yet its deeper integration into daily life requires careful consideration to ensure that AI tools are safe, especially for adolescents (generally considered to be between ages 10 and 25).^{2,3}

AI is embedded in many types of applications and programs, ranging from more subtle uses (e.g., predictive text, autocomplete, shopping recommendations) to a more substantial presence (e.g., chatbots, job application reviews, warning systems). We refer to generative AI as including applications that can generate humanlike text, create photorealistic images, produce lifelike audio, and create realistic videos, all of which can influence young people's perceptions and behaviors.⁴ We refer to interactive AI as platforms or tools that facilitate human-AI interactions, such as real-time conversations, personalized learning experiences, relationships, and tailored content recommendations.⁵ Both interactive and generative AI have the potential to shape young people's development, interactions, and understanding of the world. Furthermore, AI is increasingly being used to automate decision-making (e.g., school admissions, medical diagnosis, automated grading) that can have long-lasting consequences for youth.

Ensuring adolescents' safety and well-being requires action from numerous stakeholders, including but not limited to parents, caregivers, educators, policymakers, technology industry professionals, adolescents, and platforms that develop and/or host AI tools. This report offers a series of recommendations, some of which may be enacted immediately by parents/caregivers, youth, or educators. Others will require more substantial change by platforms, policymakers, and/or technology professionals. All should review the recommendations below and consider how best to address each.



MPA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE



Natalie W. Gaughf, PhD, ABPP

APA Council of Representatives Update: August 2025 Council Business Meeting

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. 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.

I serve as the Council Representative for Mississippi, and I am planning to participate in the August meeting.

Agenda items for the upcoming August meeting that may be of interest to you are as follows.

- Council Policy Manual: Extension of Guidelines – Competencies for Psychology Practice in Primary Care and the Standards and Criteria for Approval of Sponsors of Continuing Education
- Extension of Recognition of Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology – Addiction Psychology as a proficiency in professional psychology, to expire in August 2026 ; a one-year extension of recognition of Clinical Health Psychology, Couple and Family Psychology, and Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy as specialties in professional psychology, to expire in August 2026; a one-year extension of recognition of Biofeedback and Applied Psychophysiology and Sport Psychology as proficiencies in professional psychology, to expire in August 2027; a one-year extension of recognition of Clinical Neuropsychology, Industrial-Organizational Psychology, Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology, Serious Mental Illness Psychology as specialties in professional psychology, to expire in August 2027; and a one-year extension of recognition of School Psychology, Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology, Police and Public Safety Psychology, and Clinical Psychopharmacology as specialties in professional psychology, to expire in August 2028
- Guidelines for Clinical Supervision in Health Service Psychology
- Licensed Practice for Master’s Health Service Psychology Professionals: Operational Principles
- Resolution on Ageism
- Resolution on the Psychological Needs of Children Exposed to Disasters
- Guidelines for Psychology’s Role in Pediatric to Adult Health Care Transition
- Professional Practice Guidelines for Psychologists in the Assessment of Psychological Trauma in Adults
- Professional Practice Guidelines on Psychologists’ Involvement in Pharmacological Issues
- Policy Statement on Disability Inclusion: Combating the Stigma and Discrimination of Ableism
- Policy Statement on Recording Traditional Wisdom and Psychological Science

Minutes from previous meetings may be found on the Council of Representatives website.

<https://www.apa.org/about/governance/council>

If you have questions or feedback about any of these items, please reach out to me.

Sincerely,
Natalie W. Gaughf, PhD, ABPP
APA Council Representative



JOIN MPA FOR 2026 AND GET THE REST OF 2025 FREE!

Plus a member discount at the 2025 convention!



Our Service:

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

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- 🌐 www.mpassoc.org/membership
- 📍 P.O. Box 16544
Jackson, MS 39236
- ✉ info@mpassoc.org

Do you want to **be the difference** in someone's life?

We're working to *better the public good*, and our Mississippi facilities need your skills.

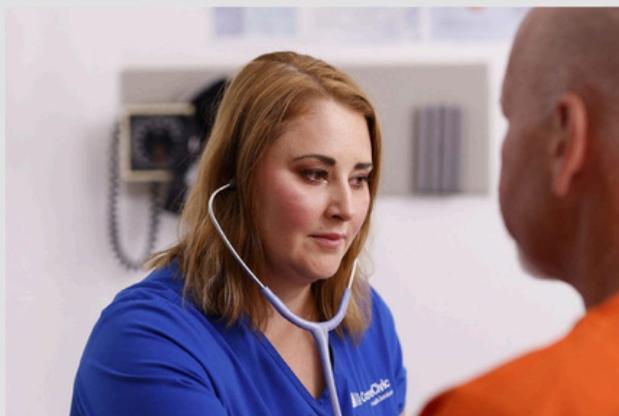


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Licensed Psychologist



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Natchez, MS 39120



NOW HIRING

RN/LPN



Tallahatchie County
Correctional Facility
19351 US Hwy 49 N.
Tutwiler, MS 38963



CoreCivic is a Drug-Free Workplace and EOE – including Disability/Veteran.

ATTENTION PSYCHOLOGISTS

PLEASE SEARCH YOUR PAPER FILES

The MPA History & Archives Committee seeks copies of past years' MPA Convention Programs and MPA Newsletters.

While electronic files are also welcomed, we seek to reconstruct the history of the field of psychology in Mississippi, much which may not have been digitally recorded at the time. **ALL MATERIALS YOU LOCATE WILL BE UTILIZED AND IMMENSELY APPRECIATED.**

Please contact Angela Herzog at aohertzog56@gmail.com or 601-942-2865 so that I can arrange to pick up or pay for shipping.