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PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

*The Division of State,
Provincial & Territorial
Psychological Association Affairs*

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Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD
645 Water Garden Way
Roswell, GA 30075
Phone: 917-363-5706
Zoe07470@gmail.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT (2024)

Raymond Folen, PhD, ABPP
PO Box 833
Honolulu, HI 96808
Phone: 808-521-8995
hpaexec@gmail.com

PAST PRESIDENT (2024)

Paul Korte, PhD
800 Hospital Drive (BH)
Columbia, MD 65201
Phone: 573-355-2084
pkorte@paloaltou.edu

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Jeanne M. Slattery, PhD
840 Wood Street
Clarion, PA 16214
Phone: 814-229-7242
jslattery176@gmail.com

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Nanci Klein, PhD
1263 East South Temple Unit#9
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102
Phone: 801-350-0116
nklein@sisna.com

MEMBER-AT-LARGE (2023-25)

Michele McKinnie, PsyD
1648 Ellis Street #302
Bozeman, MT 59715
Phone: 406-582-1321
micheleecatherine@hotmail.com

MEMBER-AT-LARGE (2024-26)

Julie Wolter, PsyD
426 Scrabbletown Road A -1
North Kingstown, RI 02852
Phone: 603-340-1167
jwolterpsyd@gmail.com

APA COUNCIL REP (2023-25)

Chuck Hollister, Ph.D.
1051 S Freemont Avenue
Springfield, MO 65804
Phone: 417-227-0960
chuckatmopa@gmail.com

CESPPA REP (2022-24)

Danna Fowle, CCM, IOM
PO Box 1585
Norman, OK 73070
Phone: 405-664-0270
okpsychassociation@gmail.com

STUDENT REP (2023-25)

Kymbriona Taylor, M ED
506 S. 6th St. Room 16
Columbia, MO 65211
Phone: 708-296-5964
ktaylor@mail.missouri.edu

Focus on

31

Spring 2024 • Volume 56 • Issue 1

Need for More Training, Supervision for Spanish-Speaking Psychologists



**By Mayra Zoe
Ortiz, PsyD
Division 31
President**

The Hispanic/Latinx(e) population continues to grow in the United States. According to the U.S. Census 2020, Hispanic/Latinx(e) reached 19.1% of the total population (63.7 million), and by 2060 they are projected to be

20.6% of the population. This is the second-largest ethnic group in the United States (Mental Health America, 2023; Pew Research Center, 2023; U.S. Census Bureau, 2022). In addition, Hispanic/Latinx (e) are responsible for the fastest diversification of rural areas of the United States (Melotte, 2022). Due to the lack of access to health insurance, language barriers, and health inequities, this population is at risk of poverty,

Spanish-speaking psychologists

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Congratulations to new Div. 31 Fellow!

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to the membership our newest Fellow of Division 31, Derek C. Phillips, PsyD, MSCP, ABMP.

Already Fellow of APA through division 55, Dr. Phillips demonstrated outstanding leadership, program development, and significant contributions to national policy development toward his designation as a Fellow of Division 31.

He was integrally involved in the grassroots effort that ultimately led to Illinois passing its RxP law in 2014 and, as one of first dozen prescribing psychologists in Illinois and a member of the Illinois Association of Prescribing Psychologists Board of Directors, he has been heavily involved in its implementation and continued advocacy.

In 2023, Dr. Phillips received the Distinguished Illinois Psychologist award from the Illinois Psychological Association and Outstanding SPTA

Div. 31 Fellow named

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Div. 31 President-Elect Candidate Statements Shared



**Craig S.
Fabrikant,
PhD PA**

I am hoping and looking forward to your vote to become President-Elect of Division

31. This Division is of vital importance to the future of Psychology. For the last fourteen years I have been very involved in the Florida Psychological Association. In 2023 I was President, and I am now the immediate Past-President.

Within the Florida Psychological Association, I have held a number of other leadership positions. These have included chairing a number of committees and being a member of others. I was the chair of the Forensic Division and the Child, Adolescent, and Family Division, I also spent two years as Chair of the Broward County Chapters. Over the past number of years as the Ethics Chair and as the Membership Chair. Prior to coming to Florida, I was in New Jersey. I was an active member of the New Jersey Psychological Association which I joined as a full member in

1984. I am still a member.

There are a number of other professional organizations that I have had leadership roles in. I was President of the Florida Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts and was Secretary of the Florida Academy of Collaborative Professionals.

If elected I also intend to continue placing a strong emphasis on DEI. Work in this area starts at the State, Territory, and Provincial level. I am looking forward to continuing to serve the Division and all of you as we move forward into the future. Thank you.



**Anne Klee,
PhD**

My goals, passions, and experiences serving in professional organizations align with the mission of the

Division of State, Provincial and Territorial Psychological Association Affairs (Division 31) and fuel my desire to serve as its President-Elect.

Professionally, at VA Connecticut Healthcare System, I develop, implement, and study community mental health and social services for individuals with serious mental illness, co-occurring substance use disorders and psychosocial issues such as homelessness and under-employment. I direct an inter-professional postdoctoral training program and oversee performance

improvement activities preparing programs for the Joint Commission and Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities site visits. I have worked directly in this arena for and with non-profit, city, state, and federal agencies. Along the way, I have secured service grants, published chapters and articles in the academic literature, and presented nationally, regionally, and locally on these topics.

The skills and interprofessional relationships I have developed and knowledge I have gained during my tenure at the New York City Department of Health, the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and as a Yale faculty member, supplemented by my presidencies of the Connecticut Psychological Association (CPA) (2017-2020), Connecticut Psychological Association Educational Foundation (2023-2024) and the Division of Psychologists in Public Service (18) (2014) as well as my service as an APA

Council Representatives (2016-2021), on the APA Board of Professional Affairs (2022-2024, Chair 2023), and on the APA Committee of State Leaders (2020-2022) have given me a rich understanding of the mental health challenges facing our country and the professional issues challenging psychologists. In my professional service roles as CPA's Federal Advocacy Coordinator and CPA's President, I have promoted state legislation including PSYPACT, mental health parity, and prescription privileges for appropriately trained psychologists with the goal of increasing access to care. In the past, I co-chaired four national conferences on topical public mental health issues such as the prediction and prevention of violence, application of evidence-base models, and innovations in public mental health.

I strongly believe that advocacy

Klee Candidate Statement

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"Tonight, I Just Want to Take You Higher"



**By Pat
DeLeon,
PhD
former APA
President**

The Outstanding PSLC 2024 Conference: Our state psychological associations have always provided the critical foundation for psychology's political/legislative presence and thus, psychological practice. For the past 41 years, the State Leadership Conference (now, PSLC) has provided an exciting opportunity for collaborative growth and expansion. It has always been the highlight of my professional year. This year, over 300 colleagues participated, thankfully once again in-person, warmly honored the extraordinary contributions of Dan Abrahamson as he concluded his career at APA which included more than four decades as a member, in governance, and then as the lead staff person for PSLC. Such well-deserved accolades!

Jared Skillings, APA Chief of Professional Practice: "Welcome to PSLC 2024!! It is so great to see everyone in person. I grew up in Appalachia. One of the values is that if you don't know someone's family, you don't really know them. I am a second-generation psychologist. My father was a counseling psychologist in private practice; my mother was the office manager. I have the honor of serving as EM-CEE and I am excited for our time together. I am excited because

PSLC is where APA and SPTA leaders... where we create transformation and impact for our profession. We are here to *work* together, to *learn* together, to *lead* together.

"Yes, we believe in creating opportunities for psychologists. As we start the 41st annual PSLC, I am reminded of our shared history. PSLC started as a grassroots effort for state leaders to connect, to learn from each other, and to develop national approaches for profession-wide issues. We are here to honor that legacy. On Saturday evening we will hear more about that legacy from Dan Abrahamson. We will honor Dan at the closing session, where he will offer reflections on his career and the legacy of PSLC and the connections between APA and SPTAS. This weekend we are also here to build upon the bedrock of that legacy. We are also here to take our partnerships and work to the next level. Our world has changed significantly in recent years. We are here to face these new challenges Head-on! This is where we set strategies to advance and modernize our profession. This is where we strengthen SPTAs, prepare new leaders for the future, and support each other. This is where we identify critical societal issues, to protect our communities and help them heal together. This is where the magic happens!"

Jared then enthusiastically introduced a number of APA staff and guests who have made a real difference for psychology. These included Arthur Evans, APA CEO; Teri Strong, Chair BPA; Cynthia de las Fuentes, APA President; Shirley

Higuchi, "one of the most passionate and effective advocates for Asian-American health and mental health in the country"; and several special staff appointments -- Robin McLeod as the first ever Senior Director for Strategic Relations and Leadership; Connie Galietti as Managing Director of the Office of State Engagement; and Lynn Bufka as Deputy Chief of Professional Practice, the first woman to hold that role in the 40+ year history of the Practice Directorate. *Get Ready For The Future.*

The Next Generation: Kendyl Oshiro (Graduate student, Hawai'i School of Professional Psychology) -- "PSLC in Washington, DC was an eye-opening and memorable experience. I appreciated being able to connect with various SPTAs and deepen relationships with members of the Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA) both professionally and personally. Witnessing all that people have done in the field of psychology really inspired me to want to contribute to the field in a similar way. I am especially interested in continuing to advocate for the Associate Licensing Bill as this will not only increase access to care, but also encourage providers to stay in Hawai'i to serve our local community. Even though this bill (if it passes) may not be in place once I graduate from my program, I am very certain that it will create a dynamic shift within the helping professions. On a more personal note, I was somewhat discouraged when I saw the numbers that com-

Take You Higher
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Diversity Leadership Program



**Sue Bae,
PhD**

I am a mid-career clinical psychologist who loves the fact that one can have a

diverse career as a psychologist. A full-time core faculty member at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Chicago, I enjoy teaching and supervising students as well as doing research. My own group private practice specializes in anxiety-related disorders and works with marginalized individuals. I am also an elected leader of my state organization, the Illinois Psychological Association.

I had the honor of being selected to participate in the Diversity Leadership Program in 2021, sponsored by the Division of States, Provincial and Territorial Association Affairs (Division 31). It provides leadership development training to psychologists of color from states all over the US to advance their leadership positions within their respective SPTAs

and APA. Although it has been a few years since I participated, I still remember feeling so inspired and excited to be part of such an amazing group of colleagues and faculty. This experience was especially meaningful to me because it was at the height of the pandemic and most of us were feeling overwhelmed by the increased workload from patients, having to work remotely to take care of those that we love around us during this challenging time. From the leadership program I felt a sense of renewed commitment and responsibility to our profession and those whom we serve. I wanted to use what I had learned from the leadership program to advocate for marginalized communities including psychologists of color. Shortly after the Diversity Leadership Program, I was elected the Clinical Practice Section Chair for my state organization, the Illinois Psychological Association. I served two years as the chair of this section, the largest section of the Illinois Psychological Association. The following year, I ran for and was elected the president-elect of my state association, and my presidential year will begin

this coming July. As president-elect, I attended the most recent PSLC in February for the first time, which continues to remind me how important it is for psychologists to be involved in advocacy!

The single important lesson I learned from participating in the Diversity Leadership Program--which continues to resonate with me--is that developing confidence in exercising leadership is crucial to becoming a successful leader. The Diversity Leadership Program taught me how to recognize and utilize my strengths and experiences as a leader. It also taught me the significance of building alliances with other leaders in my state organization as well as in APA--especially leaders of color. Throughout my career, I have felt isolated and disconnected from various professional organizations, circumstances that prevented me from taking on leadership roles at times. Through the Diversity Leadership Program, I learned to trust myself and my skills to become a leader who can inspire others to take on leadership roles in fostering a shared vision of diversity in the field of clinical psychology.

Nominations Wanted

Division 31 annual **Outstanding SPTA Psychologist Award, Outstanding SPTA ECP Leader, Outstanding SPTA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Leader** award nominations are due June 1.

Nominations are wanted for Div. 31's three annual awards presented during the Division 31 Social Hour at the APA Annual Convention. Nominations and supporting materials should be sent to the Awards Chair, Paul Korte, Ph.D., at pkorte@palou.edu by June 1, 2024.

Supporting materials should include a letter of recommendation from the person(s) making the nomination stating the reasons why the nominee should be considered. The letter should highlight some of the aspects mentioned in the award criteria found on the Division 31 webpage <https://www.apadivisions.org/division-31/awards>. Also, please forward the curriculum vitae of nominee.

Early Career Psychologists at PSLC 2024



**by Ryan
Flinn, Div
31 Liaison
Committee
Early Career
Psychologist**

Allison Gillens, Associate Director of Professional Psychology Programs at APA, and Ryan Flinn (Member of the Committee on Early Career Psychologists and faculty at the University of North Dakota) were pleased to co-facilitate the Early Career Psychologist Affinity Group at PSLC 2024 in Washington, DC. We had a blast learning about the incredible work ECPs are doing in their SPTAs to advance our field!

We invite ECPs to utilize our ECP-focused resources available at the following website: <https://www.apa.org/education-career/development/early>

If you are an ECP and have not yet signed up APA's Early Career listserv, you can do so here:

<https://lists.apa.org/cgi-bin/wa.exe?SUBED1=EARLYCAREER&A=1>

Please contact Allison (AGillens@APA.ORG) or Ryan (ryanel-liottflinn@gmail.com) for any ECP-related questions, needs, or ideas. We are excited to see you all at convention in Seattle!



Unveiling Our Needs as Graduate Students



**Kymbriona
Taylor,
M.ED,
Div 31
ECP and
Student
Committee
Co-chair**

Hi Everyone,

My name is Kymbriona Taylor, and I am a fourth year PhD candidate from the University of Missouri. First, I want to express gratitude to serve as the student voice in Division 31 governance. I am passionate about advocacy related to not only our clients but also to trainees, especially those with marginalized identities. To be able to effectively represent stu-

dents during my tenure, I would like to collaborate with student leaders to identify the things that are important to us. An initiative I plan to focus on is to amplify students' voices through the development and dissemination of a needs survey to identify what we would like to receive from our respective SPTAs, as well as topics that it may be helpful to receive more information about (e.g., EPPP, advocacy, multicultural issues). Depending on the nature of your program and/or training sites, preparedness to address multicultural topics and issues may be limited so I think this is where we can turn to our SPTAs for support and guidance. It is my hope that this survey will allow

us to host events that are relevant to students' professional development needs and facilitate dialogue regarding the political, social, and multicultural issues that impact our work with clients.

In addition to considering what we need to best serve our clients, I invite us to focus on our personal needs as students as well. In the whirlwind of academia, it's easy to overlook the very foundation of our studies: ourselves. As aspiring mental health professionals, our dedication to understanding the complexities of our clients' concerns may cause us to neglect our own well-being. However, it's cru-

Grad Student Needs

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APA Council of Representatives Report



by **Chuck Hollister, Ph.D., Member, APA Council of Reps, Division 31**

Hi everyone, APA's Council of Representatives held a hybrid meeting on February 23-24, 2024 with in-person Council members convening in Washington, D.C.

The stories of the Council's lack of productivity and endless conflicts are legendary. This was not the case this session. Numerous items were thoughtfully passed. Current APA president, Dr. Cynthia De Las Fuentes, was impressive with her friendly, we-need-to-stay-on-task attitude. One item passed represented a victory for our division, while another item raised serious EDI concerns.

The victory

The Council endorsed a new strategic plan. The plan recognizes the importance of the SPTAs to APA's future for the first time. Dr. Arthur Evans discussed at length the importance of the SPTAs to APA's current and future success. I had the honor of introducing the item to the Council, which provided Division 31 with some much-deserved recognition.

An area of concern

The most troubling topic to me was the disagreement around a proposal by the Association of Jewish Psychologists requesting a spot on the Council as a recognized ethnic group. I believe the group's initial belief was that the Council

would be sympathetic based on former President Thema Bryant's messages of inclusion and because of the large number of attacks and threats made on the Jewish community this year. FBI statistics suggest that on a per-person basis hate crimes against Jews are higher than is the case for both Blacks and male gays, two groups about which APA has been rightfully concerned.

Due to some arguing back and forth on the listserv, the proposal's proponents withdrew their request. It was sad and disturbing. There is a belief that the psychologists pushing for Jewish representation on the Council will continue to pursue it for the Council's next meeting in August. Current Division 31 president Mayra Zoe Ortiz and former president, Elena Eisman, are committee chairs for the Association of Jewish Psychologists.

What else was accomplished

A lot else was accomplished. Resolutions and policies were passed that included:

- A call to end the placement of youths in isolation in juvenile justice settings, except for emergencies. It emphasizes the importance of mental health support for youth subjected to isolation.
- The promotion of secure firearm storage practices. This resolution underscores the critical role of psychologists and healthcare providers in preventing suicides by advocating for secure firearm storage and safety strategies.
- The affirming of APA's support for access to evidence-based clinical care for transgender,

gender diverse, and nonbinary children, adolescents, and adults. It notes that recent legislative attempts to obstruct access to psychological and medical interventions for such individuals put them at risk of depression, anxiety, and other negative mental health outcomes. The policy statement also addresses how misinformation can distort the characterization of gender dysphoria and gender-affirming care, leading to stigmatization, marginalization, and lack of access to psychological and medical care for this population. It also highlights APA's support for insurance providers to include coverage that addresses the healthcare needs of this population.

- A call for psychology and policymakers to support increased psychological research, intervention, advocacy, and policy development aimed at informing and shaping decisions related to parents with disabilities, and to reduce disparities and biases faced by this population.
- A commitment to combat misinformation and promote psychological science literacy. The resolution recognizes that misinformation leads to mistrust and can pose a threat to public health. It states that "to fully understand the impact of misinformation, it is necessary to understand the

COR Report

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Photo Montage from PLC and Winter Meeting



Above, the delegations from the Hawaii Psychological Association celebrated their Outstanding State, Provincial & Territorial Association Award.

Div. 31 President, at left, and CESSPA liaison Danna Fowble, at right, honor Div. 31 Past President Paul Korte.



Above, the Massachusetts Association received the Committee on Early Career Psychologist Initiative Award.



Above, the Missouri Psychological Association won the SPTA Diversity Award.

Below, Nancy Klein receives the Advocacy Psych PAC Award.



A meeting of the presidents finds Div. 31 President Mayra Zoe Ortiz with APA President Cynthia de Las Fuentes.

Nevada Psych Association's Wendi Oconnor was honored for Outstanding Achievement by a Psychological Association Staff Member.



SPTA Updates from Around the Country



By Jennifer
F. Kelly PhD,
ABPP, Past
President,
APA

District of Columbia

The District of Columbia Psychological Association had a leadership transition at the top of the year, welcoming Jessica Smedley, PsyD as the president as Laurie Paul, PhD transitioned to Past President. Antoine Crosby, PhD was welcomed as the President-Elect. New board members were also onboarded. DCPA was represented at the PSLC by the President, President-Elect, and Executive Director. The Executive Director, Kendall Braxton, did attend the CESPPA Meeting. During PSLC, DCPA hosted a "Meet the Board" social which integrated DCPA members, APA staff, and others. In January, DCPA implemented "Psychologist of the Month" highlighting exemplary psychologists. This feature is open to nonmembers. DCPA is currently working on increasing activity and boosting membership.

Florida

The Florida Psychological Association (FPA) is in the process of reorganizing its local activities into 9 Regions with only two required positions: the Region Chair and a representative to the Legislative Advocacy and Public Policy Board. The Region members can decide which additional positions make

sense for the Region. FPA also disbanded its Divisions due to a lack of activity suggesting they continue as special interest groups.

The 2024 Florida legislative session ended on March 8th. On its way to the Governor is a bill that includes reforms, championed by FPA, to the Florida Mental Health Act, which focuses on crisis services for individuals with mental illness. It removes a 3-year post-licensure experience requirement for a psychologist to complete a petition for involuntary examination and allows pre-licensure experience to be included in the 3-year requirement to certify when a person requires involuntary treatment or when a patient is appropriate for release.

Georgia

The Georgia Psychological Association is having a busy spring with the legislative session nearing an end. We were successful in maintaining psychological testing as the exclusive domain of psychologists— but it seems to be a never-ending battle.

The annual meeting will be held in April and the list of workshop offerings is outstanding. We are very excited that GPAGS (graduate students) will be offering a session of "flash talks" to showcase their research. Linda Campbell and Anita Brown will present on the revision of the APA ethics code. The Georgia Psychological Foundation will award cash prizes for student posters for undergraduate and graduate students and will grant \$500 to a doctoral student

whose doctoral research is in an area of underserved populations. The GPA PAC will be hosting a social event that features food trucks and a local brewery. The PAC will raise money through a raffle for prizes.

The Public Education Committee will host a booth at the Atlanta Science Fair in March. It's a great opportunity to expose children and their families to psychology as a science – with educational and entertaining materials.

GPA was a sponsor of the inaugural Division 12 meeting in Atlanta in December and will be a sponsor for the 27th Annual Atlanta University Center Psychology Research Symposium, with a focus on HBCUs in Atlanta.

Illinois

Update for Division 31 – The Illinois Psychological Association's Legislative Committee

Kristina Pecora, Legislative Co-Chair, and IPA FAC

Illinois has seen several pieces of legislation brought forward this season. IPA's Legislative Committee, led by Dr. Gregory Sarlo and Dr. Kristina Pecora (Co-Chairs), and informed by Legislative Liaison Dr. Terrence Koller and Lobbyist Mr. Ryan Taylor, have campaigned for some issues they hope to see become official law or regulation, including:

- **HB.4475/SB.2896:** which aims to enforce a set of parity regulations
- **HB. 5395/SB.2657:** would

SPTA Updates

Continued on page 14

Travel Awards Announced for Grad Student Speakers



**By Felicia Smith,
PhD Div 31
Advocacy
Liaison**

Division 31 is proud to announce the APA 2024 Convention Graduate Student Travel Award. In a joint venture with the Caucus of State, Provincial and Territorial Representatives (CSPTR), \$750 travel grants will be awarded to two graduate students to offset

the costs of travel to present at the 2024 APA Convention. The goal of the collaboration is to promote the professional development of student SPTA leaders by supporting participation in APA Convention and at Division 31/SPTA Convention programming.

Division 31 and CSPTR are aligned in their interests in representing issues of concern to SPTAs and their interests in supporting and developing the leadership pipeline. These awards are a great mechanism to help ensure our student SPTA leaders have access to

the vast training, networking, and inspiration that occurs at the APA Convention.

Dues for membership in Division 31 and the Caucus of State, Provincial and Territorial Representatives are used to support student travel awards to the APA Convention. All APAGS members who have posters or presentations that have been accepted and have demonstrated SPTA leadership are eligible to apply.

We are excited to support our graduate students through this new funding opportunity!

New Div. 31 Fellow Named

Continued from page 1
ECP Leader Award from Division 31. In 2022, he received the Educator of the Year award from Division 55 and the Diversity Award from Division 42 (Independent Practice). He was awarded a Presidential Citation by 2022 APA President, Dr. Frank Worrell for his “tremendous service to the Association” and for being “committed to serving the profession of psychology” and “to training future pre-

scribing psychologists.” In 2020, he was awarded the Patrick H. DeLeon Prize for Outstanding Student Contribution to the Advancement of Pharmacotherapy by APA Division 55, recognizing service on both state and national committees as a student and professional, as well as his direct advocacy efforts for the RxP movements in Illinois, Florida, and federal agencies.

Dr. Phillips was a principal writer and editor of the petition that resulted in clinical psycho-

pharmacology being recognized as an official specialty in psychology by APA’s CRSSPP and Council of Representatives in 2020. The work has been instrumental to bringing national attention to prescribing psychologists.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Phillips for his noteworthy accomplishments.

Donald McAleer Psy.D., ABPP,
Fellowship Committee Chair,
Division 31

Klee Candidate Statement

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on state levels is crucially important especially when Washington DC is gridlocked. If elected to Division 31, I will continue to be a watchdog for issues of importance to state, provincial, and territorial associations including: scope of practice for master level psychology practitioners, third party reimbursement, mental health parity, gender affirming care,

prescriptive privileges for properly trained psychologists, among others. I view myself as an advocate for our profession and a champion for our state and territorial psychological associations. My approach has been to increase the depth and breadth of the professional organizations I have served through establishing continuing education programming, creating pathways to encourage member involvement in leadership roles, securing grant

funding for innovative programming such as CPA’s early career leadership academy, mentoring students and early career psychologists, and educating psychologists about issues affecting our profession. In sum, the opportunity to support our state and territorial association while addressing the needs of psychologists is of great interest to me and I am grateful for your consideration as a candidate for President-Elect of Division 31.

Spanish-Speaking Psychologists

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inadequate health treatments, and increasing substance abuse.

While the Hispanic/Latinx(e) population appears to grow nationwide, some states are more impacted (e.g., New Mexico, Texas, Arizona, California, and Florida) (Bailey, 2019). This brings attention to our training and supervision for mental health providers. According to data from the APA, there were approximately 102,000 doctoral-level licensed psychologists in 2018, most of them in California, New York, and Massachusetts (Lin, Conroy and Christidis, 2020). However, only 5.5% of psychologists can provide services in Spanish (Smith, 2018). More training focusing on this marginalized population is necessary. Lack of training leads to misunderstanding the culture, beliefs, and values, even when our Hispanic/Latinx(e) clients speak English proficiently. When we talk about competence we are not talking only about awareness and knowledge, but the skills necessary to competently deliver services. Competent training leads to competent providers, who will ultimately also be competent and skilled supervisors, to serve the Hispanic/Latinx(e) population.

Telehealth and Telesupervision can be venues to provide train-

ing and supervision to providers who reside in states, communities, or rural areas where Hispanics/Latinx(e) reside. The Commission on Accreditation should consider this reality as an important tool towards achieving our ethical standards of responsibility and commitment to providing competent mental health services to this and other marginalized communities.

At the 2024 Practice State Leaders Conference (PSLC) among the topics discussed was the need to provide mental health services to marginalized and diverse communities. In this context, we also discussed the option of expanding the scope of services by including master's level mental health providers. This is a very sensitive issue that has raised anxiety and concerns among psychologists. One perspective discussed was the importance to recognize and maintain expertise among psychologists.

Recognizing the importance of this topic, Division 31's Town Hall Guest Speaker Series has organized a presentation on Wednesday June 19 at 7:00pm ET. The title of this presentation is '**Perspectives on Master's Licensing in SPTAs.**' Our presenters will be Alex Siegel, JD, PHD from ASPPB, Peter Oppenheimer, PhD Division 31 Regulatory Task Force and Robin

McLeod, PhD, APA Practice Directorate, Senior Director for Strategic Relations and Leadership. Stay tuned for announcements to come. RSVP is necessary to attend. You can RSVP through Connie Paul at tpamember@juno.com.

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Take You Higher

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pared psychological services to the need for services, mainly because of the significant gap between them. Although it is predicted that the trajectory of psychological services and need for services will never meet, it does not mean we should stop trying to meet the needs of our communities. I am hopeful that the current legislation we have will help to address this ongoing issue.

“Another issue that was brought to my attention was the concern of students having a master’s degree in psychology and who are unable to get licensed. I think getting those who have a master’s in psychology licensed would be a great way to increase providers; however, I understand a lot needs to be done to make this happen. Even before this conference, I knew that obtaining a master’s degree in psychology would not lead to licensure, which is why I chose the counseling psychology route with an emphasis in mental health counseling. When I chose to obtain my master’s degree in counseling psychology, I did not consider the possibility of a doctorate in clinical psychology (PsyD) at that time. Looking back, I appreciate the skills and knowledge I obtained during my master’s as it prepared me for my doctorate journey. I do not think I would have been well-equipped to enter a PsyD program straight out of my bachelor’s degree due to not having any practical experience in the field of psychology (only book knowledge). However, I can honestly say that the doctoral training I have received thus far is much more rig-

orous than the education I received in my master’s degree, mainly due to the heavy emphasis on training in both diagnostic and intervention skills.

“Because of the significant difference between a master’s and doctoral degree, our affinity group had a conversation about what differentiates a master-level clinician and a doctoral-level clinician. From my experience in my master’s degree, I never learned how to case conceptualize from a specific theoretical orientation and use it to formulate a treatment plan. I truly believe that learning how to case conceptualize has helped me to target and address problems more specifically. Even though this may be the case, there are many masters-level clinicians who have a wealth of knowledge and who are effective at treating presenting problems and concerns. Therefore, I do not want to discount what they can offer as they can be an asset to any interdisciplinary team. My hope is that this initiative to develop licensure opportunities for masters-level students in psychology will help to meet the service demand instead of creating a divide within the psychological profession.

“Having conversations with my affinity group also made me excited to be a part of enacting a mentorship program within our SPTA. Come to find out, one of the early career psychologists in HPA was interested in that initiative as well. I am excited to start working on this initiative with her as this will provide a wonderful opportunity for students and for those who just graduated. A concern that continued to come up in my con-

versations with my affinity group was the lack of engagement with members of their school programs. Some were worried how initiatives would continue once they leave for internship/graduate, including who would be willing to take the lead. Hearing this repeated concern not only helped to normalize the experience for many, but also reminded me that not everyone has the passion to lead or devote time/energy to the field. I truly believe this conference really helped to solidify my passion for service and leadership. Although I may not get the chance to attend another PSLC in the future, I am glad to have been given the opportunity to witness such great work and leadership within our field. I am proud to be a part of APA and am excited for others to be given the same opportunity to become inspired and encouraged!” “Head to toe so player (twenty four karat) uh, look out” (24K Magic, Bruno Mars). Aloha,

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COR Report

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psychological factors that drive people to believe and share it, the levers of manipulation used by its creators, and the network effects induced by today's media and political landscape that impact its spread."

- The adoption of the revised Guidelines for Psychological

Practice with Older Adults, with an expiration date of Dec. 31, 2034. These guidelines focus greater attention on the strengths and needs of older adults and work to develop workforce competency in working with this population. This revision addresses the increased use of technology and telehealth for the first time.

That Council approved a \$25 reduction in the dues at year four through six of the dues ramp-up (\$149 to \$124) and a \$27 increase in the APA base member dues rate (\$247 to \$274).

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to write me at chuckatmopa@gmail.com.

Chuck

Grad Student Needs

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cial to remember that self-care isn't a luxury; it's a necessity, especially in our field. Engaging in regular self-care practices isn't just about bubble baths and yoga sessions (though those can certainly be part of it). It's about cultivating habits that nourish our minds, bodies, and spirits, ensuring we have the resilience to navigate the challenges inherent in our work. Whether it's setting boundaries, seeking support from peers and mentors, or carving out time for hobbies and relaxation, prioritizing self-care isn't selfish—it's essential.

By making self-care a priority, we not only safeguard our own well-being but also become better

equipped to serve others. When we're mentally and emotionally replenished, we're able to approach our studies and future profession with clarity, compassion, and vitality. So, let's commit to prioritizing self-care as an integral part of our journey toward becoming competent and compassionate mental health professionals. Whether your spring break has passed, you're currently there, or it's on the horizon, these sentiments remain the same. Please be on the lookout for future events to create community and collective healing amongst students in Division 31.

If you have any interest in being a part of cultivating these spaces, please feel free to contact me.

Wishing you all moments of rest, rejuvenation, and resilience, Kymbriana P.S.

Congratulations to the wonderful students who will be heading to internship in the summer/fall. Here are a couple of resources that students can look into for financial support during their transition:

National Register of Health Service Psychologists offers an internship travel scholarship for psychology doctoral students that are relocating. The deadline to apply is April 10, 2024.

@PsychGradWishlist can be found on Instagram or X (formerly known as Twitter). It is an online mutual-aid movement to assist incoming psychology interns and graduating trainees of color with their moving expenses.



SPTA Updates

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allow regulators broader access to mental health records; IPA is working with legislators to consider an alternative pathway.

- **Rules and Regulations:** IPA's EDI Committee spearheaded the expansion of CEU requirements to include hours specific to equity, diversity, and inclusion programming, which go into effect this October.
- **90837 Audits:** a statewide survey on audits targeting this billing code to better inform future advocacy and professional regulation

We have been busy, but hope to see progress in the months to come.

Iowa

The Iowa Psychological Association is thrilled to share that we are undergoing a rebranding and website redesign project. (Our current logo is so old that no one currently in leadership can recall when it was instituted!) The project has two main goals. The first goal is to update and enhance our organization's brand and website to attract new members and frame IPA and its members as experts in psychological science to better serve the public. The second goal is to improve the user experience of our website for members, as well as to enhance the accessibility of public education resources including our blog, IPA education podcast, and psychologist finder, to optimize community outreach efforts. We are proud to be work-

ing with Iowa-based marketing and graphic design specialists on this huge undertaking. The rebranding phase of the project is nearly complete, and we couldn't be more excited about our new logo and brand, which will be revealed to members at our annual business meeting on March 22nd. We've begun the website redesign phase and anticipate the full project to be completed later this year. This project was made possible in part through an APA Small State Operations Grant that is helping to fund our Executive Director, Suzanne Hull's, salary, as the development and implementation of this project requires enhanced administrative and technological support. We are grateful to APA for helping to make this project a reality. Please visit our website later this year to see what we were able to accomplish!

Maine

In a year marked by profound societal challenges and a heightened awareness of the value of psychology, the Maine Psychological Association (MePA) has steadfastly pursued initiatives aimed at healing, empowerment, and advocacy. Our Legislative Committee championed LD 1304, designed to address barriers to behavioral health. The Community Engagement & Social Justice Committee made important strides in promoting diversity and inclusion, and MePA's 2023 Annual Conference was devoted to diversity, equity, and inclusion. MePA also embraced its first Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement. The association's membership has continued to grow and we are currently looking to

strategies to nurture tomorrow's psychologists, including offering a mentor program and scholarships to students for future events.

Mississippi

The Mississippi Psychological Association (MPA) has been actively engaged in advocacy efforts at the state capitol, focusing on the passage of legislation for the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT). This groundbreaking initiative aims to enhance access to mental health services by enabling licensed psychologists to practice across state lines. With mental health being a critical concern, especially in underserved areas, embracing PSYPACT is seen as a pivotal step forward for Mississippi in bolstering mental health care for its residents. Additionally, MPA is eagerly preparing for the upcoming 2024 Convention scheduled for September 25th – 27th. The convention promises to be an enriching experience with Keynote Speaker Jana Martin, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer of the American Insurance Trust (The Trust), who will share her expertise on "Setting Sail for Your Successful Leadership Journey." This convention signifies MPA's commitment to advancing professional development and fostering leadership within the psychological community.

Missouri

The Missouri Psychological Association has been active on several fronts. Our CEO and Director of Professional Affairs, Dr. Chuck

SPTA Updates

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SPTA Updates

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Hollister, a member of APA's Strategic Plan Advisory Group, was asked to help explain the plan to a variety of APA stakeholders before its passage by Council. Dr. Amy Beck, Missouri's advocacy chair, presented by invitation at PSLC and for the Board of Professional Affairs, on how to best navigate the political challenges that come from living in a red state. Drs. Jameca Woody Cooper and Ann Stefan have been active on APA's Committee of Aging. Dr. Paul Korte, Division 31 past president and until recently a long-term MOPA board member, has been hard at work lobbying for rural health issues and promoting Division 31's new rural health section of the division. MOPA is promoting a bill to protect audio-only telehealth in Missouri. It has broad support from over 15 major healthcare groups in Missouri. The biggest challenge is a state Senate that since the opening of the session two and a half months ago has passed only one bill. MOPA was proud to have been

awarded this year's Division 31 Diversity Award at PSLC. MOPA will celebrate its 70th anniversary in June at its annual conference.

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Psychological Association (OPA) starts its fiscal year on January 1 of each and quickly transitions to working full speed ahead for the annual legislative session starting the first Monday in February. Oklahoma's legislative session is a two-year session with 2024 being the second year of that session. OPA introduced three bills in 2023 of which two bills, license reciprocity, and post-doc billing commercial insurance unanimously passed the House and ran into political stumbling blocks in the Senate Committee. We are hopeful that 2024 Senate committee members will proceed with getting these two bills across the finish line and onto the Governor's desk to help with workforce development. OPA's prescriptive authority bill had to be re-introduced in 2024 and passed in committee only to be stalled in the full house

likely due to the unpopularity of scope of practice bills coupled with legislative deadlines.

With a new President at the helm, OPA has also been focused on fiscal management, board orientations, strategic planning (operational focus), and outward focus on enhanced and more frequent continuing education ... all to ensure the organization has funding streams and accountability to its members. New texting features/policies, an enhanced database, and a website as well as monthly birthday emails balance out the need for fresh conference ideas and themes. Dusting off old plans and policies and position papers, engaging divisions and committees in retention and recruitment efforts as well as continuing education offerings all while supporting the existing staffing structure of an association management and lobbyist contract renewals have been ongoing discussions as OPA grows their budget, membership and becomes the one-stop shop for continuing education.

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APA Division 31 Committee Chairs

Executive Director

Connie Paul, Ph.D.
5154 Stage Road, Suite 102
Memphis, TN 38122
Phone: 901-372-9133
TPAMember@juno.com

Awards

Paul Korte, PhD
Phone: 573-355-2084
pkorte@paloaltou.edu

Communication

Terrence Koller, PhD
Phone: 847-475-5551
tjkoller@gmail.com

Convention Program

Krithika Malhotra, Ph.D.
Phone: 617-717-4369
krithika.malhotra@gmail.com

Diversity

Keisha Ross, PhD
Phone: 314-652-4100 x 55401
drkeishaross@gmail.com

ECP and Students

Ryan Flinn, PhD
Phone: 402-575-7016
ryanelliottflinn@gmail.com

Kymbriona Taylor, E ED

Phone: 708-296-5964
ktaylor@mail.missouri.edu

Division Advocacy Partner

Jennifer Smith, PsyD
Phone: 404-808-0101
jennifersmithatl@aol.com

Fellowship

Donald McAleer, PsyD, ABPP
Phone: 814-877-8013
DonPsyD@aol.com

Heiser Award

Elena Eisman, EdD
Phone: 617-680-5302
elena.eisman@gmail.com

Membership

Dinelia Rosa, PhD
Phone: 646-283-2589
rosa@exchange.tc.columbia.edu

Newsletter Editor

Zoe Proctor-Weber, PhD
Phone: 727-398-6661, x4678
zoe.proctor-weber@va.gov

Newsletter Managing Editor

Diane Slaughter, APR, Fellow
Phone: 304-984-0308
info@homesteadcomms.com

Nominations/Elections

Paul Korte, PhD
Phone: 573-355-2084
pkorte@paloaltou.edu

Website Manager

Andy Benjamin, JD, PhD, ABPP
Phone: 206-616-6220
gahb54@u.washington.edu

Liaisons & Task Forces

APA Advocacy Coordinating
Danna Fowble
okpsychassociation@gmail.com
APA Interdivisional Healthcare
Elena Eisman, EdD
elena.eisman@gmail.com
BPA

Michele McKinnie, PsyD
michelecatherine@hotmail.com

Committee of State Leaders

Raymond Folen, PhD, ABPP
hpaexec@gmail.com
CWP

Kamieka Gabriel, PhD
kamieka@outlook.com

Diversity Leadership Program

Jennifer Kelly, PhD, ABPP
jfkphd@aol.com

Early Career Psychologists

Ryan Flinn, PhD
ranelliottflinn@gmail.com

Integrated Care Task Force

Stella Nelms, PhD
stella.d.nelms@emory.edu
Natalie Pilipenko, PhD, ABPP
np2615@cumc.columbia.edu

Integrated Primary Care

Paul Korte, PhD
pkorte@paloaltou.edu

Integrated Specialty Care

Kathleen Ashton, PhD, ABPP
ashtonl@ccf.org

LGBT Concerns Office/Comm on Sexual Orientation-Gender Div.

Kamieka Gabriel, PhD
kamieka@outlook.com

Regulatory Task Force

Peter Oppenheimer, PhD
pmoppenheimer@bbhsri.com

Rural Health

Emily Selby-Nelson, PhD
Emily.Selby.Nelson@cchswv.org