Focus on 31

Summer 2015 • Volume 47 • Issue 2

We’re at the Halfway Mark: What It Means

by Cathy McDaniels-Wilson, PhD, ABPP

In my sixth months as President of Division 31, I wanted to share a brief summary of some of the highlights during my initial tenure.

I want to provide a brief recap of Division 31’s presence at the 2015 State Leadership Conference, beginning with the Diversity Leadership Program, created during Dr. Jennifer Kelley’s presidency. This program was created in part to provide additional leadership training to those Diversity Delegates who were in attendance at SLC year after year, but were not making advances into state or APA leadership. After much discussion, Dr. Kelly realized delegates lacked the opportunity to address the barriers they faced.

At the invitation of Dr. Nordal, Dr. Sandy Shulman agreed to organize a team of faculty to put together a program that would address barriers to leadership, leadership readiness, cultural implications, mentoring and much more. The faculty has included Dr. Shulman, Dr. Jessica Henderson Daniels, former APA President Dr. Melba Vasquez and me.

This program, offered every other year, has graduated 43 members of color over the past eight years. Each session continues to grow and the graduates continue to become more and more involved in leadership in their state associations and within APA, which we find exciting.

Division 31 presented the following awards during the Award Ceremony at SLC:

**The Division 31 Early Career Psychologist Initiative Award:** The Arkansas Psychological Association actively focused on recruitment and engagement of ECP members, with sponsored activities and initiatives that support ECP development by preparing them for the future of psychology.

**The Division 31 Outstanding SPTA Award:** The Illinois Psychological Association RxP subcommittee was successful in having their RxP Bill passed and signed into law on June 25, 2015. This was due, in part, to the impressive advocacy, outreach efforts, dedication and team work of the IPA leadership team. The association has made significant gains to advance diversity for its members and within its leadership through collaborative efforts with community-based groups, mentorship and its processes to sustain all of the above.

**Division 31’s Diversity Award:** The Oregon Psychological Association actively and purposely worked to promote diversity in psychology. In January 2015, the Oregon Board of Examiners passed a new rule for cultural competency/sensitivity training in psychology. Psychology is the first of all health professions in Oregon to implement a Cultural Competency requirement. Way to go Oregon!

Congratulations to New Officers!

Congratulations to these newly elected officers for the coming year:

**Division 31 President-elect** Linda K. Nauss, PhD, ABPP

**CLC Liaison** Erica Wise, PhD
SPTA Updates Cover a Wide Range of Activities

Jennifer F. Kelly, PhD, ABPP
Arizona
Arizona held a program for students and newcomers to political advocacy, titled: Advocacy and Psychology 101. It was organized by a committee of post-docs and students and was attended by 55 post-docs and students. Arizona has held two PQRS informational salons in the past few months. Participants asked AzPA to start a PQRS listserv for them. We have had phenomenal response, and are planning a workshop as part of our convention in October. We had a joint meeting with other mental health related organizations exploring ways we could work together to the benefit of the public and the professions. We identified specific areas of mutual interest on which we will begin to collaborate.

New Jersey
NJPA leadership and staff are stressing to our membership that “Together, We Are NJPA” and together our collective futures are in all of our hands. Two new Task Forces were recently approved. The Medicaid Task Force focuses on how the changes in the health care system have impacted practicing psychologists and those seeking mental health services under the Affordable Care Act. The Entrepreneurial Task Force addresses the needs of independent practice psychologists.

NJPA is focused on our three legislative priorities: a Bill which requires continuing education for licensed practicing psychologists has passed the Assembly and the Senate Committee; a Bill which grants prescriptive authority to qualified psychologists is waiting to be posted by the Assembly; and the Bill which requires certain health benefits plans to provide treatment for behavioral health care services when determined medically necessary was reported from Senate Committee with amendments. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie signed into law a bill that permits the incorporation of psychologists. This bill permits psychologists to incorporate under the law with other licensed health care providers such as medical physicians, physical therapists, and registered professional nurses.

North Carolina
The North Carolina Psychological Association has been a leader in an NC coalition that includes BCBSNC, psychiatry, advocacy organizations and autism treatment programs that developed an autism insurance coverage bill that defines adaptive behavior treatment, maintains mental health parity and would provide a $40,000 benefit for individuals up to age 18. The bill has passed the NC Senate on a vote of 47-1, and is now in the House.

Indiana
IPA supported several bills that the Indiana legislature passed that will improve access to mental health assessment and treatment, reduce recidivism and improve continuity of care. Last year (2014) also proved to be very busy for continuing education and membership efforts of the Indiana Psychological Association. Continuing Education (CE) meeting attendance was strengthened with record attendance in 2014 at our Trust-sponsored Ethics Conference and Annual Fall Conference. Nearly 100 new members were recruited throughout 2014, and 18 new psychologist members during the first six months of 2015.

Ohio
The Ohio Psychological Association (OPA) recently held its Annual Legislative Day at the Ohio Statehouse. This year attendance was swelled by a large number of graduate students who received scholarships to attend, thanks to members who sponsored them. In conjunction with the Legislative Day, OPA held a Health Fair in the Statehouse Atrium, with a variety of exhibits showing some of the areas in which psychologists work. Ethnic minority members of OPA met for breakfast with the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus and discussed mutual concerns. First year participants received training on how to talk to legislators, presented by aides to key legislators. Many Ohio Senators and Representatives joined OPA members for lunch and conversation. Issues discussed in meetings with legislators included: prescriptive authority for psychologists in Ohio, requiring the Bureau of...
From a policy perspective, it is informative to reflect upon how long change may take even if it makes intuitive sense and is in the best interest of those who might initially oppose. At this year’s exciting State Leadership Conference Katherine Nordal urged those present to: “Shake off the negative attitudes some of our colleagues have about what’s happening in health care. The world is changing and health care is moving ahead – with or without psychology. We need to think creatively... how we practice... where we practice... and what we practice.”

Back in the early 1990’s, Bruce Bennett shared the Physician Specialty Report of a major pharmaceutical company indicating that of the 135+ million psychotherapeutic prescriptions written during 1991, only 17.3% were by psychiatrists; less than internists and family practitioners. Several years later, Morgan Sammons and I were collaborating on an article and we independently proffered the same percentages. In August, 1995 the APA Council of Representatives endorsed prescription privileges for appropriately trained psychologists and called for the development of model legislation and a model training curriculum. To date, New Mexico, Louisiana, and this year Illinois have passed enacting statutes; Guam and Indiana having yet to implement their earlier RxP laws.

Dan Ullman: “In January, 2015 the Nebraska Psychological Association (NPA) entered an administrative review process to create a new credential, the prescribing psychologist permit. This administrative review is required in Nebraska before a legislative bill may be introduced, and provides an opportunity to develop a credentialing proposal that stands a better chance of passing through the political, legislative process. Based on feedback received during this process, NPA’s proposal is being slightly modified for a subsequent review. The prescribing permit would be a voluntary, supplemental credential with its own set of standards and requirements and would not affect the general scope of practice of psychology. Much of the impetus for the proposal stems from serious problems with access to care in Nebraska in both rural and urban areas of the state. One large area of the state has never had a child and adolescent psychiatrist. Primary care providers (PCPs) will often not prescribe to clients if they have chronic or severe mental illness. Also, data indicated consumers may wait 2-3 months for an appointment with a psychiatrist. A consumer noted that she could not obtain reliable care from a psychiatrist, and was frustrated trying to find a PCP who had the skills to provide mental health medications for her chronic and complex conditions. The NPA is committed to the creation of the prescribing psychologist permit to address the unmet needs of behavioral health clients. A newspaper article in the panhandle (rural) area of the state was appropriately titled, ‘Psychologists look for additional ways to help clients’.”

Alaska’s James Fitterling noted that in March, 2015 Nebraska’s Governor turned aside the objections of organized medicine and signed legislation making his state the 20th in the nation to allow nurse practitioners (NPs) to work independently; i.e., without physician supervision. “Looks like nothing’s gonna change.” Aloha.

SPTA Updates
Continued from page 2
Workers Comp to pay for PTSD treatment for first responders, and prohibiting insurers from taking back paid claims for which prior authorization was given in error.

Oregon
The Oregon Psychological Association (OPA) received the Division 31 Outstanding Diversity Program Award at this year’s APA SLC. The OPA Diversity Committee was established in 2006 with nine charter members and has now grown to be our largest committee with 21 current members. The goals of the Diversity Committee are as follows:
- Provide support and networking opportunities for psychologists of diverse backgrounds and/or who work with individuals of diverse backgrounds;
ECP Spotlight: Focus on Florida

By Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Ph.D.
SPTA Rep to the APA Committee on ECPs

This quarter, I would like to highlight Dr. Nekeshia Hammond. Dr. Hammond is the Early Career Psychologist (ECP) Network Chair of the Florida Psychological Association. Dr. Hammond shared highlights from her attendance at the State Leadership Conference, “Attending the APA State Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. this year as the ECP delegate was quite an incredible experience. I had the opportunity to learn invaluable information about ECP issues from other ECP delegates across the country and assess how the Florida Psychological Association can improve our ECP Network.”

Dr. Hammond has been able to take the information she gathered from SLC and apply it to her work on the ECP Network. She writes, “[After returning from SLC], my first task was to improve communication about ECP concerns by increasing ECP chairs across Florida. We had a call for nominations for ECP chairperson positions for each chapter throughout the state in April 2015. I am proud to report that we had a very successful response rate, and we now have representation of ECP chairs in almost every chapter in Florida. We more than doubled the amount of ECP chairs in the state, and we now have representation in 12 out of the 13 chapters of Florida! In June 2015, we will hold a conference call for all of the current and new ECP chairs to discuss our state initiatives for the rest of 2015. At the FPA convention this year, on Sunday, July 12th, FPA will also have a special luncheon for early career psychologists, students, division presidents and committee chairs. Lastly, we recognized that our state association defines an ECP as a psychologist within seven years of receipt of their license; yet, APA defines an ECP as 10 years from receipt of the doctoral degree. Thus, we will be having discussions on whether FPA will be changing our bylaws to reflect APA’s definition of an ECP in the near future.”

Nekeshia Hammond, Psy.D.
FPA Early Career Psychologist Network Chair

SPTA Updates
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- Foster awareness and knowledge about diversity, multicultural competence, and psychological practice;
- Ensure that CE workshops reflect a commitment to integrate information about diversity into the education of psychologists;
- Help OPA stay informed and be responsive to ongoing challenges and opportunities presented by diversification;
- Ongoing review of social and community concerns, healthcare, and community and statewide mental health services;
- Provide advocacy support for minority psychologists and/or psychologists working with underserved populations, and community members; and
- Increase recruitment, retention, mentoring and participation of diverse members within OPA.

South Dakota

Plans are well underway for our Annual SDPA Fall Conference which will be held September 18-19, 2015 in the beautiful Black Hills of SD. With the location being out west, our hope is to draw in attendees from neighboring states. Dr. Carol Goodheart will be coming to speak on ICD Diagnosis and DSM Changes. Further information regarding the Conference may be found on the Association’s website http://www.psysd.org/.
Division 31 Convention Programming

By Aaron A. Harris, PhD
Programming Chair

Thursday, August 6th

• 8:00 – 11:50 am
Annual Business Meeting
Intercontinental Toronto Centre
Hotel: Caledon Room

• 1:00 – 2:50 pm
SYMPOSIUM: A Remedy for the Internship Supply and Demand Problem – State Association Development of Consortia
Co-Chairs:
Karen E. Farrell, PsyD
Midwestern University
Gregory Sarlo, PsyD
Independent Practice, Chicago, IL
Co-Authors:
Shanda Wells, PsyD
University of Wisconsin—Madison
Daniel Brewer, PsyD
Independent Practice, Chicago, IL
Convention Centre Room 203A

Friday, August 7th

• 9:00 – 9:50 am
DISCUSSION: Competence, Ethics, and Colleague Wellness From a Communitarian Perspective
Chair:
Cathy McDaniels Wilson, PhD
Capital University
President, Division 31
Participants:
David Shen-Miller, PhD
Tennessee State University

Erica H. Wise, PhD
Univ. North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Convention Centre Room 202D

• 11:00 – 11:50 am
SYMPOSIUM: Disaster Resources for Everyday Practice
**Approved for CE credit by APA
Co-chairs/Discussants:
Kevin Rowell, PhD
University of Central Arkansas
Rebecca H. Thomley, PsyD
Orion Associates, Minneapolis, MN
Stephanie Vitanza, PhD
Argosy University, Phoenix
Authors:
David J. Romano, PhD
Barry University
Title: “Becoming a Resource by Understanding the Disaster Response System”
Ester Cole, PhD
Independent Practice, Toronto
Kevin Rowell, PhD
University of Central Arkansas
Title: “Resources to Help Clients”
Donna M. Hastings, PsyD
Independent Practice, Merrimack, NH
Title: “Resources to Help Clinicians”
Convention Centre Room 205B

Monday, August 8th

• 11:00 – 11:50 am
SYMPOSIUM: Early-Career Membership in APA Divisions and in SPTAs -- Taking Stock and Moving Forward
Co-sponsored by Divisions 16, 36, 49, as well as APA Membership Board, APA Committee on Early Career Psychologists
Co-chairs:
Edward B. Davis, PsyD
Wheaton College
Innocent F. Okozi, PhD
Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland, Bridgton, ME
Authors:
Edward B. Davis, PsyD
Wheaton College
Andrew D. Cuthbert, MAT
Wheaton College
Title: “Early-Career Membership in the APA, APA Divisions, and SPTAS: Reviewing Recent Trends”
Leann Terry Diederich, PhD
Independent Practice, State College, PA
Prema Arora, PhD
 Pace University
Jacqueline A. Brown, PhD
University of Montana—Missoula
Bryn Harris, PhD
University of Colorado Denver
Amanda Sullivan, PhD
University of Minnesota--Twin Cities
Title: “Recruiting and Retaining Early-Career Members in APA Divisions: Insights From Divisions 16 and 49”
Le Ondra Clark Harvey, PhD
California State Senate, Sacramento
Title: “Recruiting and Retaining Early-Career Members in State, Provincial, and Territorial Associations”
Convention Center Room 803A
Division 31 Student Task Force Chair Blog

By Rachel Spero, MS

Chris DeCou
Student Task Force Co-chairs

Getting involved in the efforts of your SPTA can be intimidating, and it can be hard to know where to start. As the incoming Co-chairs of the Division 31 Student Task Force, we wanted to offer a little about our own experiences getting involved, as well as some practical tips for becoming an advocate for psychology in your own SPTA.

Rachel (West Virginia)

My name is Rachel Spero and I am a rising 5th year student in Counseling Psychology at West Virginia University and headed to start my internship at the Topeka, Kansas VA this summer. My first experience with the West Virginia Psychological Association (WVPA) came four years ago as a result of a colloquium my department sponsored on the topic of “How to Become an Advocate for Psychology”. The then-president of the WVPA spoke to us. She was so passionate that, after her talk, I sheepishly went up to her and stuttered that I was interested in getting involved in any way possible. My expectation was to get a brush off. I mean really, how could a first-year doctoral student be helpful lobbying the Legislature? Surprisingly, she was thrilled by my interest and invited me to the next WVPA legislative strategy meeting.

I wanted to be involved but frankly, going to a “strategy meeting” on a topic I didn’t know much about with a bunch of strangers sounded terrifying. As the date of the meeting got closer, my critical inner voice got louder. “You’re just a student, you can’t possibly be helpful.” “You have no idea what they’re going to be talking about.” “You’re going to embarrass yourself.” The voice got so loud, I almost called to cancel. In a moment of inspiration, I instead picked up the phone and called two of my friends and asked (okay, I begged) them to go with me. When they agreed, I found that I was able to crowd source the courage to make it through the front door. And thank goodness I did because there was some really delicious free food (the siren song of starving graduate students everywhere).

If the night had ended there, I would have called gaining the courage to attend and getting a scrumptious steak out of the deal a total success, but it got even better. As it turns out, most psychologists are not expert political lobbyists either. The WVPA wanted to increase their online presence and, as it turns out, I’ve earned the title “Social Media Expert” based solely on the amount of time I have spent procrastinating on Facebook. I left the meeting feeling a part of something larger than myself. The psychologists were so excited to have students there that they encouraged us to bring a new friend to each meeting (think: a psychological advocacy pyramid scheme).

The rest is history. I fell in love with advocacy work, my SPTA, and encouraging other students to get involved. The benefits that I have gained from my time with the WVPA include networking with psychologists statewide, which led to some amazing opportunities down the line, making friends in other programs across the state, and having unique opportunities that really helped my CV to stand out during the dreaded internship application process.

Chris (Idaho)

My name is Chris DeCou, and I am a rising 4th year student in the Clinical Psychology program at Idaho State University. Much of the established psychologists in the room didn’t know all of the steps of getting a bill passed, the names of all of the state representatives or the complete structure of the legislature at the state level (psychologists: they’re just like us!). Even better was finding that my own unique skill set was very much in demand. The WVPA wanted to increase their online presence and, as it turns out, I’ve earned the title “Social Media Expert” based solely on the amount of time I have spent procrastinating on Facebook. I left the meeting feeling a part of something larger than myself. The psychologists were so excited to have students there that they encouraged us to bring a new friend to each meeting (think: a psychological advocacy pyramid scheme).

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“Practice Innovation”
This was the theme of the 2015 State Leadership Conference held March 14 - 17 in Washington DC, with nearly 500 state, provincial and territorial leaders in attendance. APA Executive Director for Professional Practice Katherine Nordal, PhD and invited speakers addressed ways that changes in health care payments and delivery systems will necessitate new approaches to providing psychological services. In addition to receiving updates on current trends in healthcare and resources to bring back to our states, there was valuable time for networking and honing skills in grassroots advocacy for psychology.

Protecting Access to Care
This year was an exciting time to be on Capitol Hill talking with our Congressional legislators and their staff, while anticipating a vote on a permanent fix to Medicare before the March 31 deadline. Repealing the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) was essential to protecting beneficiaries' access to psychologists and other mental health providers. Psychologists are the primary providers of mental and behavioral health services to Medicare beneficiaries. As constituents, we told our stories about specific impacts we have seen in our states and our practices. These narratives give psychology a “face” and identify issues our legislators can resonate with. During SLC we visited more than 350 Congressional offices, and psychologists sent over 13,000 letters to their Congressional representatives.

Victory!
On March 26 the House passed H.R. 2 to repeal and replace the SGR (Sustainable Growth Rate) in a bipartisan 392-37 vote. The Senate passed the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) on April 14 by a vote of 92-8.

Being Integrated in Care: Feeling undervalued?
Psychologists’ services have, in fact, declined relative to other providers. These low reimbursement rates are leading psychologists to limit or withdraw from serving Medicare clients.Fixing the payment formula for psychologists was another key message. New payment models will increasingly incentivize quality of care over quantity. Other advocacy messages highlighted the need for psychologists to practice independently within Medicare without unnecessary physician supervision. Inclusion of psychologists in the HITECH Act would also facilitate eligibility for Medicare electronic health record incentives.

Change the Story, Change the World
Keynote speaker Andy Goodman shared keys to “storytelling” as a tool to be more effective in communicating advocacy messages to legislators. See more are www.thegoodmancenter.com.

Build relationships with your legislators and tell your story!
Use the Legislative Action Center at http://capwiz.com/apapractice/home/.

Advertise With Division 31
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like Rachel, my own involvement in advocacy began at the State level after a presentation by the president and advocacy director of the Idaho Psychological Association at our weekly department brown bag meeting in 2012. I was encouraged to learn about the ongoing advocacy efforts in Idaho, however also intimidated by the limited involvement of our students in State advocacy at that time. I also noticed thoughts of “nobody cares about students’ perspectives,” and “no students have time for advocacy work.” These thoughts do represent important challenges for student involvement in SPTAs. However, I have found that legislators and our SPTA leadership have been extremely supportive of students who wish to be involved in advocacy, and legislators have been very responsive to phone calls and emails from students.

Another thing I have valued about my involvement in advocacy efforts in Idaho has been the opportunity to learn how to explore and discuss controversial policy issues constructively and discern the competing merits of controversial political initiatives related to the practice of psychology. This process of constructive criticism and refinement of policy initiatives has been very meaningful to me in becoming involved in advocacy efforts, as it has allowed me to bring my own skills as a researcher and scholar to bear on important policy conversations, and has felt like a domain that students may be uniquely skilled at given their active involvement with thesis and dissertation projects. Thus, research expertise and translational understandings of empirical findings is another important skillset that graduate students can offer their SPTAs and their State legislators, as emerging psychologists with strong research skills are an important foundation in the current scientific literature. Although we are still building our student advocacy efforts in Idaho, I am very encouraged by the growing interest of students and the strong support from policymakers and the Idaho Psychological Association. Getting involved can be overwhelming and it can be confusing to know where to start, however the benefits do outweigh the risks.

**Tips for Getting Involved**

Even knowing the benefits that we both have received from our time being involved with SPTAs, the anxiety and apprehension prior to getting involved was real. The anxiety that every new person we have involved in advocacy efforts was real. So how do you get through the anxiety and get involved? Below you’ll find our completely un-empirically validated, fool-proof steps for a painless (at least less painful) immersion into your SPTA:

1. **Find a Way In.** Check your SPTA’s website, go to a local conference, email the SPTA contact person. See what is happening in your SPTA and offer to help. Also consider reaching out to program alumni who are now involved in your SPTA.

2. **Bring Back-Up.** Take a few friends with you. Bribe them with food, if necessary. Similarly, consider hosting collaborative events/initiatives that include your Psychology Students’ Association and your SPTA.

3. **Don’t Sell Yourself Short.** You’ve got something to offer. From your knowledge of social media, your topic of research interest, to your level of energy – you have something unique to contribute to your SPTA.

4. **Go Grassroots.** In addition to the broader initiatives your SPTA is pursuing, students have their own issues and advocacy agendas that matter. Don’t be afraid to cultivate student interest in student issues, and to offer and pursue policy initiatives spearheaded by students within your student organization in collaboration with your SPTA.

5. **ACT.** APAGS Advocacy Coordinating Team is there to help you learn the basics of how to advocate on behalf of graduate students everywhere!

6. **Pick-up the Phone, Write an Email.** Never forget that a quick phone call or email to a legislator, commissioner, or other policymaker is a powerful advocacy tool, and well worth the time.

7. **Reap the Rewards.** Whether it be scoring a prime practicum spot or finding researchers to collaborate with, there is a lot to gain from getting involved.

If you have any questions about getting involved with your local SPTA, please contact your ever-eager to help Student Task Force Co-Chairs, Chris DeCou (DeCoChri@isu.edu) and Rachel Spero (Rachel.Spero@yahoo.com). And as always, we are here to be your voice. Let us know what is important to you!
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President’s Message
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Division 31 Outstanding Achievement by a Psychological Association
Staff Member: Finally, I would like to congratulate Carol Kulwicki, Office Manager for the North Carolina Psychological Association for receiving this award. She has been with NCPA for over 25 years. She is involved with recruitment, supervising and mentoring staff and managing the CEU process, all while being enthusiastic, passionate about psychology, dedicated, committed and humorous. It was a great pleasure to honor her this year!

CECP Liaison Dr. Le Ondra Clark Harvey invited me to meet with ECPs and I had the opportunity to discuss the benefits of belonging to Division 31 and to highlight the Division’s initiatives to Diversity Delegates, ECPs and Presidents-elect.

One of my primary initiatives this year is to partner with APA’s Advisory Committee on Colleague Assistance (ACCA) to help increase awareness of the importance of self-care, early intervention and prevention within our profession. Two workshops are being offered in Toronto in August for those interested in learning about the various resources and processes that are in place to assist those who become distressed or impaired and to learn more about ACCA and its services. The workshops are:

- *Competence, Ethics, and Colleague Wellness From a Communitarian Perspective*
  9:00 – 9:50 am
  Convention Centre Room 202D
- *The Ethics of Caring for Ourselves and Our Colleagues—A Participatory Workshop*
  CE Workshop #159
  Sunday, August 9
  8:00 – 11:50 am
  Westin Harbour Castle Toronto Hotel
  Dockside 2

The Division 31 BOD has worked on refining the roles and expectations of our ECPs and graduate students who are members of Division 31. These role definitions were approved. Our ECP and student members have done an excellent job of informing their peers of the importance of advocacy in our profession and the importance of becoming connected with our division.

Our Health Care Reform Task Force continues to do a superb job of providing monthly postings of the various advocacy efforts and information regarding the Affordable Care Act as it relates to psychology. Please review the content of the HCR Blog on a regular basis to keep updated.

We have been collaborating with Division 42 regarding the issue of Master’s level psychologists. We are pleased that APA’s policy on the doctoral degree as the national standard remains intact.

We have identified 11 very strong Heiser Award candidates for 2015. Please attend the ceremony in Toronto and take part in the congratulatory reception.

Dr. Dave Wiesner of North Carolina is the recipient of Division 31’s “Outstanding Psychologist” Award. He has demonstrated decades of unyielding leadership and involvement with his STPA in addition to his advocacy efforts. He will be honored during the Division 31 Reception.

Finally, I want to again congratulate incoming President-elect Dr. Linda Knauss. She will be joining this team of focused, dedicated and progressive members of the BOD in January of 2017.