Board Certification and the Future of Counseling Psychology

Jeffrey W. Pollard, PhD, ABPP, President-Elect, American Board of Counseling Psychology, & Director, Counseling and Psychological Services at George Mason University

ABPP Early Entry Option

Psychology graduate students, interns, or post-doctoral residents (to be eligible you must be pre-licensure) may start their progression toward board certification in psychology early in your career – at a highly reduced rate. ABPP will “bank” your credentials as you complete your training and experience. This will relieve the need to gather together your materials at one time years from now, as ABPP will update your application file as you submit them. So why is this important, and especially why is this important to Counseling Psychology?

Training sites as well as hiring decision makers are being made aware that early-career psychology professionals will be listing the ABPP Early Entry Option on their application. They will take notice as it is an additional indication of the applicant’s commitment to professional integrity.

Take a moment to read about Board Certification, its role in our profession, and how its current status within Counseling Psychology creates risk for our profession.

Historical Background

The history of Psychology Board Certification in North America began in 1947, a time when licensure was not available to psychologists. The American Psychological Association (APA) wished to demonstrate to the public that psychologists were qualified to practice independently. With the help of APA, ABPP was formed and Counseling Psychology was one of the two original founding specialties.

Letter From The Editor

Christine Even, M.A., SAS Newsletter Editor-in-Chief

As fall rolls around yet again, we are excited to start our second year as hosts of the Student Affiliates of Seventeen (SAS). With the new year we hope comes new ideas and an even better newsletter. We had some amazing ideas and contributions from students and professionals around the country last year and I hope to continue this trend. So what I need are your thoughts and ideas about issues you would like to see presented in the newsletter. Maybe it is more information related to internship, post-doctoral placements, or what students such as yourself are doing to advance the field of Counseling Psychology.

If you have any ideas related to articles you would like to see in the newsletter or would like to contribute to the newsletter, please feel free to contact me at: christine.mcomie@und.edu
APA Update from SAS Co-Chairs

Emilia Boeschen, M.A. and Jessica Semler, M.A., SAS Co-Chairs

This year APA got off to a great start as we were part of the history of our division, serving as the first two student voting members on the Executive Board at the APA convention. SCP as a whole recognizes the need to include students in every facet of the divisional governance and this is one way to ensure the student voice is heard in the decisions impacting our profession. Before the APA convention even starts, SCP holds an Executive Board meeting to address important concerns within the division as well as its role in APA as a whole. Six hours is a long time to sit through a meeting, but we enjoyed the encouraging words from divisional leadership as it is clear to us that students matter. Frequently throughout the EB meeting, we were called upon to give our opinion on matters that directly influence students’ professional development. Some of these matters included internship concerns, ABPP concerns that Counseling Psychology may be lost as a certification specialty, and ways to increase student involvement in convention programming for the upcoming years. This meeting closed with a special farewell to exiting executive board members, all of whom shared what it has been like to be a part of leadership for their respective tenures. This time was very moving as we have had the chance to serve alongside these individuals for the past year and each has had an essential part in contributing to furthering the ideals of SAS and the Society of Counseling Psychology.

The rest of the APA Convention had us busy with the Specialty Council Dinner, SCP Business Meeting, SAS/CCPTP Student Poster hour and social, the SAS-sponsored program on making the most of your professional organization membership, and other SAS-related events. We saw a new chapter opened in SCP leadership as Dr. Linda Forrest passed the governing gavel to Dr. Janet Helms to begin her presidential term. After Dr. Helms took the oath of office, she was quick to demonstrate her commitment to student involvement in her presidential initiatives and SCP leadership. We found ourselves in the midst of great conversation about licensure concerns for counseling psychologists at the Specialty Council Dinner meeting. Additionally, we conversed with students, faculty, and training directors alike at all of the other special programs. We thoroughly enjoyed these conversations as it gave us great perspective on student needs. The SAS-sponsored programming hour as well as the student poster session and social hour were both tremendously successful in providing a network of support around students in Division 17. We encourage all of you to attend as many Division 17-sponsored events as you can while at the APA convention as you may find yourself in an invigorating conversation with potential future colleagues or employers as you prepare for your next step in your professional career.

Our APA experience would not have been complete if it weren’t for those of you we met who were as equally enthused as we were about the direction SCP is taking with student involvement and leadership. We would like to extend a special invitation to all of you to create what could be the greatest experience in your educational endeavors. Becoming involved in a SCP committee or Special Task Group provides a great way to meet professionals whose books you may have read for class or who have a similar interest as you in certain aspects of counseling psychology. Committee and STG membership helps you to put a personal touch within SCP as you foster meaningful relationships with fellow members. This may just provide that “face with a

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Update from the Business Meeting of the Council of Counseling Psychology Training Programs (CCPTP) at the 2008 APA Convention

Jaryn L. Allen, MS, SAS Liaison to CCPTP

The CCPTP Business Meeting was held on August 16, 2008 at the APA Convention in Boston, Massachusetts. Training directors from Counseling Psychology programs across the U.S. gathered to discuss issues regarding the Association of Counseling Center Training Agencies (ACCTA) and the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC). Of particular relevance to Counseling Psychology graduate students were updates on the status of the internship application process. Some of the major updates included:

- APPIC currently has a total of 655 internship program members and 117 postdoctoral program members.
- APPIC is well aware of and concerned about the supply and demand imbalance witnessed in last year’s Match. The Match in 2008 resulted in the 2nd largest imbalance since the computerized Match began in 1999.
- **APPIC Match Statistics for the 2008 Match:**
  - 3,759 applicants registered for the Match
  - This was an increase of 61 participants compared to 2007
  - 2,749 applicants were successfully Matched (79% Matched)
  - 75% of applicants Matched successfully in 2007
  - 743 applicants remained Unmatched (21% Unmatched)
  - 267 applicants either withdrew from the Match or did not submit ranks
  - 1,010 (27%) of the original 3,759 applicants were Unmatched or withdrew
  - 3,058 positions were offered by 663 sites
  - This was an increase of 23 sites and 174 positions from 2007
- Progress continues on the APPIC move to a completely online version of the AAPI and the application process. The online application completion process is anticipated for introduction in Summer 2009 for the February 2010 Match.
- The 2007 APPIC Directory is the last hard copy published Directory. The APPIC Directory will now be exclusively online, offering the most up-to-date source of information for students seeking placement.

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APA 2008 Update from the SAS Co-Chairs (continued from page 2)

name” that is so important when it comes to future hiring decisions or internship placement. Please contact us if you are interested in joining a committee or STG and watch the SAS listserv for upcoming announcements.

Another great way to personalize SCP to your own educational experience is to attend the National Multicultural Conference and Summit (NMCS) in New Orleans, LA on January 15-16. The theme for this year is **Advancing Our Communities: The Role of Social Justice in Multicultural Psychology.** This is a fantastic opportunity for students to challenge themselves, engage in difficult and stimulating dialogue, and learn more about the future of multicultural psychology and its meaning for students in our profession. We will be there and hope you are too!
Update from CCPTP, continued from page 3

ACCTA will continue to offer the ACCTA Clearinghouse for intern candidates and ACCTA member internship programs not able to find or fill positions in the APPIC Match. The ACCTA Clearinghouse is different from the APPIC Clearinghouse. It does not compete with the APPIC Clearinghouse, but rather offers positions for intern candidates interested in counseling center internship settings who did not Match through APPIC.

**Tips and Advice Straight from the Training Directors:**

Top 5 Criteria Considered in Selecting Applicants:

1. Interview
2. Letters of Recommendation
3. AAPI Essays
4. Number of Hours accrued
5. Cover letter

Training Directors agreed that number of publications, number of support hours accrued, the training model of the program from which the applicant comes, and whether the applicant has completed the Dissertations are not as critical. They also recommended a maximum number of 14 applications to complete for the Match process.

An Informal Problem Resolution (IPR) process has been established which allows students and training directors to consult with APPIC on an informal and confidential basis about issues of concern. All concerns should be directed to the APPIC Chair, Dr. Steve McCutcheon, at Stephen.Mccutcheon@va.gov or 206-764-2895.

Another way to become involved in expressing your concerns regarding the internship supply and demand imbalance is to contact your representatives in SAS and APAGS, who advocate for students on issues of concern.

SAS:  [www.und.edu/org/div17sas/index.html](http://www.und.edu/org/div17sas/index.html)

SAS Website Update

lore m. dickey, MA, SAS Webmaster

It is hard to believe that it has been one year since the University of North Dakota (UND) took a leadership role in the Student Affiliates of Seventeen (SAS). One thing was clear from both Marquette (the previous host institution) and the current SAS leadership; having a strong web presence was a high priority. Like many psychologists, I am not a web developer. I do know a few things about computers and have long wanted to develop my skills in the HTML language. In case you have ever wondered — HTML stands for hypertext markup language.

In an effort to streamline the web site, I embarked on a major web site redesign this past summer. The first task was decide on a layout and color scheme that looked both professional and welcoming. As you might imagine, when I asked the SAS Executive Board for feedback, there

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SAS Website Update  (continued from page 4)

was no clear consensus on the best design. Some liked one color scheme and another layout or vice versa. Even though I have learned a few things about web design in the past year and a half, I often struggled to make the web design changes that people were requesting.

On Wednesdays this past summer, you could find me working away at this redesign in the SAS office on the UND campus. One of the main considerations for me in redeveloping the web site was the need to create a template from which all pages could be based. This wasn’t used in the initial web site, so every time I needed to make a change to the layout I had to repeat the change for each and every page. This made my work tedious at best. The new design uses a single web layout so that as you navigate from one page to the next you will see the same look and feel.

Some highlights for the new web page include a listing of upcoming conferences on the right side of the web page. If you have information about a conference you would like to see included, please contact me with the name of the conference, dates, location, and web address for more information. You can reach me directly at div17sas@und.edu. Another feature of the new site is the inclusion of resources that were first developed by the Marquette SAS Executive Board. As new resources are developed I will continue to send a message to the SAS listserv to alert you to these new changes.

Speaking of the listserv, if you would like to join the listserv, please send a message to the email address above. I will be happy to add you to the list. A note about the listserv, according to APA policy we do not allow research notices to be distributed. Also, anyone who is a member of the list can post to the list. Just send a message to U N D

DIV17SAS@listserv.nodak.edu. The list is not moderated and when you send a message to the list you will not receive a copy of the message (unless you are subscribed with more than one address).

Please let me know if you have questions about the web site or list serv. If you have ideas for articles or resources please let me know. It is pretty easy to add resources to the web though I will work on those updates this fall primarily on Mondays. One last thing – here is the web address for the SAS web site:

Barbara A. Kirk Award for Outstanding Graduate Research

Laura M. Weitzman, PhD, Director, University Counseling Center, University of Utah

The Barbara A. Kirk Award for Outstanding Graduate Research is presented in recognition of outstanding student-initiated research (dissertation or other). The research is to have been produced by a graduate student conducting independent research while enrolled in a counseling psychology program.

The nominators of the recipient of this year’s Barbara A. Kirk Award stated that they had never seen greater passion for research among any graduate student they had worked with, nor had they yet encountered a student as capable, talented, self-motivated, and committed to research as the awardee. His pioneering work titled, “Peer Group Socialization of Homophobic Attitudes and Behavior During Adolescence” investigated the link between bullying and homophobia among middle and high school students and was published in Child Development. He approached the study of prejudice from a dynamic interdisciplinary perspective, allowing him to make theoretically important contributions to the fields of counseling, developmental, and social psychology.

This year’s Barbara A. Kirk Awardee is Paul Poteat. Paul recently received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is now an Assistant Professor at Boston College in the Department of Counseling, Developmental, and Educational Psychology. His research on peer group social networks examines how peers influence prejudiced attitudes and behaviors of individuals within their group, as well as the development of prejudice from early adolescence to young adulthood.

Congratulations, Dr. Poteat!
Multicultural Wisdom in New Orleans

Sandra Grissom, M.S., University of North Dakota

It’s time for another spectacular conference, SAS members! The National Multicultural Conference and Summit is coming up on January 15 & 16, 2009 in New Orleans. The theme for this year’s conference is “Advancing Our Communities: The Role of Social Justice in Multicultural Psychology.”

Keynote speakers include Patricia Arredondo, Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Linda Mona, Ph.D. from the Long Beach VA Medical Center, Gargi Roysircar, Ph.D. from Antioch University-New England, Rev. Jamie Washington, M.Div., Ph.D. with the Washington Consulting Group, and Lisa Porche-Burke, Ph.D. from the Philips Graduate Institute.

On Thursday afternoon, an Elders ceremony will take place honoring Florence Denmark, Ph.D., A.J. Franklin, Ph.D., Janet Helms, Ph.D., Derald Wing Sue, Ph.D., Charles Silverstein, Ph.D., Bonnie Ruth Strickland, Ph.D., and Martha Mednick, Ph.D. This will be followed by a social hour and student poster session.

The conference falls at the start of Mardi Gras season, and for those are interested, unique cultural experiences and revelry can be added to the conference experience. Students can tour the shops, galleries, and eateries in the French Quarter. Others may want to take an Airboat Adventure or go on a Dixie Tour. Nature lovers can take in the sights at the Audubon Nature Center in New Orleans East or visit the Botanical Gardens in the Mid-City. Art lovers can browse for hours in the Arts and Warehouse Districts.

Students also have a unique opportunity to participate in some social justice action. The NCMS is collaborating with local service organizations in New Orleans’ Lower Ninth ward. This community service will partner conference attendees with staff and volunteers from organizations that work with underserved members of the New Orleans community. Portions of conference registration fees are being donated to these same local service organizations as well. Students desiring more information about the Lower Ninth ward may want to check out this link: www.lowernine.org.

For up to date information about the Summit, please visit the NMCS website at www.multiculturalsummit.org. It looks like an amazing variety of speakers and presentations taking place in a fantastic community. Enjoy!
Integration of Race and Culture into Teaching and Workplace Environments

Daniel Walinsky, BA, SAS Podcast Coordinator

Conventions and professional meetings provide a focused way to explore a new city. Attending APA this year, I wanted to use my Boston experience as a means to complement my education.

Dr. Janet Helms, current President of Division 17, founded the Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture (The Institute) at Boston College in 2000. The Institute addresses issues of Race and Culture by bringing together scholars, students, and professionals in forums such as its Summer Training Program and the Diversity Challenge Conference.

This year’s Summer Training Program, Integration of Race and Culture into Teaching and Workplace Environments, emphasized roles of race and culture as applied to Assessment, Supervision, and Instrumentation. Lectures and presentations were supplemented with breakout sessions in which small groups of participants had the chance to discuss ways in which their lives had been and continue to be affected in these subject areas.

The Institute’s purpose is “to promote the assets and address the societal conflicts associated with race or culture in theory, and research, mental health practice, education, business, and society at large,” (http://www.bc.edu/schools/lsoe/isprc/). From a student perspective, the Institute was successful in this goal, providing information and interactions that have informed my approach to thinking about assessment, personal, and professional development.

Participation in this year’s Summer Training Program offered learning opportunities through workshops as well as through interaction with other attendees. As students in a field that values Social Justice and Multiculturalism, we are challenged to gain conceptual understanding of the historical biases that are foundational to Psychology. Participation at the Institute provided the forum to work beyond these biases. Presentations titled, Making Assessment Instruments Culturally Appropriate and How to do Fair Assessments, offered a primer to creation and conducting fair and just assessments that assume that race and culture are influential in assessment.

Attending the Institute provided a framework for specific application of some of the more abstract concepts that follow a desire to provide ethical, racially and culturally sensitive service provision. For example, Dr. Tina Richardson presented a session, based on Dr. Guerda Nicholas’ work, entitled, Making Assessment Instruments Culturally Appropriate. It was empowering to hear a lecture that discussed the ways in which assessments can be enhanced when the time is taken to develop instruments that reflect the values and needs of specific communities.

Maryam M. Jernigan and Carlton E. Green, both Doctoral students at Boston College presented an experiential learning presentation and exercise. Integration of Race, Culture, and Person Factors in Supervision, which led to discussion on ways that participants have felt included and excluded in supervisory relationships.

On a personal level, attending the Institute added context to some of the themes of growth that I have experienced to this point in my career as a student. This year has been enhanced through embracing and learning from my white racial identity. Inspired by the work and writings of others in our field, I have found that gaining self-knowledge and awareness has led to a strong desire to move further towards an anti-racist identity that permits me to be more honest with myself and with others about systems of oppression. I feel more comfortable about the ways in which I can interact with and support my friends, colleagues, and - most importantly in this context - clients.

Finally, attending the Institute provided a chance to interact with, bond with, and network with similarly committed students and professionals. The value in finding a professional community of allies is a crucial step in developing my own identity as an ally. Committed community can provide support when faced with the fact that the systems on which we try to effect change are powerful and difficult to change. Allies, education, and experiences such as those supported by attending the Institute help to enhance professional identities by providing structured and supportive communication.

I left the Institute thinking about the importance of social responsibility and personal implication in participation in systems that systemically discriminate either purposefully or by omission and how this is unethi-

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Integration of Race and Culture (continued from page 7)

cal for psychologists who subscribe to principles of beneficence, autonomy, justice, and nonmaleficence.

I valued the experience of attending the Institute as a SAS member as, in my opinion, the experience was intrinsically related to all four of SAS’s pillars: education, social justice, outreach & mentoring, and diversity.

Attending the Institute changed the context in which I attended APA and the insights from the Institute provided a focus for attending APA programming. Bringing my Boston experience back to North Dakota, I am able to discuss assessment in the classroom in the context of cultural appropriateness and open a discussion of race and culture in supervision at my practicum placement.

The Institute’s website is http://www.bc.edu/schools/lsoe/isprc/. The 8th Annual Diversity Challenge - Race, Culture, and Trauma – was held October 3-4.

SAS Programming at the APA 2008 Convention

Kim Jorgensen, MA, SAS Programming Coordinator

On Sunday morning at the 2008 APA Convention, a handful of students and early career professionals received words of wisdom from many combined years of leadership in professional organizations. Dr. Oksana Yakushko, Chair of Division 17 Early Career Professionals Committee, spoke about her first experiences as a graduate student going to the APA Convention and the SAW (Section for the Advancement of Women) Champions networking Breakfast. She emphasized that convention and other professional activities help graduate students and Early Career Professionals build relationships with seasoned professionals, frequently for reduced costs. Dr. Linda Forrest spoke about her many years of service to the Society (Division 17) and the importance of respect and being a good team player. She mentioned that more than 150 leaders served the Society this year, with a growing number of leadership positions available for students and early career professionals.

As a new intern, doctoral candidate Denise Thew shared her experiences and expressed the value of leadership in APAGS and local or departmental leadership opportunities. Denise advised students to start researching internship sites early. For her, this provided the opportunity to meet site directors and network with other important professionals at conferences, ensuring greater success in the internship application process. Drs. Eve Adams and Cindy Juntunen, representing the Council of Counseling Psychology Training Programs (CCPTP), were also available to field questions. In addition to presenting new information, this panel seemed to model the type of networking and relationship building that graduate students and Early Career Professionals can gain by attending conference programming.

This symposium was hosted by the Student Affiliates (SAS) as a part of the national programming that SAS aims to provide at several major national conferences. If you’d like to get involved with SAS programming or have ideas about what topics you’d like to see covered at the next APA convention,

Kim Jorgensen, MA & Dr. Lali McCubbin together organized the SAS/CCPTP Social Hour and Poster Session

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please contact the SAS Programming Coordinator via email (Kimberly.jorgensen@und.edu).

The Student Affiliates (SAS) also co-hosted a social hour and student poster session with the Council of Counseling Psychology Training Programs (CCPTP). Thirty-two student authored posters, representing each of the 13 Sections of the Division, were accepted for the session. The two and a half hour event was well attended and well received. The room was filled with student researchers who had the opportunity to meet and converse with eminent faculty researchers and clinicians in the field of counseling psychology.

This annual social hour and poster session was organized by the Chair of Division 17 Section Chairs, Dr. Lali McCubbin from Washington State University, with the help of SAS Programming Coordinator, Kim Jorgen-sen. Students should keep an eye out for the call for research posters that is distributed to the SAS listserv each year. Another way to become involved is through the individual sections of Division 17, based on your research and other professional interests. Students must submit poster proposals for this annual session to the section under which the research best fits. See the Division 17 website (http://www.div17.org/sections.html) for more information.

APAGS Ambassador Program

Theresa Magelky, BS, SAS Assistant Newsletter Editor

I had the opportunity to participate in the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students (APAGS) Ambassador program at this year’s APA convention in Boston. What exactly is an Ambassador, you ask? Well, APAGS Ambassa-dors provide information to attendees, particularly students, on convention events, distribute APAGS promotional items, and monitor APAGS programs by taking head counts and collecting participant evaluations. Being an Ambassador allows students to have a visible presence at the convention and interact widely with other convention attendees. As an Ambassador, I was able to meet numerous students and professionals and participate in a variety of APAGS programs.

APAGS facilitated an outstanding line-up of programs and workshops especially geared toward students, including workshops on the internship process, dissertation process, publishing, research, supervi-sion, mentoring, managing graduate school debt, self care, and much more. There were also workshops related directly to working with clients, such as counseling sexual minorities with disabilities and the impact of racial microaggressions on students of color. In addition, there were excellent opportunities to meet and network with important professionals and leaders in the field, including internship training directors and editors of various APA publications. APAGS also hosts a poster session at the convention, which showcases student research, practice, and professional development issues.

Especially exciting were the four “Food for Thought” breakfasts which took place in the APAGS suite each morning of the convention. These breakfasts provided students with the opportunity to interact in a small, cozy group atmosphere with several leaders in the field. I had the fortune of facilitating the breakfast session with Dr. Philip Zimbardo, a past President of APA. Dr. Zimbardo visited with students and discussed his career, the field of psychology, current events, and his latest book, The Time Paradox: The New Psychology of Time That Will Change Your Life. Other leaders who participated in the “Food for Thought” breakfasts were Dr. Judith Jordan, Dr. Melba Vazquez, and Dr. Bonnie Strickland.

If you are not already an APAGS member, I encourage you to join. And if you plan on attending the APA convention next year in Toronto, I highly encourage you to participate in the valuable programs offered by AGAGS, as well as to apply to become an APAGS Ambassador. You will not regret this unique opportunity! I know I will never forget it! For more information on APAGS, please visit http://www.apa.org/apags/ For 2008 APAGS convention highlights and photos, please visit http://www.apa.org/apags/convention/homepage08.html.
Youth and Community Violence Conference at APA 2008

Jessica D. Jones, Counseling Psychology Student, University of Florida

By chance I came across a flyer announcing that group facilitators with experience in working with violence, youth and communities were wanted for the Youth and Community Violence Conference. I thought that this would be a great opportunity to obtain further clinical experience in working with a new and challenging environment. I was fortunate to get the position and in August of this year, I arrived at Dorchester, a predominately African American neighborhood in Massachusetts. The Committee for Community Engagement of the Society of Counseling Psychology hosted the Youth and Community Violence Conference as a continuation of “Stepping Up to the Plate: Giving Back to the Community,” a Special Task Group created by SCP Past President William Parham. The purpose of the conference was to build partnerships with community organizations as well as APA divisions and affiliated associations during the APA’s 2008 Annual Convention held in Boston, MA.

As a part of the conference, youth from the surrounding community were invited to collaborate with community leaders and mental health professionals, and to discuss their views on community violence. The youth who attended the conference have also shown an unwavering commitment, prior to the conference, to the improvement of their community by raising funds and acting as peer mentors for other youth. It is the goal of these youth leaders to encourage others to participate in non-violent activities and to ultimately reduce the incidence of violence in Dorchester.

I was fortunate to work with a wonderful group of youth (15 – 17 years old) during the conference. However, getting them to share their experiences with violence and trauma did not come easy at first. After group introductions, one group member turned to me and said, “Why should we trust that you really care?” At that moment, I knew that all the counseling skills and training during my past four years of graduate school would need to kick in during a delicate and crucial time of trust building. Trust is an important aspect to acknowledge when working with communities, particularly ethnic minority communities that have been repeated victims of trust violations. This is especially important when these communities have seen programs come and go with promises of change with little or no effect. I knew I needed to build rapport with the members of my group, and to do it in a sensitive and respectful manner. I was honest with them and allowed them to ask me open and direct questions about my qualifications and my professional experiences to earn their trust. After answering their questions, the members in my group accepted me and began to open up about their life experiences.

To my astonishment, my group was full of youthful vitality and hope, from which I drew much inspiration; they were passionate individuals who really wanted to see the conditions of their community improve. They were also candid individuals who showed raw emotion and a striking power to speak about their own experiences with violence and trauma once trust was established. Some shared how they came from homes that did not have food, while other youth shared how they lost family members and close friends to violence. However, the most salient moment for me that day was when the entire group encouraged an-

SAS members would love to see your article submissions!
Please send all article submissions, ideas, and announcements to either newsletter editor:
Christine Even, M. A. @ christine.mcomie@und.edu or
Theresa Magelky, B. S. @ theresa.magalky@und.edu
Donald E. Super Fellowship

Laura M. Weitzman, PhD, Director, University Counseling Center, University of Utah

The Donald E. Super Fellowship is awarded to support dissertation research on a topic related to career development. The Super Fellowship will be awarded based on the quality of the dissertation proposal and its potential for advancing knowledge in the area of career development.

The recipient of this year’s Donald E. Super Fellowship awardee is Erica Medlock, M.A., from the University of Oregon. Erica’s winning proposal is titled “Preparing Inmates for Community Re-Entry: An Employment Preparation Intervention.” Congratulations Erica!

Erica Medlock, MA, University of Oregon

Youth and Community Violence Conference (continued from page10)

other group member to walk away from being a part of gang activity; they pleaded with him and offered him alternatives, and one group member offered to call this particular individual on a daily basis so that they could hang out and play sports together. I was truly touched by the group’s response and compassion for this individual, and I hope that there will be more opportunities for youth to share how much they really do matter to each other.

It is my strong belief that we must continue to offer safe places where members of the community, particularly youth, can work with mental health professionals and other leaders to reduce the risk of violence in vulnerable communities like Dorchester. The Youth and Community Violence Conference was unique in that local community leaders and youth were encouraged to participate in the conference as respected “experts” who had as much to contribute. As a graduate student, I was honored to partake in the conference as a group facilitator and know that my experience was also unique. I strongly urge other graduate students to get involved in future Special Task Group projects. These opportunities will provide graduate students distinct and fundamental experiences from which they can grow as professionals, collaborators, and most of all, individuals of change.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the policies of the APA or the Society of Counseling Psychology
Board Certification (continued from page 1)

along with Clinical Psychology. ABPP is now expanded to thirteen recognized specialty boards conferring Board Certification.

Why Board Certification?

Through thorough examiner training, credential review, written practice sample, and live examination, ABPP Board Certification is the highest credential available to psychologists in North America. It is the only credential that is attained through demonstration and examination and is the standard recognized within many health professions. The credential shows that the holder has demonstrated to like-credentialed professionals s/he is worthy of the public’s trust. One of the best kept secrets regarding Board Certification is the experience itself – almost without exception it is viewed as a highly rewarding personal as well as professional experience.

Boards establish standards and incorporate current developments in the definition and requirements for candidates. Specialty Boards insure the credential retains the fidelity it has come to represent for over sixty years in order that the public may rest assured those deemed Board Certified are up to the most current of professional standards.

The Role of the American Board of Professional Psychology

ABPP is the umbrella organization under which the thirteen Specialty Boards exist. The ABPP Board of Trustees (BOT) is made up of volunteer representatives from each of the specialties. The representatives elect officers and hire an Executive Officer and office staff to manage the organization. One of the principle responsibilities of the BOT is to determine which Specialty Boards will be recognized under ABPP and which will not.

Risk to the Specialty of Counseling Psychology

In discussions involving the nature of specialties themselves, the existence of Board Certification is a “tent peg” in establishing and validating any particular specialty’s existence. Board Certification is certainly not sufficient for the specialty to exist; however it is the pinnacle emblematic symbol of every specialty.

The specialty of Counseling Psychology is at risk within ABPP as there are currently insufficient numbers of counseling psychologists seeking Board Certification. There are plenty of licensed counseling psychologists, but too few seeking Board Certification. The American Board of Counseling Psychology (ABCoP) has been notified that ABPP is looking at processes to address the status of “underperforming” boards and Counseling Psychology is among them. There have been a number of ideas suggested; however none of them is particularly attractive, and they all have the potential downside of reducing Counseling Psychology’s standing as a psychology specialty.

At the examination level, the Counseling Board has taken many steps to attract more applicants. There are now new options for senior applicants and the exam is available in the areas of teaching, supervision, counseling/therapy, career, and administration. These options are in the process of being rolled out.

The Society of Counseling Psychology (SCP) of APA is concerned about the situation. They have initiated a Special Task Group (STG) on Board Certification in Counseling Psychology to be chaired by Dr. John Westefeld – the incoming SCP President.

How can students, interns, and post-docs help support the specialty of Counseling Psychology? First, sign up for the Early Entry Program at:


Then approach your supervisors, administrators, and colleagues, to suggest that you are committed to Board Certification as a cornerstone of your chosen profession through the EEP and ask if they will read this article, and commit to becoming Board Certified.
Counselor Care Corner: The Power of Pets

Krista Curl, SAS Administrative Secretary

Research has shown that the effect of pets on humans is immense. Studies report longer life spans, increased levels of concentration, rise in mood, and overall better health as a result of animal companionship. From a therapeutic perspective, this is clearly an area of growing importance in the counseling field. However, one may ask why pets have this effect on us? What is it about pet companionship that makes us live better? The most recent section in Division 17, Section on Animal-Human Interactions, poses just such questions to its members.

Dependable Dependents

An idea about why animals may be so important to mental health is the aspect of having a captive audience. Studying a profession based on listening skills helps us understand the therapeutic power of just listening to a person’s problems. Now, imagine having a silent listener at home, at all hours, for just such a purpose: someone who is just content to listen to all your worries, and perhaps purr them away should the occasion call for it. This facet of pet companionship may be the instrumental piece to lessening feelings of loneliness among populations such as the elderly, and those with disabilities or depression.

On the other hand, pet ownership is full of responsibilities: daily walks, grooming, feeding schedules, vaccinations, etc. To own an animal is to make a commitment to the welfare of another living being. Much like parenthood forces an “other” focus mentality, similarly, pet ownership requires an individual to come out of their own worries pretty regularly so they could attend to the needs of another. Clearly, this aspect of therapeutic pet ownership poses its own limitations for some, but spending time away from one’s own problems is often its own reward. For those who are otherwise shut-ins, going on walks for the sake of a pet provides vicarious benefit to the pet owner.

So, what does this information tell us about our own self-care? We are students in rigorous training programs; we are balancing clinical sites with homework and research studies, learning how to manage counter transference and the vicarious trauma of hearing second-hand accounts of suffering every single day. This is no light task. Perhaps we need our own silent, captive audience at the end of a long day. In no means is this a recommendation for those with allergies or strict housing policies to rush out and find their Fido, but owning a pet could give us the opportunity to unload ourselves without fear of dual relationships. And if for nothing else, the idea of having an easily managed responsibility that is outside the purview of evaluation is an attractive one.

Student Affiliates of 17 (SAS)

E-mail: div17sas@und.nodak.edu
Visit SAS: www.und.nodak.edu/org/div17sas
Visit Division 17: www.div17.org
SAS Executive Board Meeting Minutes, May 27, 2008

Business:

Report from Co-Chairs:
- There is a comment box in the main office for those wishing to make anonymous complaints/comments.
- Monthly reports are due by the first of each month.
- Congratulations to new executive board members Dan & Melea, and to Theresa for being re-elected.
- Thank you to outgoing SAS officers.
- Will set up transition for outgoing and incoming officers to work together.
- Officers still need to meet individually with co-chairs if have not already.
- Discussion of Fall Retreat. Sarah, Kim, Sandy, & Jessica will plan.

Website Update:
- SAS website is getting a new look. Lore has set Wednesdays

Newsletter Update:
- New newsletter is posted. All newsletters are available on the SAS website.
- Deadline for Fall Newsletter article submission is Sept. 15.

Mentorship Update:
- Developing matching system and receiving feedback from students on mentoring.
- There is an article about mentoring goals in the latest newsletter.
- Goal is to make progress by Fall.

Selection Committee Update:
- Selection Rubric was developed.
- Have contacted STG & Committee Chairs about the new student selection process. Not much of a reply at this time.

Next Meeting:
- Next meeting will be held at APA, Boston, Thursday August 14th at 4pm in the SCP Hospitality Suite.
- Sandy will be acting secretary.
- Non-APA attendees should send information with designated EB member to give update on their behalf.
- Next meeting at UND will take place in September or early October in the form of a Fall retreat.

SAS Executive Board Meeting Minutes, August 14, 2008

SAS Executive Board Meeting at the 2008 APA Annual Convention in Boston

- Introductions of SAS Members and Linda Forrest, Ph.D.
- Linda Forrest praised the progress that SAS has made during her presidency.
- Linda Forrest spoke to upcoming student involvement in the voting process of SCP.
- SAS Co-Chairs, Jessica & Emilia, shared details regarding the Step Up to the Plate Pre-Conference Activity in Boston.
- Jessica & Emilia spoke to their meeting with Dr. Helms and SAS involvement/communication with her during her tenure as Division 17 president.
- Discussion about upcoming Multicultural Summit in January.
  - Kim volunteered to write the necessary paperwork to request student funding for SAS Members interested in attending the summit.