A message from the president:

10 Wishes for ABPP for the Next Decade

by Nadine J. Kaslow, PhD, ABPP
Board Certified in Clinical Psychology and Couple and Family Psychology

Spring is my favorite season of the year. It is a time of growth, renewal, and new life. It is a time when I feel particularly hopeful about the future and what I can do to make life richer and more meaningful. It is thus a good time for me as ABPP President to reflect upon my wishes and hopes for ABPP in the next decade. The following are my 10 wishes for ABPP and for board certification for 2010-2020. It is my sincere desire that together we can make these wishes a reality. I would welcome hearing your dreams for ABPP, as well as your suggestions about how we can most effectively move toward making my dreams for ABPP and the profession come true.

• **Board certification is the norm** – By 2020, voluntary certification is an expected credentialing step for specialty practitioners within psychology. Psychology shares the perspective held by other health professions that board certification of its practitioners is the ultimate step in qualifying as a practitioner within a given specialty (Bent, Packard, & Goldberg, 1999). Being board certified signals the attainment of competence within a specialty and reflects an expected level of professionalism within that specialty (Elman, Illfelder-Kaye, & Robiner, 2005). We demonstrate our seriousness about protecting the future of the practice of psychology and our profession, as well as our position in the evolving health care market, and view board certification as not only necessary but also as imperative (Dattilio, 2002).

• **Board certification by ABPP is the gold standard** – Certification by ABPP is the gold standard of board certification within professional psychology. ABPP has awarded specialty certification for over 70 years (the case in 2020) and as the national umbrella organization for specialty certification within professional psychology for at least 13 specialty boards, it has policies and examination procedures that ensure quality certification (Bent, et al., 1999; Cox, 2010; Nezu, Finch, & Simon, 2009).

Nadine J. Kaslow, PhD, ABPP
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Wow! Just back from beautiful Portland, Oregon! Not only is the city and surrounding area a wonderful place to visit, but the 2010 Summer Workshop Series was terrific! A hearty thanks to everyone who was involved — those who helped organize the event, the presenters, exhibitors, those in attendance and those who assisted otherwise behind the scenes to make sure this event was a great one! The reviews were fantastic, praising the content, quality and ease of registration. Based on this experience, we can anticipate many more annual workshop series to follow; work has begun on the 2011 conference and news will be out soon with the details.

ABPP’s web site rebuild and association management package has now demonstrated that it can handle the tasks we ask of it. Our annual attestation processing, as well as the conference registration and information, was all hosted on the site and worked quite well. This is a huge step forward in what ABPP Central Office (CO) wants to do in advancing the usefulness of the site. Many thanks to the CO staff who worked hard on this; particular thanks and kudos to Lanette Melville, who put in the time to set up the conference registration aspect of the site.

Speaking of the website, don’t forget that You are responsible for updating your contact information as needed. You may log in and update your address, phone, email address and other information. In order to get the variety of information from ABPP CO, it is very important that we have your up-to-date information; this is particularly important with respect to your email address as email is a primary mode of communication as we go green.

We received some praise for the site recently when another national organization contacted us to learn who designed and built the site and database. They were surprised to learn that it had been done largely “in-house” for a fraction of the cost that they had already spent on what proved to be an unsuccessful site for their organization. That said, the website is not done. It is perceived of as a dynamic entity by us — we expect to be making updates and changes relatively frequently. If you have ideas, desires or needs that you believe could be added to the site, let us know.

Coming up at APA will be our annual Convocation. Please see the information about the Convocation elsewhere in this issue. We hope you will join us in welcoming the newly board certified specialists at that time. Not only will we honor and congratulate all of them on their achievement; we will also be honoring a number of esteemed colleagues who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in psychology.

Due to the high level of continued interest in the program, the CO has recently made a page on the website specifically for the Early Entry Option. As you know, that program permits students, interns and residents to begin the application process and learn about what is necessary to “stay on track” if a specialty area is identified early on. Please visit the page. Let us know what else would be of value to have there. That portion of the site should be of interest to students, interns, residents, and other pre-license individuals as well as clinical training directors and other educators and supervisors.

In the last edition of The Specialist, I noted the high level of participation by ABPP psychologists in APA governance, indicating that four of the five nominees for APA President-elect were ABPP board certified psychologists. I thought that was pretty good. However, the 2010 election promises us that the next APA President-elect will also be ABPP board certified! All 5 of the candidates are ABPP specialists! I may be wrong, but I believe this may be a first. We appreciate each candidate for offering to serve, and wish them all well. Please read their comments elsewhere in this issue of The Specialist and be sure to cast your vote when ballots come out. We also, once again, thank the current APA President-elect Melba Vasquez for her willingness to serve APA as well as for the exceptional workshop presentations she just provided at the ABPP 2010 Summer Workshop Series!

The periodic Comprehensive Review (PCR) process (ABPP’s internal quality review mechanism) has recently included approval of the PCR work of the following boards: American Board of Cognitive and Behavioral Psychology (ABCBP), American Board of Clinical Health Psychology (ABCHP) and American Board of Rehabilitation psychology (ABRP). Congratulations to each board; and many thanks to all of the dedicated individuals who put in the numerous hours to update materials and complete the PCR process. Your commitment to your specialties is remarkable!

Look for the next issue of The Specialist to contain updates from the ABPP Summer Workshop Series — and details about our plans for 2011!
• Psychologists value being board certified – Psychologists appreciate the fact that the purpose of board certification is to demonstrate a level of competence (knowledge, skill, attitudes and their integration) and to have one’s competence assessed by oneself and one’s peers within the specialty (Belar, et al., 2001; Cox, 2010). Sharing one’s professional work with colleagues and having the opportunity to dialogue about one’s professional endeavors with peers who are recognized specialists is considered to be a rewarding and gratifying experience (Finch, Simon, & Nezu, 2006). Psychologists recognize that the most responsible way for them to represent themselves to licensing boards, third-party payers, legislative jurisdictions, and the institutions in which they work is as a specialist board certified through an organized peer process (Nezu, et al., 2009). Further, individuals see that many other benefits accrue from being board certified in professional psychology. Consistent with published survey data, psychologists find that the most significant values of becoming board certified are an enhanced sense of competence, improved feelings of self-worth and self-efficacy, increased levels of professional satisfaction, greater market-ability and a competitive edge in obtaining jobs, higher levels of job retention, enhanced job security, and higher salaries/ income (Pradel, et al., 2004; Ryan, Butler, Romanelli, & Smith, 2006; Sweet, Nelson, & Moberg, 2006). Tangible value is provided by employers, including some government agencies (e.g., Veteran’s Affairs, US Department of Defense), where a salary increase is given to psychologists who attain become board certified (Cox, 2010). Moreover, within professional psychology, facilitated mobility is a significant benefit of board certification (Cox, 2010).

• Consumers value board certification – Board certification is a way that individual psychologists demonstrate to clients/patients/organizations that are consuming services that they possess a certain level of competence and expertise in a given specialty domain (Nezu, et al., 2009). It signifies that the psychologist possesses not only the competence associated with an independently licensed practitioner, but also the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that define a specialist in one or more of the 13 specialty areas that fall under the ABPP rubric. Thus, consumers use board certification as a significant form of evidence with regard to whether or not a practitioner can satisfy special needs.

• Society values board certification – Certification is highly valued by the public and consumers of psychological services will change their own behavior to ensure that they receive services from a certified psychologist (Brennan, et al., 2004). Further, consumers will use board certification status as a factor in selecting their psychologist health care professional or organizational consultant (Bornstein, Marcus, & Cassidy, 2000). Just as research shows that board certification is associated with measures of competence and clinical outcomes in medicine (Brennan, et al., 2004; Sharp, Bashook, Lipsky, Horowitz, & Miller, 2002), there will be similar data to demonstrate such a link in psychology. A systems-based approach to quality improvement within our profession will include, therefore, in part, a significant emphasis on board certification (Brennan, et al., 2004).

• ABPP doubles the number of board certified psychologists each year – Each year, every board certified psychologist encourages and helps guide one colleague toward board certification. While not everyone serves as a mentor to their colleague, they help their colleague to secure a mentor (if so desired) and to make the commitment to follow-through on a commitment to secure board certification. So, if we have 100 board certified psychologists in 2010, we could have 200 and 2011, and 400 in 2012. This would be a remarkable accomplishment.

• Training faculty/supervisors at doctoral, internship, and postdoctoral residencies are board certified – All training faculty/supervisors are board certified. As a result, they serve as role models for students and trainees with regard to the value of board certification. Competency assessments at the doctoral, internship, and postdoctoral level incorporate in part assessment methodologies utilized in the ABPP examination process, which will help prepare our junior colleagues for the actual board certification process in their chosen specialty area (Kaslow, et al., 2009; Kaslow, Rubin, Forrest, et al., 2007; Nezu, et al., 2009). Board certification is one way in which training programs demonstrate that their faculty/supervisors possess the requisite credentials to teach and supervise future generations of psychologists within a given specialty area of practice.

• The institutions that employ psychologists will require board certification for hiring and retention purposes – Board certification will be a prerequisite for hiring, privileges, promotion, and retention in diverse institutions ranging from academic institutions, to hospitals, to counseling centers, to schools, to business, etc. Institutions will have policies governing the credentials of its employees that underscore the value of board certification as an indicator of psychologists’ competence and ability to fulfill their professional responsibilities (Nezu, et al., 2009).

• ABPP will have in place realistic and feasible mechanisms to ensure maintenance of certification – Certification of maintenance of competence is considered essential by both psychologists and the public. Maintenance of board certification is considered to be self-regulation by the profession (Brennan, et al., 2004) as it connotes that the specialists are committed to the lifelong learning associated with improved performance in practice, which is key to professionalism (core competency) (Duffy & Holmboe, 2006). People recognize that maintenance of competence is associated with better quality of services and fewer errors (Brennan, et al., 2004). While it is unlikely that ABPP will move to a re-examination process for maintenance of certification, ABPP will use appropriate strategies for assessing that board certified specialists and maintaining their competence and demonstrating a commitment to lifelong learning and continuous growth in their specialty area(s) (Hatcher & Lassiter, 2007; Kaslow, 2004; Kaslow, Rubin, Bebeau, et al., 2007; Neimeyer, Taylor, & Wear, 2009; Roberts, Borden, Christiansen, & Lopez, 2005).

• Each specialty continues to grow and evolve – Each of our specialties is poised at all times to address the changing needs of society and the profession (Cox, Hess, Hibbard, Layman, & Stewart, 2010; Jackson, Alberts, & Roberts, 2010). This may entail the development of subspecialties within already existing specialties.

In closing, while Spring may be my favorite season, there is no question that I look forward to summer as well. Summer is a period of fruition, fulfillment, and beauty. I genuinely appreciate that this summer many of you chose to come to Portland, Oregon July 6-10, 2010 for the first ABPP-wide workshop series. We had a fantastic lineup of board certified presenters who covered a diverse array of topics relevant to individuals from all specialties. It was very nice seeing you there. In the meantime, please always feel free to stay in touch with me at nkaslow@emory.edu.


Editor’s Corner:

20 Years Before The Mast[Head]

by Robt. W. Goldberg, Ph.D., ABPP

It is hard for me to believe that I have traveled this far downstream this fast but this issue marks 20 years for me as newsletter editor of The Diplomate/The ABPP Specialist. I got into this business when I was on the old Midwest Regional Board (ABPP was organized by regions rather than by specialties prior to 1992) and Dr. Jane Domke, then Editor, was giving up the role. I could see the handwriting on the wall for the Regional system, had had my perspective greatly widened by Board business, and was interested in continuing with ABPP in some capacity. I asked then Midwest Regional Chair, Dr. John Jackson, to communicate my interest in the editorship to the ABPP Board of Trustees, which he agreed to do. One morning, I was cold-called by Dr. Jacquelin Goldman, then BOT President, and interviewed for about 10 minutes. I told her what I would and would not be able to do. I think she liked my matter-of-fact answers and, rather soon thereafter, I was informed that I had the job.

My personal criteria for taking on supplementary professional responsibilities have always been (1) that I had the skill set for the job and (2) that it was going to be fun. Editing this newsletter fit the bill for me. I could create copy, edit, and illustrate the newsletter without relying on much logistical support. Moreover, as a born schmoozer, I liked professional gossip about emerging ideas and people’s careers. I was also structured enough to set deadlines but flexible enough to see them go unobserved by some contributors without undue upset. So the newsletter fit the bill for me.

I have always considered the newsletter as an organ of the BOT, to inform the professional and lay public, and to advance BOT initiatives and objectives. I have not regarded it as a personal fiefdom or bully pulpit to tilt at my preferred professional windmills. In editorials, I have tried to address issues, never personalities. I believe I have been successful in these regards.

Attending BOT meetings over the years, first as Secretary ex officio and subsequently as Chair of the Communications Committee, was an eye-opener for me. Over the years, BOT process evolved from a dreary recitation of reports and a descending cloud of pessimism into a task- and action-oriented professional organization. These changes have given me the perspective of the personal and professional relationships that have been formed. Some have become enduring friendships and others of which evolved into enduring professional relationships. I have been enriched, both personally and professionally, by the countless contacts this role has afforded me, many of them fleeting but others of which evolved into enduring friendships.

The long-time reader may recall that I have periodically compiled Anniversary issues (45th, 50th, two 55th, and 60th). I have become increasingly interested in the history of professional psychology and in systematically examining and reflecting upon it (e.g., Goldberg, 2007; Bent, Packard, & Goldberg, 1999). By happy coincidence, a couple of years ago the BOT created the position of Historian. I was appointed and I am delighted that I will continue to contribute to ABPP in that capacity. So you haven't heard the last from me yet!

References


Special Thanks To Diversity Survey Respondents

from the Diversity Committee and ABPP Board of Trustees

Dolores Morris, Ph.D., ABPP
Chair, Diversity Committee

The Diversity Committee and ABPP Board of Trustees want to thank all of the board-certified specialists who took the time to fill out the “Getting to Know You” survey. The results of that survey will be published in an upcoming issue of The Specialist. Dolores Morris, Ph.D., ABPP serves as Chair of the Diversity Committee.
I have been asked to respond to four questions from the American Board of Professional Psychology: (1) What are your views regarding board certification in psychology? (2) What are your views regarding specialization within psychology? (3) If elected, how can APA and ABPP work together toward improving our field? and (4) If elected, how can ABPP help with your presidential agenda? I will take the liberty of responding to these four questions as a unified whole.

I have been a proud Diplomate since 1974 when I successfully presented my assessment case of a learning disabled child and survived its oral defense. For the past dozen years I have been asked by the American Academy of Forensic Psychology to present all-day workshops on Ethical Issues in Forensic Psychology to applicants for the Diplomate and those already credentialed. In addition, I have been privileged to be asked to consult with ABPP on some legal issues. So, put me down as an ABPP “groupie.”

But it is not simply because I enjoy professional affiliations and proudly exhibit my credentials that I support the work and dedication of those involved with ABPP. It is because I firmly agree with the Report of the APA Task Force on the Assessment of Competencies in Professional Psychology (October 2006) that psychology has “a responsibility to ensure via education, training, and ongoing life-long assessment that practicing psychologists and future generations of psychologists provide quality and safe psychological services.” But, as the Task Force recognized, professional psychology must not only embrace a culture of competence, “but also a culture of the assessment of competence (emphasis added).” For decades, ABPP has been a leader in the field of doing precisely that. It is the only organization that genuinely requires the demonstration of superior competence by one’s peers.

It is noteworthy that the Task Force consisted of representatives from the Boards of all of APAs constituencies—Education, Professional Affairs, Public Interest, Science—and the Commission for the Advancement of Professional Practice. Thus, although the thought of evaluating competency may be threatening to some, the consensus in the field is that American psychology must do what ABPP has done for decades.

One of the Task Force Principles states that there “needs to be collaboration across constituency groups in creating coherence and continuity in strategies for evaluating competencies.” In furtherance of that Principle, the Task Force recommends that there be “a conference on the assessment of competence.” Therefore, in partial response to the third question posed to the candidates, as APA President I would propose and seek funding for such a conference in which ABPP would be invited as an essential and significant participant. It is one of, if not the only, major organization currently assessing competency to practice in thirteen specialty areas past the admission to licensure. As the Task Force recognized, ABPP’s practice sample and oral examination used by its specialty boards “may reflect higher fidelity approaches than those used elsewhere in the profession. [T]hese assessment strategies may tap competence in a manner that reflects actual practice.” ABPP’s model is not the only model, but it has been a long-time leader in the field and I would heartily welcome its integral involvement in a conference on assessment competence.

My views regarding specialization are simple. Although every psychologist should have a broad-based graduate education, as accreditation and licensure standards require, no practitioner can be all things to all patients. Unlike medical licensure that allows physicians to practice generically (including psychiatry), it is essential that our potential clients feel reassured that psychologists who hold themselves out as practicing a specialty, e.g., neuropsychology, forensic psychology, are competent in that specialty. The granting of a Diplomate in a particular specialty assures the client that practitioners who hold themselves out as possessing expertise in particular areas have been assessed as competent in the specialties in which they practice.

There are several ways in which ABPP could help promote my presidential agendas. I have already discussed at length the involvement of ABPP in promoting the assessment along the life-span of professional practice. Second, I would hope that ABPP would advise APA on how to adapt to the rapidly changing nature of professional psychology and the increasing diversity of our clients and students. Finally, in prior remarks, I have said that my main goal as President would be to advocate for the principle that public policy and the public interest are informed by what psychologists have learned. That goal, in part, implies that to gain (or perhaps regain) the respect of the public regarding American psychology we must work together to promote research and to base our practice on what has shown to be, or holds out significant promise to be effective. ABPP, as a traditional supporter of the bridge between science and practice, will be an invaluable aid in promoting that agenda.

As for the additional request that I indicate what it means to me personally that I am board certified, I would respond as follows. First, I feel especially honored that I have been successfully tested by my colleagues. Second, I am pleased that I can contribute to ABPP’s efforts by presenting continuing education workshops to Diplomates and those who aspire to Diplomate status. But, most of all, I am proud to be an integral part of an organization that values competency and lifelong assessment.
What ABPP means to me personally can best be expressed in what I have done since receiving the certification in Clinical Psychology.

In the closing paragraph of my work sample I wrote:

I understand that when the American Board of Professional Psychology confers a diploma in any specialty, it confers a significant seal of credibility. I face perhaps another twenty years of productive work. Each year is bringing more opportunities for more substantial work. Should I be successful in my application, I would hope any achievements I may realize will credit the Board and will demonstrate my respect for the Board; I was raised to make the family proud. For me, the diploma would appreciate enhance my chances to succeed.

I believe that the certificate has indeed enhanced my credibility and my success in many circles. It certainly has boosted my confidence to embrace new responsibilities and assume challenges that might otherwise have remained too daunting. My candidacy for president-elect of APA is one such example; another is my tenure on the APA Board of Directors. (And if I had not pursued the certification, I would be the only presidential candidate without it! That speaks volumes about the value of the diploma!)

More important than personal achievements that may reflect positively but indirectly on the ABPP are my efforts to encourage others as I was encouraged. Had it not been for the urgings and mentoring of Drs. John Robinson and Beverly Greene, I might not have my certification.

Imitating them, I mentored Dr. Lisa Grossman’s successful application and responded to her request to chair an important presidential initiative she has created for Division 42’s (Independent Practice) members. This is a pilot program to determine not only the level of interest among members but the advantages of having mentors to increase ABPP’s enrollment. To date there have been 85 inquiries about the program. Of those, more than 20 are being mentored by 20 volunteer mentors. Clearly, Dr. Grossman has tapped into a well-spring of interest in certification and identified what promises to be a successful avenue to the diplomat in Clinical Psychology.

I am personally gratified to play this role in honoring my standing commitment to promote the interests of ABPP and the public perception of the profession. Consequently, it seems to me that developing mentoring should be part of the future of ABPP. Likewise, the value of Senior Option is clear. I received several questions from Division 42 members about the availability of a Senior Option in other specialties, in Counseling Psychology in particular. Perhaps this would be an important avenue to explore as a board.

During my application and exam, I was struck by ABPP’s commitment to ethics as well as competence and achievement. In response to your question about ways ABPP may work with APA, I am wondering what serendipitous opportunities ethics may offer to both. As president-elect, I would pursue this avenue to promote the core values of our profession. Alongside our training and science, I have long thought that it is our ethics and core values that make us uniquely valuable to the public and to policy makers. I would want this to be a hallmark of my presidency, as it was of my presidency in the Illinois Psychological Association.

There is another more deeply personal meaning and value of the diploma. For a gay psychologist who has had to deal with marginalization, real and perceived, throughout his life, the ABPP has been a critical professional validation of my worth to the profession the value of my contributions to psychology.

Thank you for this opportunity and thank you for your interest in the future of psychology. Regardless of the outcome of the election, I will continue to promote ABPP’s specialty certification in whatever ways feasible.

Thank you for inviting me to comment about ABPP as a candidate for President-elect of the APA.

Board-certification in psychology is very important, if not essential to the maturation of our profession, especially in the changing landscape of healthcare. Clinical psychologists are doctoral-level health service providers. Certainly, applied psychology reaches far beyond the field of health (e.g., forensics, education, etc.). In the health arena as well as other venues, board-certification is a credential validating competence above and beyond what is represented by the doctorate or state licensure. When I became board-certified in clinical neuropsychology in 1992, I felt proud to join the ranks of my similarly credentialed peers. Nearly two decades later, after many more neuropsychologists have joined the ranks of being board-certified by ABPP, I remain very proud of this credential and proud to be listed among the cadre of similarly credentialed colleagues.

If psychologists want to be taken seriously as doctoral-level health-service providers in the rapidly changing healthcare arena, board-certification remains an important credential for psychologists to attain. In all venues, board-certification is a credential that helps psychologists be recognized by other professionals and by the public for our advanced expertise in the field of applied behavioral science.

Contrary to the data which points toward a minority of psychologists seeking board certification, I do not think that board-certification through ABPP should be viewed as an esoteric credential achieved by only a few elite psychologists. Rather, credentialing under ABPP should be viewed as a standard of competence toward which all licensed providers of psychological services should aspire.

Regarding specialization, this is a natural evolution of any maturing profession. Attorneys
specialize. Teachers specialize. Nurses specialize. Psychologists have specialized and specialty board certification is a natural outcome of this process. As a clinical neuropsychologist, I am generally trained in clinical psychology and specialty trained in brain-behavior relationships. Board-certification in the specialty of clinical neuropsychology is sensible and useful. Other professionals benefit from knowing that they can call upon me as a specialist. Likewise, the public benefits by being able to rely on a specialty ABPP credential when seeking the services of a psychologist with advanced skills in a particular area of applied psychology.

If elected as APA-President, I would hope to promote the idea of board-certification as a standard to which all graduate students and early career psychologists would aspire. Again, viewing ABPP as an esoteric credential pursued by a very select and elite group of psychologists is contrary to the best interest of our profession. As is generally true of medical doctors, applied psychologists should view board-certification as a credential practicing psychologists will obtain as they move forward with their respective careers. I would like to collaborate with ABPP to promote a relationship with APA that would encourage a much higher rate of board certification through ABPP among all practicing psychologists.

As stated boldly on my campaign homepage (www.paulcraigforAPApresident.net), “I love psychology.” I cherish being a psychologist in general and a neuropsychologist in particular. Achieving board-certification in the specialty of clinical neuropsychology was one of the most meaningful achievements of my career. I display my ABPP certificate proudly in my office and make sure that patients and referral sources are aware of this credential. From my perspective, ABPP stands heads and shoulders above other board-certifications available to psychologists and represents a gold standard of excellence and competence among its diplomates. Personally, I worked long and hard to reach the level of competence necessary to receive my ABPP in clinical neuropsychology. In light of the level of time and effort required, the meaning of this credential is second to none among the various credentials I have achieved.

If elected APA President, I will do my best to promote ABPP to the general membership while encouraging many more of my peers to seek diplomate status under one or more of the ABPP specialty boards.

Suzanne Bennett Johnson, Ph.D., ABPP

Personal Background: I am an ABPP in clinical health psychology, an APA Fellow, and a Distinguished Research Professor at Florida State University (FSU) College of Medicine. I received my B.A. in psychology from Cornell University and my Ph.D. in clinical psychology from SUNY at Stony Brook. I was Director of the Center for Pediatric and Family Studies at the University of Florida Health Science Center until 2002, when I became the chair of the Department of Medical Humanities and Social Sciences at FSU College of Medicine, the first new medical school to be established in 25 years. I have had 30+ years of research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for my work on medical regimen adherence, childhood diabetes, pediatric obesity, and the psychological impact of genetic screening on children and families. For many years, I ran an inpatient program for children with difficult to manage diabetes. My 30+ years outpatient practice was in a pediatric diabetes clinic, as part of an integrated multidisciplinary care team. I have worked with the American Diabetes Association to develop standards for the psychological care of patients with diabetes and worked with the APA Practice Directorate to establish the Health and Behavior CPT codes, permitting psychological services to be reimbursed as part of the medical benefit. I have served as President of the Society of Pediatric Psychology (now Division 54), President of Division 38 (Health Psychology) and was an APA Council Representative from a State (Florida) and a Division (38). I chaired APAs Board of Professional Affairs and its Board of Scientific Affairs and am currently a member of APAs Board of Directors. I was also very fortunate to serve as a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow for Senator Hillary Clinton and helped develop Senator Clintons response to the mental health needs of New York City children after 9/11. The Lifespan Respite Care Act, which I wrote during my fellowship, became law in 2006.

Presidential Goals. For the first time in its 117 year history, APA has a strategic plan, with three goals. I am committed to these goals and want to work to make them a reality.

• Maximize Organizational Effectiveness. Years of service to APA in many capacities, provide me the multiple perspectives needed to address this goal. APA membership is aging; it is critical that we make APA a viable home for younger psychologists. Without the next generation, APA will no longer be the strong force it is today.

• Expand Psychologys Role in Advancing Health. My work as a practitioner and educator in medical settings and my experiences in Senator Clintons office are particularly relevant to this goal. With the passage of mental health parity and health care reform, APA has the opportunity to make psychology an integral part of health care. We need to both advocate for psychology and train psychologists to take their rightful place in health care.

• Increase Recognition of Psychology as a Science. Advocating for psychology as a science on NIH interdisciplinary research teams has been the hallmark of my research career. I think psychology is an awesome science and as good as any of my biomedical colleagues sciences. Yet, psychology does not get the recognition it deserves. I want to use the APA Presidency to address this issue on a larger scale than I have been able to do in my own scientific work.

Response to Questions Posed to APA Presidential Candidates by ABPP

• What are your views regarding board certification in psychology? I believe board certification is important both as a means of recognizing and assuring competence within our field and as means of assuring recognition and acceptance within the larger health care community. Board certification is standard in medicine and I believe board certification in psychology should be one component of psychologys effort to become a real player in health care.

• What are your views regarding specialization within psychology? The shear amount of psychological information created annually, which is escalating at a rapid pace, sets the stage for specialization to occur. In my view, specialization is a natural outgrowth of the maturation of a field. That said, there should always be room for generalists and when specialization does occur, it should be derived from a strong science base.
Robert “Bob” H. Woody, Ph.D., Sc.D., J.D., ABPP

1. What are your views regarding board certification in psychology?

Professionalism requires that members of a discipline assure benefits to society. Through its certification programs, ABPP has provided distinguished assurance of high quality psychological services. Said simply, ABPP certification justifies professional status for psychology and should be nurtured to greater authority.

Credentialed is essential for quality control of health-related services, and signifies that knowledgeable and astute professional peers have confirmed the particular practitioner’s potential for positive contributions to society. Certification also offers definitions, standards, and guidelines for service delivery—this should be a function of professionals from within the discipline, and should not come primarily from others who are pursuing nonprofessional agendas.

I have strong reservations about how government agencies and third-party payment (financial) sources have usurped definition, monitoring, and regulation from psychologists. Strong certification by and for psychologists should be emphasized and would be an important step towards establishing, developing, and maintaining professionalism, as opposed to determinations that are devoted to political and financial objectives.

I have advocated the several quality-control review systems for specialty credentials (e.g., promulgated by the Florida Board of Psychology in Florida). For example, I have met with governmental and professional sources trying to extend quality control of certification to all mental health professions; that is, another poorly regulated mental health discipline can lessen the effectiveness of the discipline of psychology.

As opposed to the past, contemporary conditions justify the certification of psychologists to expand the scope of service, relevant to types of services (e.g., prescription authority) and helping underserved people. Although additional study and development are necessary (along with considerable public policy efforts), a certification program is needed to qualify psychologists to potentially provide professional services across jurisdictional boundaries (i.e., to work in various states and, eventually, other countries).

Globalization supports that an international constituency could benefit from certified psychologists. For additional information, please see: www.BobWoodyHelpsPsychology.com

2. What are your views regarding specialization within psychology?

One look at my résumé will reveal that it is chock full of degrees, postdoctoral studies, and specialty certifications, documenting clearly that I support specialization within psychology. Specialization denotes excellence (including career-long learning and quality assurance), as determined by professional peers. However, it is up to the profession to make sure that specializations document expertise and safeguard quality care. This means that the standards for specialization should, I believe, adhere to the scientist-practitioner model and continually be updated to reflect new information on evidence-based knowledge and services.

Among other goals, I have two potential presidential agendas that have direct relevance to ABPP. First, I wish to upgrade the APA accreditation of training and certification (e.g., continuing education) programs, which would support specialization (e.g., by ABPP). Second, through publications, presentations, and legislative advocacy, I will continue to press for scrutiny and legal control of “dubious credentials,” and will pursue further acceptance of legitimate specialization sources, for which I consider ABPP to be the prototype.

3. If elected, how can APA and ABPP work together toward improving our field?

APA and ABPP should remain allies for communicating about critical issues, and jointly pursuing alternatives and recommended objectives to the public, professional caregivers, and commercial health care and governmental sources. In accord with the APA strategic plan, unity will be strengthened by emphasis on science, health care, and organizational efficiency. Likewise, the APA strategic plan should embrace ABPP’s six strategic initiatives intended to help achieve its 2020 vision, and there should be a constant back and forth flow of communications involving ABPP (e.g., with its six task groups).

Multiple venues and modalities should be targeted for enriching information exchange, strategic planning, and problem solving by APA and ABPP. As a psychologist, I rely on my training in law and public health to convey persuasive communications that emphasize excellence in service, commitment to lifelong professional development, and reliance on and contributions to the body of scholarly and research information that will preserve hallowed benefits to ALL people. ABPP will offer a substantial and incomparable boost to APA efforts to achieve these objectives.

4. If elected, how can ABPP help with your presidential agenda?

From its creation, ABPP has been the pinnacle for professional psychology, and I concur that it is the premiere body for specialty board certification and evaluation of the maintenance of competence. My attaining ABPP Diplomate status in clinical and forensic psychology was a highlight of my career. I have encouraged and mentored other psychologists to seek ABPP certification, knowing that this would enhance their professionalism and, in turn, strengthen APA and psychology overall.

For more information go to SBforAPA.com

Why I am seeking the APA Presidency now? After 35 years in academia, I have given up my administrative duties to devote my time to research and service. I am grateful for my career as a psychologist and service to psychology is my way of giving back. I would be honored to serve as APA President and ask for your support.

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Robert “Bob” H. Woody, Ph.D., Sc.D., J.D., ABPP
CANDIDATES, from pg 10

Having served on the APA Council of Representatives, I have been pleased that APA seems to appreciate and be open-minded to the importance of ABPP. Although there would seemingly be no barrier, I would promote mutual support and collaboration between ABPP and APA.

If elected, I would encourage ABPP to assert its moral philosophy for excellence. I would seek appropriate collaboration between APA and ABPP via creative ventures to increase resources for bettering society and all human service professions. I would encourage exploration of adopting an international perspective and the use of technology to communicate professional ideals and standards, as would complement credentialing programs.

For my presidential initiative to help professionals regain greater influence in the defining and monitoring of practitioners (as opposed to allowing governmental and financial sources to be in the driver’s seat), I would facilitate concurrent APA/ABPP projects. For example, I would spearhead conveying position statements and letters of advocacy to critical persons in governmental and professional leadership positions, spelling out standards and guidelines that will help them strengthen public policies, laws, and resources for professional objectives. I would put a spotlight on sources that are dispensing dubious (or “bogus”) credentials, making evident their motives for financial gain and the risks that are created for the unknowing public.

5. What does it mean to you (personally) to be board certified?

My career has benefited greatly from my specialty credentials, especially being named a Diplomate in Clinical and Forensic Psychology, ABPP. Achieving this goal is associated with a life-long passion for learning. Consequently, this professional satisfaction spills over to personal self-concept and allows me to enjoy countless aspects of life more fully.

Becoming board certified validated my commitment to professional excellence and to strengthening the discipline of psychology for public service. I am pledged to lifelong learning and welcome quality-control evaluations from colleagues.

Board certification also stimulated me to continue advancing my knowledge and skills. In addition to my ABPP status, I have earned two doctorates (PhD, Michigan State University, and ScD, University of Pittsburgh) and a law degree (JD, Creighton University), the two-year Postdoctoral Certificate in Group Psychotherapy from the Washington School of Psychiatry, and credentials in law enforcement, assessment psychology, school psychology, and sex therapy. If I am elected APA President, ABPP will have a steadfast advocate.

For additional information, please see: www.BobWoodyHelpsPsychology.com

ABPP Specialists Receive National Awards

In the past nine months, ABPP Board Certified Specialists have been the recipients of some of psychology’s most prestigious national awards. Awardees, and the distinctions they have achieved, are described below.

Kathleen McNamara, Ph.D., ABPP received the APA Practice Directorate’s most prestigious award, the Award for Distinguished Contributions in the Public Sector. The award recognizes outstanding service delivery by a psychologist primarily engaged in the practice of psychology in the public sector, in Dr. McNamara’s case the Department of Veterans Affairs. (Item submitted by Dr. Edmund Nightingale)

Lisa Grossman, Ph.D., ABPP is this year’s recipient of the APA Award for Distinguished Contributions to Independent Practice. (Item submitted by Dr. Paul Craig)

Irving B. Weiner, Ph.D., ABPP is the 2010 recipient of the APA Division 12 (Clinical Psychology) Florence Halperin Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to Clinical Psychology. Dr. Weiner is also the current president of APA Division 5 (Evaluation, Measurement, and Statistics).

Louise Evans, Ph.D., ABPP was the recipient of the 2009 Corann Okorodudu International Women’s Advocacy Award given by the Society for the Psychology of Women (APA Division 35). The award recognizes her as a pathfinder, advocate, and mentor for women in the USA and internationally.

Anne Kazak, Ph.D., ABPP was the recipient last August of the $50,000 American Psychological Foundation PSYCHE Prize. She is a psychologist at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and Professor and Director of Psychology Research at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Kazak is immediate past editor of the Journal of Family Psychology and a former Board Member of the American Board of Couple and Family Psychology. (Item submitted by Dr. Florence Kaslow)

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“Great Job. Organized, coherent, interactive”

“Thoughtful, thought provoking presentation”

“Quite competent and professional content”

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Views from the Frontlines: A Rehabilitation Psychologist in Haiti

"Please find my nephew, if you can...he is a smart student—attending University and planning to be a doctor someday--a fine young man....his mother is worried sick. Please find him...please have him call..." This is what greeted me within minutes of arriving at Miami International Airport, after the kindly middle-aged Haitian woman driving the cab found out the purpose of my trip to Haiti and my deployment alongside a medical team. As we stopped at my hotel, she scribbled down her phone numbers and email, said a quick prayer and wiped away tears. She thrust the paper into my hand, clasping me briefly in her large, warm grasp. She peered at me with sad yet hopeful eyes, and thanked me profusely for my willingness to help. I found myself feeling awkward and powerless, with a mist starting to form in my eyes. I blinked my unexpected teariness back, and softly told her that I would do my best, but I could not assure her of an ability to find him. She grasped my hand again, and let me know that she just was grateful for being able to give her message to someone – the rest was “up to God.” Suddenly the sights and sounds of Haiti the past five days on TV had become very human and very real to me, as I looked into her grief-filled and concerned face. Without a doubt, I knew that this disaster response would be different from all of the previous disasters I had worked with, and a vague sense of apprehension hit me for the first time as the true enormity of the situation invaded my professional resolve.

Blog Entry 2: Getting to Haiti

Today was spent being reminded of what it means to respond to a disaster—from a more mundane standpoint. Basically, hurry-up and wait, think you are doing one thing, and then everything changes and you are doing another. Patience is not only a virtue but a necessity for disaster response. All of us from my organization had gathered at a private airplane hanger in the Miami area. It was astounding to see the many volunteers ready to be deployed, and the hanger quickly filling up with donations of medicine, tents, water, etc. A rap-artist—Haitian by birth, and now living in America—had contacted our organization and facilitated us coming in soon after the earthquake, with a multitude of private planes being donated to bring in “strike teams”—about 10 of us—primarily medical, as well as security and logistics. The hurry-up and wait had to do with the Haitian airport, primarily, as first it was open, then we got word of them closing it and turning flights back. We then were told we had a 737 donated to us, which would mean we could all go in, only to be told the airport had been closed to all planes, except small private jets and cargo planes. Back to our first plan, then, with private jets.

Doing disaster response as a behavioral health responder means that we not only are there for those who were impacted by the disaster, but also our fellow responders. Professionals who had flown across the country to go to Haiti were ready to go and work...they were not taking these delays easily. Volunteers of Haitian descent, were turning up in frustration – other volunteers were taking out their helplessness by getting angry at those arranging the flights. As a result, behavioral health services were subtly implemented for all concerned—including those arranging flights, who were also saddened by this turn of events.

I was placed on the second (and last plane) out that evening—accompanied by a number of surgeons, as well as a Search and Rescue team and dog, Zeus. The owner of the private jet greeted us and wished us well – refusing to give us his name—just noting that “this is what you do when there is a need.” The seats were quite comfy, but most of us were too focused on our arrival to relax. After a bit, we realized that we were circling the airport, and circle we did – for about 1.5 hours—us and a number of other planes. It was eerie seeing the moon come and go, again and again, while surrounded by all of these other jets. We eventually landed at the airport, stepping out into extreme noise and ordered chaos. We placed all our gear and multiple medical supplies on a very large cart, and were told that we needed to find a place to sleep on the tarmac, as no one would come get us at night (too dangerous, as many Haitians slept on the roads to feel safer during the many aftershocks, as well as due to concerns about security of our supplies). We were surrounded by other groups of responders from all nationalities, “bunking” in random areas, as well as media working under bright lights. If you can imagine being about 50 to 100 yards from a number of large cargo planes, coming and going all night, and trying to sleep. A few of us were in tents on the concrete (no one wanted to be in the airport, due to the very large cracks in the cement walls), and each time a jet turned to leave, the walls of the tent would blow down around us, and others would be pelted with dust and debris. The noise was deafening, and the surroundings surreal. Nonetheless, I knew that I still had it better than most of the people we would begin serving tomorrow. No time for feeling pitiful—there is work to be done.
American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology

Michael McCrea, Ph.D., ABPP

The AACN Board of Directors welcomed Dean Beebe, Kevin Greve and Joseph Rick-er as our newest Board members beginning five year terms in 2010. Robert Heilbronnber, Kyle Boone, and Greg Lamberty rotated off the Board at our January 2010 meeting. The Academy is grateful for their committed service over the last several years. The AACN Executive Officers for 2010-2012 are Michael McCrea (president), Aaron Nelson (president-elect), Susan McPherson (treasurer), and Leslie Rosenstei (secretary).

As of the spring oral board examinations, the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology (ABCN) has now awarded over 750 diplomas in Clinical Neuropsychology! This continued growth is a testimonial to the high level of interest among clinical neuropsychologists to achieve board certification through ABCN as the highest standard of competency in the field.

The American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology Foundation (AACNF) was incorporated in late 2008 as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization to support the mission and goals of AACN, principally by seeking to fund outcomes research supporting the value of neuropsychological services. The first AACNF Board meeting was held in 2009 and Greg Lamberty has been elected AACNF President. AACNF Board members include: Kira Armstrong, Mark Barisa, Bill Barr, Bob Bilder, Lauren Dawson, Laura Flashman (Treasurer), Laura Janzen, Sandra Koffler, Greg Lamberty, Mike McCrea, Ted Peck (Vice President), Otto Pedraza, Neil Pliskin, Leslie Rosenstein, and David Williamson (Secretary). The Foundation has established a strategic plan for fund development and plans to award its first grants in 2010 to support studies examining the influence of neuropsychological services on clinical outcome in the neurosciences. Information, applications, and links for making contributions to the Foundation can be found on the AACNF website (www.aacnf.org).

The AACN 8th Annual Conference and Workshops was held at the Renaissance Hotel in Chicago June 17–19 and was one of our largest meetings to date. The meeting once again delivered high quality, intensive workshops in adult, pediatric and forensic neuropsychology. The full slate of topics presented can be found on the AACN website at www.theaacn.org. Robert Ivnik from the Mayo Clinic was awarded the Distinguished Neuropsychologist of the Year Award for 2010 for his abundant contributions to AACN, ABCN and the larger field of clinical neuropsychology. The consistent and increasing success of the annual AACN Conference is due to the incredible efforts of many, led primarily by Sandra Koffler (conference chair), Susan McPherson (adult program coordinator), Karen Wills (pediatric program coordinator), Kevin Greve (forensic program coordinator), Pamela McMurray and Gina Rehkemper (scientific program coordinators), and Aaron Malina (local site coordinator). A special tribute was held in honor of the late Edith Kaplan, a truly monumental figure in the history and advancement of clinical neuropsychology. Bill Barr, Linas Bieliauskas, Manfred Greiffenstein, Robb Mapou, and Cheryl Weinstein presented “Edith Kaplan Remembered: The Process was the Achievement.” Special forums lead by AACN members were also held for trainees in neuropsychology to promote the benefits of board certification through ABCN and membership in AACN.

The AACN/Oxford University Press Workshop Series has added two new volumes, including the “The Business of Neuropsychology: A Practical Guide” by Mark Barisa and “Neuropsychology of Epilepsy and Epilepsy Surgery” by Greg Lee. AACN has also entered a partnership with Psychology Press to develop a series of texts on topics of interest in the field, with Jerry Sweet and Joel Morgan as series editors. AACN members Ida Sue Baron, Robb Mapou and John Lucas all were among the presenters at the first ever specialty wide ABPP conference in Portland in 2010.

Several recent highlights from AACN’s official journal, The Clinical Neuropsychologist (TCN), continued the tradition of providing great value to the AACN membership and larger ABPP community, including:

• A special issue on “Proceedings of the International Conference on Behavioral Health and Traumatic Brain Injury”, with George Zitnay and Rosemarie Scolaro Moser as guest editors. This issue includes 10 excellent articles on traumatic brain injury and posttraumatic stress disorder, with a special focus on how these disorders are affecting military personnel serving in the current conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan, and neuropsychology’s response to improving the lives of those affected.

• David Cox, ABPP Executive Officer, published “Board Certification in Professional Psychology: Promoting Competency and Consumer Protection” in a recent issue of TCN.

• A special issue on “Advocacy in Neuropsychology” with Guest Editors Laura Howe and Neil Pliskin, featuring 12 articles on various aspects of advocacy to increase general awareness of neuropsychology, the science and practice of neuropsychology, and the intersection of neuropsychology and the law.

• Publication of the “American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology Consensus Statement on the Neuropsychological Assessment of Effort, Response Bias, and Malingering”.

• A very timely and important article by Shane Bush “Determining Whether or When to Adopt New Versions of Psychological and Neuropsychological Tests: Ethical and Professional Considerations.”

• An invited article by Paul Kaufmann entitled “Protecting Raw Data and Psychological Tests from Wrongful Disclosure: A Primer on the Law and Other Persuasive Strategies.”

Overall, AACN continues in a very strong position and has a bright future from every perspective, including growth in membership, advancing the Academy’s core mission, success of our annual conference, and our financial stability. This positive standing is no doubt a tribute to the efforts of so many AACN members and their contribution to the work of the Academy.
Christopher Ebbe, Ph.D., ABPP

The Clinical Academy continues to promote Board Certification through paid ads in professional journals, sending out e-mails to professional and student groups, and speaking to various faculty and student groups. We recently added a donor program, and we used Google Checkout as a dues-payment option for the first time. Our greatest excitement is meeting once a year with the Clinical Examining Board to work on collaboration with ABCP and explore possible merger. We are finding ways to work on promotion together, and we are looking forward to the answers by various Academies and Examining Boards to an upcoming survey regarding collaboration/merger. Other concerns include wanting ABPP to be very careful about adding new specialties, most of which would drain more members from Clinical. On a positive note, we have been inundated with requests for mentoring recently, and we're happy that APA Div. 42 is offering its own mentoring help to Div. 42 members who are going for the “senior option.” We made a first contact with APA Div. 12 recently, to seek whatever mutually beneficial collaboration might be possible.

Melton Strozier, Ph.D., ABPP

It is hard to believe that four years of involvement in the Academy of Couple and Family are coming to a completion for me. I served two years as president-elect, and am completing two years as president. I will still have two years as past president, but that doesn’t involve the chance to write in this venue. I will be on sabbatical later this year, so I thought I would say a few words now about my experience.

I think of two things when I reflect on AB-CFP/AACFP – the mission and the people. First, the mission. Promoting the practice and science of family psychology is a noble task and one accomplished quite handily by ABPP, the Board and Academy of Couple and Family psychology, the Society of Family Psychology (APA Div. 43), and other groups who are like minded. Many of those of us who are from the “older generation” were trained in traditional clinical or counseling psychology programs while we also did training in family therapy, sometimes parallel or subsequent to our doctoral programs. We were largely left to our own devices to struggle with the integration of traditional individual psychology with family systems and family therapy. There were early mentors among us, though, who helped influence us toward this integration. My mentor at the Houston/Galveston Family institute, Don Williamson, did so for me and for a number of others who are now in leadership positions in family psychology. I well remember buying the first reference books in which Luciano L’Abate coined the term, “Family Psychology.” They still sit on my shelf. I remember going to my first workshop with Florrie Kaslow and watching as she ran a demonstration of a couple’s therapy group from a systems approach. I remember when efforts were successful in creating Division 43 in APA, now called the Society of Family Psychology, and recently celebrating its 25th birthday. How far we have come in my lifetime, moving unsteadily through our early theories of working with family systems, until we reached this place. We have far to go still. But I feel as though the idea that the focus of psychology should be upon the biology, psychology, and relationships of humans is on solid ground and pretty mainstream now.

For anyone who is able to see how important this integration is, how impossible it is to split out these three major areas of human behavior, and how essential it is to work in the integrative biopsychosocial web, I urge you to be a part of the Board and Academy of Couple and Family Psychology. These are right and good places to be. That brings me to the second focus of my reflection – the people. The people who belong to and work in this field are so extraordinary that I still cannot believe it has been my privilege to serve with them for this time. Thanks to Florrie Kaslow who nominated and supported me, to John Thoburn who mentored me in all things related to the duties and responsibilities of the president of the Academy, and to each Academy officer for their service – Lenore Walker, Andy Benjamin, Charles Guyer, Charles Huber, and Rod Nurse. Their dedication and commitment to our endeavors has been invaluable. If you are considering casting your lot with those who lead us regarding family psychology, these and many other very fine psychologists will be your comrades in arms. That’s a pretty impressive group. Thanks again for the privilege to serve.
American Board of Forensic Psychology

Alan Goldstein, Ph.D., ABPP

The American Board of Forensic Psychology has had a most productive six month period in terms of new applications and oral examinations of those seeking board certification. Eighteen new applications were received and thirteen oral examinations were conducted in Cleveland in April.

We welcome two new members to our examination committee. Candace Shields and Dan Meller joined the group and observed a number of oral examinations in Cleveland. They will serve as examiners during our next round or oral examinations to be held in Philadelphia in October. Deborah Collins and Tom Grisso, our Executive Director, conducted a training session for these examiners and also held a general meeting for all of those scheduled to administer oral examinations. Deborah Collins has replaced Tom as the practice sample review chair. We are deeply appreciative to Tom for all of his hard work in that capacity. Michael Fogel is a new addition to the ABFP Board and we welcome him to the group. We are grateful to Richard Frederick, our President-Elect, for his work in developing a new mentoring program for applicants for board certification.

Tom Grey has taken on the job of managing our website and we are grateful to him for agreeing to keep our site up-to-date.

In the last six months, our colleagues have made significant professional contributions and have received significant awards:


Greg DeClue and Phil Witt, President of AAFP, have created "Open Access Journal of Forensic Psychology," a peer reviewed, on-line publication. The website is: www.forensicpsychologyunbound.ws

Eric Drogan and Curt Barrett have co-authored "Evaluations for Guardianship," a book in the 20 volume best practices series, published by Oxford University Press. Chuck Ewing, our Recording Secretary, received the Jacob D. Hyman award for his work in promoting "excellence among students of color." This award was presented by the Asian American Law Students Association, the Black Law Students Association, and the Latin American Law Students Association of the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Diane Follingstad received the 2010 Distinguished Contribution to Forensic Psychology Award presented by AAFP at the annual meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society held in Vancouver in March.

Alan Goldstein, President of ABFP, has co-authored "Evaluation of Capacity to Waive Miranda Rights," a book in the Oxford University best practices series. Along with ABFP forensic specialists Tom Grisso and Kirk Heilbrun, he is co-editor of that 20 book series. Alan also co-authored, with Kirk Heilbrun and others, an article in "Psychology, Public Policy, and Law."

Tom Grisso was the recipient of the Beth Clark Distinguished Service Contribution Award to the Field of Forensic Psychology, presented to him at the annual meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society in Vancouver this March. He is co-author of "Evaluation of Juvenile's Competence to Stand Trial", one of Oxford University Press' best practices in forensic mental health assessment series, which he also co-edits.

Kirk Heilbrun, a co-editor of the Oxford University Press series, is the author of "Evaluation for Risk of Violence in Adults."

Our ABFP Treasurer, Carol Holden, was named Director of the Center for Forensic Psychiatry in Ann Arbor, MI. The Center is recognized as one of the nation's outstanding training and forensic mental health assessment centers. Carol is the first psychologist and the first woman to be selected for this position in the Center's 40 year history.

H. D. Kirkpatrick's first novel, "Alienation of Affection" was published by Catawba Publishing.

Dan Krauss won the 2010 Early Career Research Award from the Western Psychological Association.

Dan Martell has been elected Vice President of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the first psychologist to ever hold this position in this multi-disciplinary organization.


Anita Shlank is co-author of "The Sexual Predator", a volume in a series published by the Civil Research Institute.

Phil Stahl is author of "Conducting Child Custody Evaluations: From Basic to Complex Issues." This book was published by Sage Publications.

American Board of Rehabilitation Psychology

Ellen B. Snoxell, Ph.D., ABPP

The Rehabilitation Psychology Board has had a busy autumn and winter, culminating in February 2010. Board members are Dan Rohe (president), Les Butt, Jan Niemeier (secretary), Michele Rusin (treasurer), Mary Hibbard (BOT representative), Ellen Snoxell (recording secretary), Bruce Caplan, Fernando Gonzalez, Barry Nierenberg and Steve Wegener (vice president).

In late February 2010, the Rehabilitation Psychology Board completed the Periodic Comprehensive Review process, co-hosted the annual mid-winter conference with Disabilities and Rehabilitation Research and Education Act of 1978 (P.L. 93-112) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1977, as amended, for a total of three and one-half days of seminars. Keynote speakers included Dr. Mary Hibbard (addressing the challenges and rewards of expanding rehabilitation psychology internationally) and Dr. Carol Ryff (addressing the relevance of psychological well-being to disability and rehabilitation). Conference attendees provided positive feedback for sessions and planning is underway for the 2011 mid-winter conference in Jacksonville, Florida.

Finally, the Rehabilitation Psychology Board extends congratulations and welcome to our newest diplomats: Dr. Danielle Blinikras, Dr. Monica Kurpylo, Dr. Beth Rush, and Dr. Ann Marie Warren.
American Board of School Psychology

Clifford V. Hatt, Ed.D., ABPP

As several boards have done over the past several months, we had the opportunity to participate in a phone conference with Dr. Nadine Kaslow, ABPP president, who has been extremely busy discussing ways that the ABPP specialty boards can inform and recruit potential candidates for specialty board certification. Dr. David McIntosh, president of the American Academy of School Psychology (AASP); Dr. Michael Tansy, our School Psychology Board of Trustees representative; and myself had a lively discussion with Nadine on a late Sunday evening in March. We had the opportunity to share with her several things that our Academy and Board are doing to increase awareness of specialty board certification and attract more candidates.

The AASP provides scholarships to outstanding school psychology doctoral students, which is promoted in *The School Psychologist*, APA Division 16’s newsletter, and through multiple school-related list serves. The Academy also conducts an annual breakfast at the APA convention and prospective candidates receive personal invitations. After the breakfast, personal follow-ups are conducted to answer any questions and encourage those that attended to consider applying for specialty board certification.

Recruitment efforts with ABSP and AASP have included a jointly sponsored booth with APA Division 16 at annual conventions of the National Association of School Psychologists and the American Psychological Association. Materials are available at the booth explaining the ABPP process, why specialty board certification is an important professional credential, and offer support and encouragement to those NASP & APA members who express interest. A joint presentation on obtaining specialty board certification is also provided during the conventions. Frequently an AASP/ABSP happy hour is provided as well to get to know interested professionals on a more personal level and share information about the process.

AASP has initiated and developed a mentoring program for candidates. ABSP and AASP have jointly collaborated on a mentoring video to help recruit new mentors and provide information on the role of the mentor in the process of obtaining board certification. The video is available as a DVD and will be available on the ABPP website. Special thanks to Dr. Thomas McKnight, Dr. Michael Tansy, and Dr. Shelley Pelletier who, along with myself, worked through the Central Office staff who has been very patient and understanding during this process. We still have more to do, but are pleased with the encouragement, support, and involvement of our board members and BOT representative.

American Academy of School Psychology

David E. McIntosh, Ph.D., ABPP

The American Academy of School Psychology continues to be active and creative in identifying potential candidates. While identifying prospective candidates who are licensed psychologists with a specialty in school psychology is a challenge, the AASP has consistently recruited a steady number of candidates over the last several years. Specifically, the number of doctoral level, full members of APA, who indicated “school psychology” as their major, who are state licensed, and in private practice is 1299. Therefore, it is estimated that approximately 1299 APA members are eligible to become board certified. Given these numbers, AASP has conducted the following activities within recent years to attract more candidates and to increase awareness of the AASP and ABPP:

- The AASP provides scholarships to outstanding school psychology doctoral students. The scholarship program is promoted in *The School Psychologist* (D16 Newsletter) and through multiple school-related list serves (D16 and the graduate student list serv.). The scholarships are typically in the amount of $1000 and are competitive. The scholarships are named in honor of two professionals who have contributed significantly to the AASP: Irwin Hyman and Nadine Lambert. The scholarships may be used by students to help defray the costs of tuition, books, etc. or to subsidize attendance at the convention of the American Psychological Association or the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). Over the past five years, $1,000 scholarships have been awarded to nineteen outstanding doctoral students.
- The AASP conducts an annual breakfast during the APA convention. Prospective candidates receive personal invitations. During the breakfast, the application process, work samples, and exam process are informally discussed. After the breakfast, there is follow-up with each prospective candidate to determine interest and to answer any additional questions regarding the process of becoming a diplomate in school psychology.
- The ABSP, AASP, and D16 sponsor a joint booth during the annual conferences for the National Association of School Psychologists and APA. The booth provides visibility for the ABSP, AASP, and ABPP while working with D16. The booth provides opportunities for informal discussions with prospective candidates.
- AASP has developed and implemented a mentoring program for candidates. Mentors receive an AASP dues waiver for the year they mentor a candidate through the exam process. This program, along with other promotional information about attaining the Diplomate in School Psychology was promoted to internship sites, the Trainer’s of School Psychologists, and other venues.
- AASP conducts a presentation at the annual conference of the NASP on becoming board certified in school psychology. Typically, the Past-President and current board members of the AASP conduct the informational session. After the conference, there is follow-up with attendees via e-mail.
- Over the past year, the AASP has worked closely with the editor of the Journal of Applied School Psychology (JASP) and is proud to announce that JASP has become the official journal of the AASP. All fellows are listed on the inside cover of JASP. All members of AASP will receive a copy of the journal.
- AASP board members are represented and/or work closely with the Council of Directors of School Psychology Programs (CDSPP), D16, and the School Psychology Leadership Council. By having representation on various boards and councils the AASP increases the awareness of ABPP and board certification in school psychology.
- The AASP also has developed and disseminated a videotape as part of its mentoring project. The videotape was distributed last year.

In summary, the AASP has and continues to implement numerous strategies to recruit and support candidates through the exam process. Also, the current board members of the AASP are highly visible in the field of school psychology and are very active in the recruitment and exam process. This should prove to be helpful over the next several years in increasing the number of board certified psychologists in the specialty of school psychology.
New Editor For The ABPP Specialist Sought

Nominations are being sought for the position of Editor of The ABPP Specialist. The Editor will be appointed for a four-year term, commencing in January 2011, which is once-renewable. The Specialist is published twice each year, with Winter and Summer issues. The Editor has overall responsibility for compiling the newsletter including (1) solicitation of submissions, including articles, regular columns, and contributions to Special Sections; (2) assigning manuscripts for review by the Editorial Board (an Associate Editor and two others); (3) interacting and communicating with authors, including acceptance/rejection decisions; (4) writing an Editor’s column; (5) consulting with the ABPP President regarding controversial submissions; and (6) overseeing the actual production of the newsletter, including: proofreading of article “raw” copy (hard or electronic) and of the entire issue prior to dissemination; preparing the table of contents; deciding on article emphasis and placement; coordinating with the Executive Officer on production logistics (ABPP Central Office, in coordination with a vendor, integrates files and concretely prepares the issue for publication). The Editor also serves as Chair of the Communications Committee, a standing committee of the BOT, with responsibility for The Specialist, and for recommending actions to facilitate ABPP communication with Specialists, member Boards and Academies, other organizations, and the public at large (listservs, the website, etc.). The Editor must be an ABPP Board Certified Specialist in good standing. Previous editorial experience is desirable. The position carries no remuneration, although expenses are covered to attend the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Potential candidates should submit a brief statement of interest, together with a current Curriculum Vitae, to Dr. David Cox, ABPP, Executive Officer, at drcox@abpp.org or the ABPP Central Office address. Preliminary inquiries or further information about the position and its responsibilities can be provided by Dr. Cox, the current Editor Dr. Robert W. Goldberg, ABPP (at Emu34@aol.com), or ABPP President Dr. Nadine Kaslow, ABPP (at nkaslow@emory.edu).
Newly-Certified Specialists
January 2010-May 2010

Clinical
Throstur Bjorgvinsson, Ph.D.
Mary A. Connell, Ed.D.
Luther E. Dhillon-Davis, Ph.D.
Claudia P. Diez, Ph.D.
Carl J. Kittleson, Psy.D.
Heidi M. Limbrunner, Psy.D.
Julie M. Mastnak, Ph.D.
Rudy V. Nydegger, Ph.D.
Jackson Patten Rainer, Ph.D.
Nicholas L. Salsman, Ph.D.
Evelyn E. Sandeen, Ph.D.
Helene Satz, Psy.D.
Anthony F. Tasso, Ph.D.
Kristin K. Woolley, Ph.D.

Clinical Child
& Adolescent Psychology
Kasey L. Davis, Psy.D.

Clinical Health
Gregory S. Alter, Ph.D.
Gretchen E. Ames, Ph.D.
Ellen M. Bajorek, Ph.D.
Kimeron N. Hardin, Ph.D.
Jennifer F. Kelly, Ph.D.
Deborah K. Kuwal, Ph.D.
Donald D. McGearry, Ph.D.
Gary A. Walco, Ph.D.

Clinical Neuropsychology
Joshua A. Barras, Ph.D.
Tanya Maines Brown, Ph.D.
Alison N. Cernich, Ph.D.
Jessica S. Chapin, Ph.D.
Thomas A. Crum, Ph.D.
Eric P. Fishman, Ph.D.
Mary Reeni George, Ph.D.
Martha L. Gilsky, Ph.D.
Felicia C. Goldstein, Ph.D.
Lana L. Harder, Ph.D.
Deborah S. Hoffnung, Ph.D.
Julie N. Hook, Ph.D.
Jennifer I. Koop, Ph.D.
Nancy A. Landre, Ph.D.
Bruno J. Losier, Ph.D.
Heather McClelland, Ph.D.

Cognitive & Behavioral
Mark A. Deskovitz, Ph.D.
Shane G. Owens, Ph.D.
London S. Richard, Ph.D.
Sarah S. Shia, Ph.D.

Counseling
Susan L. Crowley, Ph.D.
Pamela F. Foley, Ph.D.
Nadya A. Fouad, Ph.D.
James W. Lichtenberg, Ph.D.
Robert A. Rando, Ph.D.
Amber Roberts, Ph.D.
James L. Werth, Jr., Ph.D.
Mary O’Leary Wiley, Ph.D.

Couple and Family
Marianne P. Celano, Ph.D.
Christopher P. Tobey, Ph.D.

Forensic
Chad Brinkley, Ph.D.
Michael Christie, Ph.D.
Adrienne Davis, Ph.D.
Eric Elbogen, Ph.D.
Manfred Greiffenstein, Ph.D.
Geoffrey Grimm, Ph.D.
Lisa Kalich, Psy.D.
Alan Karbelnig, Ph.D.
Roger Karlsson, Ph.D.

Group
Gil Spielberg, Ph.D.
Lorraine B. Wodiska, Ph.D.

Organizational & Business
Consulting
Michael K. West, Psy.D.

Psychoanalysis
Barney Greenspan, Ph.D.
John M. Hayes, Ph.D.
Ronald W. Teague, Ph.D.

Rehabilitation
Danielle A. Dildine-Blinstrubas, Psy.D.
Monica F. Kurylo, Ph.D.
Beth K. Rush, Ph.D.
Ann Marie Warren, Ph.D.

School
Brenda J. Huber, Ph.D.

Deceased Specialists
January 2010 – May 2010

Kevin J. Gully, Ph.D.
Sophie L. Lovinger, Ph.D.
Johanna Tabin, Ph.D.
To All Board Certified Specialists

You are invited to the

63rd ABPP Convocation and Social Hour
Saturday, August 14, 2010 • 2:00 p.m — 3:50 p.m.
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1 Market Place • San Diego, CA
Please RSVP by August 1, 2010 at ATTEND@abpp.org
Regrets only to NOTATTEND@abpp.org

Reception and Program
Visit with colleagues and friends
Join us in honoring our new Board Certified Specialists
Enjoy our Speaker Walter B. Pryzwansky, Ed.D., ABPP
Who was the recipient of the 2009
Distinguished Service and Contributions to the Profession of Psychology

Congratulate our award winners for 2010:

The Russell J. Bent Award for
Distinguished Service and Contributions to the American Board of
Professional Psychology

Florence Kaslow, Ph.D., ABPP
Linas Bieliauskas, Ph.D., ABPP

Distinguished Service and Contributions to the Profession of Psychology

Ronald F. Levant, Ed.D., ABPP
Edith F. Kaplan, Ph.D., ABPP (awarded posthumously)

ALSO

Come to the ABPP booth at the APA Convention
San Diego Convention Center, Halls A, B1, B2, & C, — Booth 823
9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. Thursday - Saturday August 12th – 14th
9:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m. Sunday, August 15th
Pick up your ribbons and lapel pins at the booth!
NEW FROM OXFORD!

Becoming Board Certified by the American Board of Professional Psychology

Edited by Christine Maguth Nezu, A.J. Finch, Jr., and Norma P. Simon

For the past 60 years, the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) has been the premier credentialing agency for psychologists. ABPP is increasingly recognized as a highly valuable standard of specialty competency through the board certification process. For specialty recognition, some jurisdictions require ABPP certification, with more states getting involved each year. Additionally, there is increasing recognition of the importance of the ABPP credential by employers such as hospitals and health service systems, and organizations such as the US Public Health Service, the US Department of Defense, and the Department of Veteran Affairs.

This edited book provides a comprehensive description and hands-on, practical guide for individuals seeking certification from any one of the 13 specialty boards of the American Board of Professional Psychology. The book contains answers to frequent areas of inquiry and questions posed by potential candidates. In addition to providing a brief description of the history and mission of ABPP, the book offers step-by-step information concerning the "where, what, and how" of the board certification process. Finally, never-before offered information is provided, such as what pitfalls to avoid, and how to get further involved in the profession as a board certified psychologist.

Christine Maguth Nezu, Ph.D., ABPP, is Professor of Psychology and Medicine at Drexel University. She is current Past-President of the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP), a member of the Board of Directors for the American Board of Cognitive and Behavioral Psychology, a Fellow of the American Academy of Cognitive and Behavioral Psychology, and a Fellow of the Academy of Cognitive Therapy.

A. J. Finch, Jr., Ph.D., ABPP, is Professor of Psychology and former Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Citadel. He is Past-President of the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) and a member of the Board of Directors for the American Board of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology. He is former President of the American Board of Clinical Psychology.

Norma P. Simon, Ed.D., ABPP, is Past-President of the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP), as well as former President Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards, Emeritus Director of Training Programs for the New Hope Guild Centers, New York. She also maintained a private practice in New York City for many years.

"...In my opinion, this comprehensive guidebook is a must-read for anyone considering the pursuit of certification with ABPP. It is sure to answer all of the questions of even the most reluctant and inquisitive applicants. This brief...text is well-written in a concise and enjoyable fashion. The editors and authors are to be thoroughly commended for doing an outstanding job."

-Frank M. Dattilio, Ph.D., ABPP, Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, as reviewed in the Journal of Forensic Psychology

"This excellent book does a good job of taking readers through the certification process. The authors encourage competent psychologists to become board certified in order to inspire more confidence in the general public. They also note this will help enhance employment opportunities and financial compensation."

-Doody’s Medical Reviews

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