

Georgia Psychologist

Volume 63, Number 1

Winter, 2009

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUE



Georgia Psychologist

Publication Guidelines

AUTHORS:

We invite GPA members to submit to *The Georgia Psychologist*, the news magazine of the Georgia Psychological Association. As Georgia's leading source of news on the latest psychological opinions, theories and research, legislative updates, and membership information, we count on experts like you to maintain the high standards of *The Georgia Psychologist*.

The Georgia Psychologist is published quarterly and has a circulation of approximately 2,000. Articles cover a diverse range of topics, ranging from scientific news to professional practice issues to legislative matters. Diversity and critical analysis are encouraged in contributions. If you are a prospective author, please note the following guidelines:

LENGTH: Articles may range up to 800 words. The Editorial Committee reserves the right to edit lengthier articles.

CONTENT & READERSHIP: We accept unsolicited articles of general psychological interest. Our readers are primarily psychologists, so it is unnecessary to define common psychological terms. However, *The Georgia Psychologist* is read by psychologists in all specialties, so be sure to define terms unique to your specialty. *The Georgia Psychologist* is also distributed to state and national legislators and members of the media so your article could be quoted or referenced.

WRITE ETHICALLY: Do not blend your personal opinions and speculations with statements based on scientific studies. Be careful to distinguish between your personal views and statements of scientific findings and alert the reader when you are speculating.

CITE REFERENCES FOR FACTUAL STATEMENTS: When representing a scientific fact, include a reference with a complete citation in APA format. We will not publish the references but we will let our readers know they are available by written request. Although *The Georgia Psychologist* is not a scientific journal for empirical studies and reviews, we sometimes publish this type of material.

TONE: *The Georgia Psychologist* is a professional trade magazine. Therefore the tone of your writing should reflect a high level of professionalism.

STYLE: Write in the active voice, minimizing wordiness. Use the inverted pyramid style, called so because all the major points are touched upon in the first few paragraphs, after which important facts taper down into the least essential material. Write in the third person. While we welcome personal articles, they will only be published in select and appropriate sections of the magazine.

DIVISION NEWSLETTERS/COMMITTEE REPORTS: Division Newsletters should contain news and events from within the Division. Committee reports likewise should contain news of any Committee changes, goals, and activity. Please refer to "How to Submit Articles."

HOW TO SUBMIT ARTICLES: Send submissions to Managing Editor, Cyd Preston Wise, at the address below with a self-addressed stamped envelope for any materials you want returned. Articles must be submitted either on computer disk or by email. Disk submissions: Send your article on disk accompanied by a hard copy. Email submissions: Email your article to cydwise@gapsychology.org.

On behalf of all of us at *The Georgia Psychologist* and our readers, thank you for your time and effort. We appreciate both. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us. We can be reached at:

The Georgia Psychologist
Attn: Managing Editor,
Cyd Preston Wise
2200 Century Parkway, Suite 660
Atlanta, Georgia 30345
cydwise@gapsychology.org

2008-2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Peter Thomas, Ph.D.

President-Elect
Nancy Bliwise, Ph.D.

Past-President
Joni E. Prince, Ph.D.

Vice-President
Joanne Peeler, Ph.D.

Secretary
Ann Abramowitz, Ph.D.

Treasurer
Michael Johns, Ph.D.

APA Representative
Jennifer Kelly, Ph.D.

Communications Director
William Doverspike, Jr., Ph.D.

Athens Area Representative
J. Mark Davis, Ph.D.

Augusta Area Representative
Jennifer Stoddard, Ph.D.

Coastal Area Representative
Vacant

Columbus Area Representative
Vacant

Middle Georgia Representative
Vacant

Division E Representative
Stephanie McMahan, Ph.D.

Division F Representatives
Michele Lyn, Ph.D.

Division G Representative
Vacant

Division H Representative
Jennifer Stapel-Wax, Psy.D.

Division P Representative
Vacant

Executive Director
Clark Thomas, MPA, CAE

Georgia Psychologist

WINTER 2009



CONTENTS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

2 *From the President*

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

3 *From the Executive Director*

LEGISLATIVE

4 *2008-2009 Legislative Agenda*

PUBLIC EDUCATION

7 *GPA Sees an Active Year in Public Education*

8 *Public Education*

ETHICS

9 *Ethics Committee*

STATE NEWS

10 *Continuing Education Committee News*

16 *In Memorium*

FEATURES

14 *Risk Management: An Alternative View*

DIVISION NEWS

12 *Division H News*

COLUMNS

18 *Book Review*

19 *New Members*

20 *Classifieds*

STAFF

Editor

William Doverspike, Ph.D.

Associate Editors

Margaret Nichols, Ph.D.

David Ryback, Ph.D.

George Williams, Ph.D.

Managing Editor

Cyd Preston Wise

Advertising Manager

Cyd Preston Wise

Production

Patricia McDonald

The *Georgia Psychologist*, the official publication of the Georgia Psychological Association, is published quarterly in the Summer, Fall, Winter and Spring. The Georgia Psychological Association Central Office is located at 2200 Century Parkway, Suite 660, Atlanta, Georgia 30345.

Tel: (404) 634-6272

Fax: (404) 634-8230

Advertising Policy: The *Georgia Psychologist* accepts classified or display advertisements that may be of interest to psychologists in the state of Georgia. Publication of any advertisement is not an endorsement of the advertiser or the product or services being advertised. Advertising rates for the *Georgia Psychologist* are on the inside back cover. For any other ad information, contact Cyd Preston Wise, cydwise@gapsychology.org.

On the Cover:

Design by Patricia McDonald.

The deadline for the
Spring *Georgia Psychologist*
is February 13, 2009.

Visit our web site at
gapsychology.org

© 2008 Georgia Psychological Association



FROM THE PRESIDENT



Peter C. Thomas, Ph.D.
President

Many of us are exhausted from the political process that seemed to go on forever this year. Nevertheless, as I have contemplated what the new administration may or may not have in store for us, I have found myself reflecting more on what we, as psychologists, contribute to Georgia politics and what kind of political presence we have in our State.

One of our members recently shared with me his view: "In politics, if we do not have a place at the table then, we are probably what is being served." Certainly, the Georgia Psychological Association has had a presence at the Capitol. Our members have testified before committees on a variety of issues as diverse as changes in custody, adoption, and education legislation. Our organization has also been involved with legislation that more directly affects our scope of practice and broadens services to the public. We have been able to give our legislators the most current research on numerous topics. This objective data has assisted them when making

the many important decisions before them during legislative sessions that are often very intense. We have also been consulted when appointments to mental health committees or the Licensing Board are being made.

Despite all this and the fact that, as individuals, we have strong opinions, our organization does not have as strong a visible presence at the Capitol in order to be truly listened to. If we are to be a voice for psychology, for how it affects our clients as well as ourselves, we must be more strategic in our thinking and more involved in the political process. This is especially true during a tight budget year.

In the coming year GPA will be focusing its energies on developing a stronger grassroots network. We are exploring ways for our members to get to know their legislators and help them gain a better understanding of not only what we as psychologists do, but the full extent of our training and skills. What is it that makes us stand apart from and at the same time compliment other mental health professionals? What do we bring to the table that makes us unique and how can we capitalize on this? I hope that you will consider contacting GPA and ask how you can become involved in this endeavor.

ATTN: ALL GPA DIVISION MEMBERS

Are You a Member of Division E, F, G or H? Do you sometimes wish you could have more contact with colleagues? Be able to discuss an issue with another psychologist? Need a referral?

Did you know that you can have all this at no charge? Just join your Division listserv. If you're a member of any Division or more than one and want more contact with your colleagues, contact Cyd Wise, cydwise@gapsychology.org and ask her to add you to your Division listserv. If you're concerned about being inundated with e-mail, just request "digest" e-mail, which allows one e-mail delivery per day and contains all issues that have been discussed on the Listserv that day.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Clark Thomas, MPA, CAE

GPA has been fortunate over the years to foster outstanding rapport with key Georgia decision-makers.

It is our intention to further develop connections with legislators during this session of the Georgia General Assembly, and we realize that more fully utilizing our existing relationships is perhaps the best possible platform for making significant strides as we move forward.

Leaders of this association understand the importance of visiting Georgia's Gold Dome, calling their legislator's office and/or writing as a concerned constituent as means of interacting with both our Senators and House Representatives. Each year a few of these leaders even take time and make the effort to visit legislators in our nation's Capitol so that Georgia psychologists have a voice on a federal level.

However, I believe participation in public policy matters should not be reserved for the few. Instead, I feel it should be undertaken to some degree by everyone. In fact, I would go so far as to say, this is the only way we may truly be effective in such endeavors.

You see, associations by their very nature provide a unique opportunity for members to come together, discuss concerns within their trade or profession, and coalesce around action items they hope will result in the advancement of common interests.

Given this, legal and legislative issues are an essential and vibrant part of any healthy and thriving professional association's core programming, and, as GPA prepares to take its public policy initiatives to new heights, we need all our members to become involved in this process.

During my tenure as an association executive I've heard many reasons why people feel their talent, gift,

skill or voice will not enhance an organization's goals and objectives, but, time and time again, when I've seen these same people place their emphasis on the association and apply themselves toward the objectives of the whole, rather than the individual, amazing things start to happen.

This is how campaigns to build clinics, schools and institutions are achieved. This is how organizations alter their course and define new strategic paths. This is how breakthrough moments in critical legislation are seized. This is how members impact the profession as well as afford trickle-down effects to their personal lives and careers.

Indeed, each of our members has something to contribute to these efforts. When we speak as a collective group, clearly define our wishes for the future and convey expectations for change, legislators listen. Whether via tallied e-mails received on a specific issue, tracked visits or calls made in relation to a particular topic, or counted political contributions received from those united for a joint purpose, we are heard.

Engaging legislators on all fronts and with consistency of message inevitably increases our chances for making a lasting impression, and this impression is one they will most certainly recall when convened to

vote on legislation, consider budgets or make other decisions that have the potential to impact the practice of psychology or affect mental health services.

As we move toward a greater focus in these areas, please watch for changes in how GPA communicates internally with its Committees and Task Forces, various regions across Georgia, other professions and you as a member.

In the interim, please consider ways in which you may help. Are you willing to join GPA's legal and legislative listserv for important updates and calls to action each session? Would you be willing to donate to the political action committee for psychologists in Georgia? Can commit to visit the Gold Dome once this year?

Contact me today if you share my vision that these small investments by individuals will provide for big successes by GPA. I look forward to hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clark".

Clark Thomas, MPA, CAE
cthomas@gapsychology.org
404-634-6272 ext. 203

2008-2009 Legislative Agenda: Transitions and Building Relationships

Daniel T. Rogers, PhD & Kamioka O. S. Gabriel, PhD
Co-Chairs, Legal and Legislative Committee

It is with great pleasure that we write to provide information about GPA's 2008-2009 legislative activities and agenda. We do so for the first time as the new co-chairs of the Legal and Legislative Committee (LLC). Indeed, a portion of LLC's work this year will involve facilitating this transition in leadership. We want to express our deep appreciation to Marilyn Vickers for her outstanding service as LLC Chair in recent years. Marilyn will remain an active member of LLC this year while also leading grassroots efforts within GPA to organize and mobilize members on a variety of issues.

As GPA has sought to restructure its internal organization by aligning divisions, committees, task forces, and regions with shared interests, LLC has been responsive to these changes. Many of these entities within GPA have vested interests in legal and legislative issues. As such, LLC has worked to seize upon the restructuring process as an opportunity to coordinate our efforts with these entities. Our goal is to improve communication about and collaboration on issues relevant to diverse groups within GPA.

Legislative Efforts

Over the past few years, the work of LLC and numerous GPA members have allowed our organization to make impressive gains on the legislative front. In particular, members' increasing presence at the Capitol during the legislative session has had two noteworthy effects. First, legislators are becoming increasingly aware of psychologists and the contributions we make in Georgia. Second, members are developing a better understanding of the legislative process and as a result are becoming increasingly skilled at letting their voice be heard on key issues. These effects are creating a situation in which legislators come to know the field of psychology and are increasingly listening to and seeking out GPA members' expertise on a variety of issues.

Given the success of this increased legislative involvement and the value of such a position for GPA, LLC's legislative efforts this year will include continued training of psychologists on being involved in the legislative process. This training helps members prepare to speak to legislators on a variety of topics relevant to psychologists' expertise, practice, and interests. Additional efforts will focus on outreach to legislators both at the Capitol and outside of the session. GPA's new grassroots organization will take lead on this with cooperation from LLC. Making meaningful contacts with legislators is vital to having GPA's voice be heard.

LLC will also be dedicating resources to improving communication with GPA members about legislative issues. The goal of these efforts is to help GPA and its members engage in the legislative process in an efficient and effective manner. Improved communication will support vital legislative activities, including: 1) lobbying legislators directly at the Capitol through conversations and providing education about psychological research, 2) contacting legislators by phone, email, and mail, and 3) testifying before committees and subcommittees.

Legislative Agenda

A few years ago, LLC moved from having a set legislative agenda to one that was more fluid in being responsive to legislative issues as they arose. Rather than advocating for certain legislative issues or proposing specific bills, LLC has often concentrated on several broad areas. Each area is consistent with GPA's mission in that it relates to the practice of psychology, the promotion of general human welfare, and current psychological research. These targeted areas of interest help shape what bills LLC monitors and ultimately chooses to lobby for or against. These general areas of focus will remain essential elements of the legislative agenda for the 2009 Georgia General Assembly, and they include:

- **Scope of Practice:** Any legislative issues that might affect the professional practice of psychology fall under this area. Scope of practice issues can affect many different providers of health services (e.g., duty to warn, privileged communication). Other times scope of practice issues may arise between groups of providers.
- **Insurance:** This area of focus includes any issues that might impact public and/or private funding of mental health services. LLC closely monitors any legislation that has bearing on mental health coverage or reimbursement (e.g., physical and mental health parity, mandates for mental health coverage).
- **Discrimination:** LLC monitors legislative actions that have the potential to target select groups on the basis of demographic variables such as gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious preference, socioeconomic status (e.g., restriction of adoption to married couples).
- **Children and Families:** Any legislative issues that have the potential to affect the wellbeing of children and families fall under this area. These issues have consequences for the work of members and their patients (e.g., custody decisions in divorce cases, domestic violence).
- **Education:** This area of focus includes any issues that could affect the education and wellbeing of students and the work of psychologists in the schools (e.g., services for students requiring special education).

One exception to having a responsive legislative agenda has been LLC's efforts in recent years to pursue a prescriptive

authority bill. We made significant progress in this area last year. A full recounting of these efforts is provided elsewhere (Vickers, 2008). Based on our careful evaluation of these events, this year's legislative agenda will not include a prescriptive authority bill. Instead, LLC will remain active on this front with legislative efforts designed to enhance support for such a bill in the future.

LLC will also closely monitor and respond to issues outside of the broad areas described above when necessary. For example, issues will likely emerge related to anticipated reductions in the state budget. LLC will monitor these for any possible impact to funding of mental health services. In addition, the Mental Health Service Delivery Commission, formed by Governor Perdue following investigations of the state hospital system by the U.S. Justice Department and the Atlanta Journal and Constitution, is expected to submit its final report in the coming months. The recommendations and action plans of the Commission may lead to legislative issues that touch many areas of mental health care delivery.

In order to effectively monitor and respond to these legislative issues, GPA will continue our relationship with lobbyist Sue Saleska Hamilton for the upcoming session. Sue's expertise and familiarity with GPA and its members' interests will continue to serve us well as she provides valuable assistance in carefully monitoring legislation at all stages of development. This vital assistance allows LLC to put existing plans of action in place for anticipated issues as well as respond quickly to unanticipated ones.

An Invitation

The legal and legislative issues that comprise the work of LLC have the potential to impact all GPA members. As a result, we want to take this opportunity to welcome your involvement in this important work. We recognize that some issues may be more important to you than others. Yet we believe that having an informed, engaged membership is vital to the success of our efforts and that of the entire

organization. We invite you to be involved in the work of LLC in any of the following ways:

1. Be aware of legal and legislative issues that are relevant to the science and practice of psychology and/or have the potential to impact the welfare of our patients. Bring these issues to the attention of LLC by contacting us and sharing your insights. If you have particular expertise on a legislative issue, please let us know.
2. Be involved in our efforts to bring the face of psychology to our legislators. We encourage interested members to be involved by speaking to their representatives, signing up to lobby at the capitol, authoring educational materials, and/or providing testimony before committees.
3. Be alert to information that comes to you from GPA or LLC about legislative matters. Often these notifications will inform you of pending legislative action and provide instructions for how to best respond to ensure that your voice is heard.

References

Vickers, M. (2008). A year of legislative activity. *Georgia Psychologist*, 62(3), 8.

Troubled Kids Are Special.
Helping Them Succeed is Our Specialty.

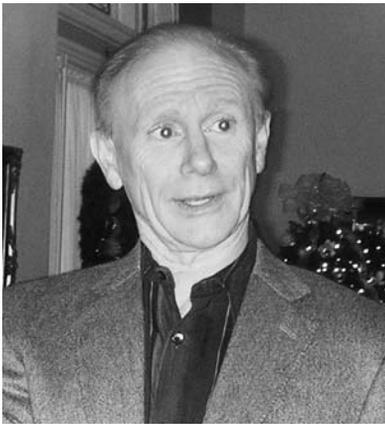


Since 1968, Eckerd Academy has specialized in helping troubled kids turn their lives around:

- Serves boys and girls, ages 10 - 17
- Individualized treatment and academic plans
- Focus on emotional growth and long-lasting changes in attitudes and behaviors
- Licensed and Accredited

**ECKERD
EYA
YOUTH
ALTERNATIVES**

**Eckerd Academy
of the Blue Ridge**
Suches, GA • 800.914.3937
www.EckerdAcademy.org



GPA President Peter Thomas



AAPA members, (L) Drs. Gayle Spears; Louise McBee, retired legislator and psychologist and honorary member of Athens Area Psychological Association (AAPA); Betsy Stewart and President Alex Cohen.

Annual Athens Area Legislative Breakfast



Legislative Breakfast Committee, Drs. Alyssa Clark, Alex Cohen and Marilyn Vickers.



LLC Committee:

(Front) Drs. Kip Matthews, Alex Cohen, Marilyn Vickers, Ann Abramowitz, and Angela Londono-McConnell

(Back): Drs. Daniel Rogers and Kamiaka Gabriel, Co-chairs, and Clark Thomas, Executive Director.

GPA Sees an Active Year in Public Education

Cyd Wise
Communications Director

Mind Body Health Fair

The Georgia Psychological Association (GPA) has experienced its most active year in public education. Last year, the American Psychological Association (APA) selected Georgia as a model for a Mind Body Health Fair, based on APA's Mind Body Public Education Campaign. Numerous GPA psychologists, APA Public Relations staff and APA's P.R. firm, worked on the Mind Body Health Fair for eight months coming up with an interactive health fair which took place at Perimeter Mall in March.

Community/website calendars, media advisories, public service announcements, and media pitches for stories were posted months in advance. Mall advertising: banners, food court table tents, and mall marquee advertising invited attendees. We presented mini-workshops interspersed with live demonstrations. We also sold exhibit space to companies/organizations fitting within the mind body model. Some of these included: Trader Joe's, Concourse Athletic Club, Sephora, Nordstrom Spa, Ladies Workout Express, and Sur La Table.

On the day of the event, 50 psychologists volunteered to help with more than 500 participants who showed up to learn more about Mind/Body Stress.

Stress in America Survey

In October, APA, launched results of its second Stress in America Survey. Atlanta was one of five cities in the country that were surveyed. Results told us Atlantans were experiencing some of the highest stress in the country. APA staff coordinated those involved through conference calls with all Public Education Coordinators (PEC) across the country. GPA's Dr. Angela London-McConnell, Dr. J. Kip Matthews and Cyd Wise (GPA staff) would coordinate media contacts and stories in Georgia.

The Stress in America launch in New York City on October 7 was very successful and resulted in national media coverage incorporating messages about how to more effectively manage stress and when to seek help. APA President, Dr. Katherine Nordal gave presentations at the launch which was attended by reporters from major women's and health magazines, as well as, the New York Post and Inside Edition. Below is an initial summary of the media outlets that were dealt with.

The Stress in America launch in NYC yesterday was very successful and resulted in amazing media coverage incorporating messages about how to more effectively manage stress and when to seek help. Dr. Katherine Nordal and gave presentations at the launch in NYC which was attended by reporters from major women's and health magazines as well as the New York Post and Inside Edition. Below is an initial summary of the media outlets that we dealt with, or that we know have been in touch with public education coordinators to cover this story:

- NBC affiliates:
 - Washington, DC
 - WNBC – NY
 - San Jose
 - Results made available to hundreds of NBC affiliates nationwide, aired morning and evening
- NBC Today Show
- NBC Nightly News
- USA Today – front page interview (reprinted in other Gannett newspapers)
- CBS Radio
- CBS Early Show
- Chicago Tribune
- Good Morning Chicago –
- LA Times – front page of LA edition
- ABC affiliate – DC –
- WTOP Radio
- Time.com
- CBS Evening News
- Fox Business News
- New York Post
- Inside Edition
- New York Times
- Detroit News
- Detroit Free Press
- CBS Atlanta affiliate
- Orlando Sentinel
- Telemundo
- CNN Radio
- CBS Radio
- Northwest Cable News Seattle

- WDET Detroit FM
- Riverside Press Enterprise
- Seattle Post Intelligencer
- News talk 93 FM (Jamaica)
- KSWV – LA
- Washington Post
- Nikkei (Japan)
- Sacramento Bee

Georgia Media

- CNN: Angela London-McConnell on the Tony Harris show at noon; CNN Espanol; Carcarcol
- USA.com Miami Radio, broadcast to Miami, Columbia, Chile, Spain, Panama, Argentina & Mexico
- Encuentro con Daniel Viotto
- En Efectivo
- Nuestro Mundo Newsmagazine
- *El Mercurio Newspaper* (Santiago de Chile, Chile)
- *El Sentinel Newspaper* (Florida, USA)
- *La Estrella Newspaper* (Arizona, USA)
- *HITN TV* (USA): Dialogo de Costa a Costa
- *Univision.com*: Vida- Salud
- Atlanta Journal Constitution – interviewed Dr. Kip Matthews for 2 articles
- Atlanta Journal Constitution – Living (front page) interviewed Dr. Kip Matthews (Nov.)
- Chattanooga Times: Mental health suffers with crisis-Kip Matthews
- Kip Matthews - WGST-AM 640 ran the interview at 6, 7, 8, and 9 am as well as sporadically throughout the day. They used different quotes at the different hours.
- CBS 46 interviewed Kip Matthews on Stress
- Jet Magazine: Jennifer Kelly
- Carol Drummond speaking at various schools about the economic issue.
- Mary Gresham – AJC - *As rattled rich look for solace, therapy booms*

Public Education

MEDIA

Angela Londono-McConnell:

Interviewed on "Transition to College/ Transición a la Universidad for En Familia" on *CNN en Español*.

"La Depresión/Depression" for *Univision.com*

WGST 640 Atlanta Talk Radio on "The Economy and its Impact on Our Health."

WSUA 1260 Radio Caracol: Hoy por Hoy (Colombia, Chile, México, Panamá, Spain, USA)

"El Estrés Navideño y Las Mujeres / Women and Holiday Stress" and "La Magia de la Navidad / "The Magic of the Holidays" for *BabyCenter.com*



CNN interviewed **Erik Fisher** on the election. Erik was also interviewed for *Parenting Magazine* and a 60 minute interview on *All Things that Matter* on Blog Talk.

Points North Magazine interviewed **Karen DeNoia** for an article focusing on the Legitimacy of the ADHD diagnosis.

Ann Abramowitz was interviewed for *Parents Magazine* on "Children & ADHD" and also was on CNN's health program on ADHD in adults.

Liz Carson was interviewed by the *Dunwoody Crier* on "Holiday coping, circadian rhythms and holiday blues."

Dina Zeckhausen recently spoke on B98.5 radio's Steve and Vicki morning show about "Orthorexia," an eating disorder in which sufferers are so obsessed with being healthy that they actually damage their health.

PUBLIC EDUCATION PRESENTATIONS

Dina Zeckhausen is leading a free "M.O.D. Squad" group for Moms of Daughters, a 7-session eating disorder prevention curriculum which helps moms raise girls who are physically and mentally healthy.

Paul Schenk will be speaking to the psychology class at Lithonia High School.

Howard Drutman spoke to the Forsyth County Bar Association on "Dealing with Clients with Special Needs."

Nancy McGarrah gave two presentations on Resilience to the Sugarloaf Methodist Church and several individual consultations following the presentation.

Rick Blue presented on "Finding ways to make your relationship better: Quick tips you can use for success" to the Georgia State University Alumni Association and to the Morehouse School of Medicine's "Wellness and you" seminar and "Dealing with Conflict" presented to Ready Pac employees.

J. Kip Matthews presented on "Bullying, What to do if..." for primary and middle school parents of Atlanta International School

Liz Carson spoke on Sleep and Sleep Disorders at the Dunwoody All Saints Catholic Church.

'ROUND GEORGIA

Teodoro Ayllon received the Award for Distinguished Service to Behavior Analysis from the Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis at their Annual Convention in Chicago.

Ethics Committee

Carol Drummond, Ph.D.

Chair, Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee of GPA serves the membership in a wide variety of ways, and I would like to take this opportunity to outline how we work and what we do. The Committee currently consists of nineteen members, with 13 serving on three different panels, five serving in an advisory capacity, and one as secretary. Members are chosen to represent diversity with regard to practice specialty, as well as geographic and cultural diversity. Terms are 3 years, with most members serving two consecutive terms as we feel it takes more than one term to really become knowledgeable about the ethics process. Members are typically nominated by the Committee and approved by the GPA President. Anyone who is interested in serving on this committee should express this to me or Cyd Wise, our staff liaison. Because membership is carefully chosen to represent all areas of psychology, it is not possible to offer membership to all who are interested. We typically add two to three members each year, but this varies.

Consumer Complaints

One function of the Ethics Committee is to handle consumer concerns about members. Consumers (e.g., clients, supervisees, students, etc.) who have a complaint against a member call GPA. Cyd, then, contacts a committee member, who returns calls within 24 hours. In many cases, the Ethics Committee member is able to clarify questions and the consumer is satisfied. In many cases, the Licensing Board is a more appropriate venue and the consumer is given referral information. The Ethics Committee does not consider cases that have been filed with either the Licensing Board or the APA Ethics Committee. The case is then assigned to a panel and a determination made if there is a valid complaint. If so, the case is presented and reviewed by the committee and handled as deemed appropriate. Over the past few years, we have seen a steady decline in complaints, which we hope can be attributed to better practice by our members. Should you receive a call from an Ethics Committee member, don't panic but be aware that our primary goal is to support and educate our members. Many times all that is needed is additional continuing education or brief supervision around practice issues.

Advisory Consultations

Perhaps the most valuable service that the Ethics Committee offers is the Advisory Panel. As a member, if you have any questions regarding ethical issues with your clients, contact Cyd and she will refer you to the

most appropriate advisory member for a telephone consultation. The advisor will listen and review the ethical issues with you. Documenting your consultations is a powerful risk management tool, as well as allowing you to sleep better at night. I have made many of these calls myself and found them invaluable. Typical issues relate to supervision, custody issues, records retention, dual relationships, and scope of practice. I think that you will find these advisors to be compassionate,

“Documenting your consultations is a powerful risk management tool, as well as allowing you to sleep better at night.”

empathic, and knowledgeable. We receive almost universal positive feedback, and the service is available to all GPA members. Although we don't keep records regarding the experience of the members requesting consultation, anecdotally I can tell you that we receive calls from students, newly licensed psychologists, and very seasoned members. As any risk management expert will tell you, seeking consultation is both healthy and self-protective.

Continuing Education

Another valuable service of the Ethics Committee is offering workshops on a wide range of ethical

issues. We often co-sponsor a workshop at Annual meeting with the Licensing Board to discuss the difference in our roles. We are very fortunate to have an excellent working relationship with the Licensing Board, with Dr. Barbara Calhoun serving as liaison and attending meetings to present issues that GPA members are concerned about or interested in.

So, the Ethics Committee is your friend, not your foe, and please consider using the consultation service whenever you are in doubt about ethical issues. Please contact Cyd or me if you would like further information or have an interest in serving on this committee in the future.

Carol Drummond, Ph.D.
(404) 760-0020 or
cdrummond@mindspring.com

Cyd Wise
(404) 634-6272 or
cydwise@gapsychology.org

The GPA Ethics Committee would like to write a Question & Answer column for you! If you have a question that may involve confidentiality issues, you may want to write it in a way that will protect those involved. You may also submit questions anonymously. Send your questions to Cyd Wise at the e-mail above.

Continuing Education Committee News

Steven Perlow, Ph.D.
Chair, C.E. Committee

As we approach the end of a biennium, we find ourselves with a full offering of CE Workshops. We hope you're getting a chance to enjoy some of them. The Continuing Education Committee has been reconfigured this year with representatives from each of GPA's Divisions and Special Interest Groups invited. This will allow for greater coordination of Continuing Education, so that no two GPA groups are interfering with one other's offerings. It also allows for greater cooperation amongst groups that may have similar interests. An example of this would be a workshop regarding parenting issues for gay couples. Such a workshop could easily involve representatives from Division G (Families, Adolescents, Children, Evaluation and Schools) along with Division H (Sexual Orientation).

GPA is an APA Approved Sponsor for offering Continuing Education. As an APA sponsor, GPA is required to adhere to APA guidelines for GPA workshops. Some of the most important and frequently cited issues include:

1) APA requires that workshops be attended in their entirety in order for a participant to receive a CE certificate. Participants are expected to arrive on time and stay for the entire workshop. If a participant arrives more than fifteen minutes late, leaves prior to the conclusion of the workshop, or if a participant misses segments of the workshop, he/she will not be eligible to receive a CE certificate for workshop attendance.

2) When submitting a workshop proposal, a research basis is required as part of the application process. APA cites

several levels of criteria regarding the research component. Workshops whose content has been historically accepted, and for which an extensive body of literature exists, may refer to this literature in addition to any research in the area to comply with this requirement. Workshops whose content are newer to the field, or is more amenable to an empirical basis, will need to cite this level of research to meet the requirement.

Please remember that it is the Georgia Board of Examiners (Licensing Board) and not GPA, who developed the five categories required for relicensure. Thus GPA may not be able to answer questions related to the categories. Some Frequently Asked Questions and answers (FAQs) are contained on the licensing board's website.

Continuing Education offered by GPA primarily satisfies the Licensing Board requirements for Area IV (APA or GPA approved Continuing Education Programs), and may satisfy requirements for Area II (Conventions) and Area III (Workshops and Institutes). Continuing Education for Areas II and III can also be obtained from non-GPA or APA sources. GPA is in the process of developing Webinars, which can be applied to in Area V.

Thanks for making this such a successful CE biennium. We are in the process of putting together programming for the next two years. Please feel free to contact me or any member of the CE Committee, especially your Division representative to the Committee, with your CE recommendations for the future.

ONSITE REGISTRATION FEES

In order to better prepare for invited workshops, we are charging higher registration fees for onsite registration. Onsite rates kick in at 5:00 pm the day before the workshop. The primary reason for this is that we have cancelled workshops with low pre-registration only to have some show up on the day of the cancelled workshop planning to pay and attend. If all had pre-registered, the workshops might not have been cancelled. GPA members pay \$60 to pre-register and \$80 for onsite registration; Non-members pay \$120 to pre-register and \$140 for onsite registration. Our purpose is not to charge more, but to have all attendees pre-register. In that way, we are able to give you a more organized workshop.

You may download this information in condensed form to keep on hand. See www.gapsychology.org

Trust-sponsored Professional Liability Insurance

CELEBRATE!

We made a great policy even better!

New areas of practice, new rules, new risks... no problem at the Trust.

We ensure that your professional liability insurance keeps pace with the profession's constantly changing environment. We've negotiated a number of improvements and coverage enhancements to the Trust-sponsored Professional Liability Insurance Policy*... broader and even better coverage at no additional cost to you.

Don't look any further for Professional Liability Insurance.

Combine our cutting-edge protection with the free Advocate 800 Risk Management Consultation Service, acclaimed continuing education programs, and excellent customer service, and you won't likely find a more comprehensive risk management program for psychologists anywhere.

Apply now, get covered, and celebrate.

All it takes is one click at www.apait.org or a quick call to **1-800-477-1200** for the peace of mind you always wanted.

Trust-sponsored Professional Liability Insurance now includes:

- Expanded coverage for licensing board investigations and record keeping during retirement
- Protection for investigations of violations of the HIPAA Privacy Rule
- Protection for Medicare or Medicaid payment investigations
- Specific deposition expense reimbursement
- Increased reimbursement limits for "Loss of Earnings" and "Premises Medical Payments"



www.apait.org
1-800-477-1200

* Professional Liability Insurance underwritten by ACE American Insurance Company (ACE), one of the ACE Group of Companies. ACE USA is the U.S. based retail operating division of the ACE Group of Companies, headed by ACE Limited (NYSE:ACE) and rated A+ (Superior) by A.M. Best and A+ (Strong) by Standard & Poor's (Ratings as of May 31, 2008). Administered by Trust Risk Management Services Inc. (TRMS)



H DIVISION OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION ISSUES

DIVISION H NEWS

2008-2009 Leadership

Chair

Jennifer Stapel-Wax, Psy.D.

Chair-Elect

Diane Hughes, LCSW, Ph.D.

Past Chair

Faughn Adams, Psy.D.

Secretary-Treasurer

Vacant

GPA Board Representative

Jennifer Stapel-Wax, Psy.D.

Membership

Faughn Adams, Psy.D.

Equal Rights Are Not Special Rights

Jodie-Helen Martin
 Jennifer L. Stapel-Wax, Psy.D.
Chair

Equal protection under the law for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer (GLBTQ) individuals has been debated for over forty years on the national and state level. This article presents a brief review of legal action that suggests GLBTQ citizens should be granted the same rights and protections as other citizens. There is an abundance of support for equality in both the empirical psychological literature and in legal initiatives suggesting bold action be taken to secure the psychological and physical health of all Georgia residents. As psychologists, we are ethically compelled to be aware of and respect diversity. Arguably, it is also our responsibility to support justice for our GLBTQ clients.

On December 10, 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, mandating that all member countries promote respect for the rights and freedoms of all peoples. Within its introductory articles, this document argues that all humans are equal before the law and entitled to equal protection without discrimination. These protections were postulated to ensure the physical, emotional and psychological safety of every person. The aspirations predicate that no citizen of a member country within the United Nations, of which the United States is one of the five permanently seated countries, should possess fewer protections than any other.

Despite the above mandate, GLBTQ United States citizens are being subjected at the state and federal

level to discrimination and destruction of their basic freedoms in regards to personal safety, employment security, marriage, and child custody protection. The laws of this state do not protect thousands of Georgia citizens and families.

Hate Crimes Legislation: Article 3 of this document states everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person. Of the forty-five states that currently have hate crime legislation (Georgia is not one), 38 hold harsh penalties for crimes committed on basis of one's sexual orientation and 11 for gender identity (ADL, 2008).

Employment Nondiscrimination: Article 23 indicates that every person should have equal protection against the threat of job loss. Currently, there are seven states that legally protect against employment loss due to sexual orientation. Thirteen states, plus the District of Columbia, legally protect for sexual orientation and gender identity. These protections do not exist for GLBTQ Georgians, leaving diligent individuals with employment that potentially is unsupportive, unhealthy, and unsafe. (NGLT, 2008)

Equal Rights to Legal Unions: Regarding marriage, article 16 describes that men and women of legal age, without limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and establish a family. It further posits that all men and women are entitled to equal rights to marriage. Additionally, the article powerfully states that the United Nations values family as the fundamental group within a culture

that must be protected by society and the State. Finally, the article does not specify that men and women must marry one another nor do they provide a rigid definition of family. Currently, there are 21 countries worldwide that allow for same-gender couples to unite legally (Johnson, 2008). Conversely, the U.S. federal government passed an amendment, the Defense against Marriage Act (DOMA) (Shah, 1997), disallowing marriage rights for same-gender couples. A handful of states provide legal protection for these couples. Although the United States government currently recognizes 1,138 federal statutory rights related to marital status, there are 43 states, including Georgia, in which these rights are unrecognized for same-gender couples (Shah, 1997) Despite the United Nations declaration, DOMA further clarified that the U.S. would not recognize same-gender legal unions from another nation regardless of the length of marriage.

Adoption Protection: Article 25 acknowledges protection of children and families. Only four states explicitly protect the rights of children by allowing adoption by gay and lesbian individuals. Conversely, statutes in four states bar adoption by gays and lesbians. Without explicit statutes to deign child protection, constitutional law is left to court interpretation. Even though the adult remains the psychological parent, the absence of a legally recognized parent-child relationship jeopardizes the child's security and stability. Devoid of the ability to provide basic care and protections, a parent is unable to obtain health insurance, authorize medical care or emergency treatment, make educational decisions, or obtain social security for the child. Beyond this, it invalidates the integrity of the family (Wasserman, 2008). Current research on parenting by same-gender couples unequivocally indicates that children raised in these families are as healthy and well-adjusted as children parented by heterosexual couples (Maxwell & Donner, 2006).

The impact of Georgia laws is clear: inequality, injustice and un-equal protection under the law. For our GLBTQ clients, unnecessary stress and painful outcomes often result. To preserve physical and psychological health, all human beings must be provided basic rights and freedoms, including

the security of person, job security, and legal protection for established family bonds. Anything less is unethical and inhumane.

Resources:

APA Public Interest: www.apa.org/pi/parent; www.apa.org/pi/lgbc; www.apa.org/pi/lgbc/transgender

Patterson, C. J. (2005) "Lesbian and Gay Family Issues in the Context of Changing Legal and Social Policy Environments," in Perez, DeBord & Bieschke (Eds.), *Handbook of Counseling and Psychotherapy with Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Clients*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

References:

ADL. The Anti-Defamation League. (2008). State Hate Crime Statutory Provisions. *The Anti-Defamation League Washington Office*. Retrieved November 14, 2008 from http://www.adl.org/99hatecrime/state_hate_crime_laws.pdf

Johnson, R. (2008). *Where is Gay Marriage Legal?: Gay Marriage Around the World*. About.com retrieved November 6, 2008 from <http://gaylife.about.com/od/samesexmarriage/a/legalgaymarriage.htm>

NGLT. National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce.(2008). State non-discrimination laws in the U.S. *TheTaskForce.org*. retrieved November. 14, 2008 from http://www.thetaskforce.org/downloads/reports/issue_maps/non_discrimination_7_08.pdf

Maxwell, N.G., & Donner, R. (2006) The Psychological Consequences of Judicially Imposed Closets in Child Custody and Visitation Disputes Involving Gay or Lesbian Parents. *William and Mary Journal of Women and Law*, Fall, 2006. [13 WMMJWL 305]

Shah, D. (1997). U.S. General Accounting Office: *Defense of Marriage Act*, GAO/OGC-97-16. (Washington, DC; January 31, 1997)

Wasserman, R. (2008) Are You Still My Mother?: Interstate Recognition of Adoptions by Gays and Lesbians. *American University Law Review* October, 2008. [58 AMULR 1]

Dr. Jennifer Stapel-Wax is an Associate Professor, Clinical Psychology program, Argosy University, Atlanta and Jodie Helen-Martin is one of her students at Argosy.

All members of GPA who are interested in the work of Division H are invited to a

Social Gathering and Discussion
Topic: The Vision of Division H
Saturday Jan 24, 2009 8:00 pm
1786 N. Rock Springs Rd. NE
Atlanta, GA 30324

Bring your appetite for Food, Drink, and Merriment. Plenty of all will be available.

For further directions and/or information call (404) 876-8454 or (404) 329-2050

Risk Management: An Alternative View

William F. Doverspike, Ph.D., ABPP

This article is an excerpt from Risk Management: Clinical, Ethical, and Legal Guidelines for Successful Practice (2008). The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not reflect any official policy or opinion of the GPA Ethics Committee or the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. This article is designed to be educational in nature and is not intended to provide legal advice. The reader is encouraged to contact an attorney for legal advice regarding state laws and administrative rules governing professional conduct.

Risk management refers to the basic premise that ethical problems can be prevented and legal liability can be managed through the use of some common sense ethical principles. These principles include understanding relevant ethical and legal standards, practicing within one's area of competence, supervising only what one knows, obtaining adequate informed consent, being aware of the risks inherent in child custody evaluations, maintaining clear boundaries with clients, using projective retrospective thinking, consulting with colleagues, documenting decisions in writing, maintaining open communication with clients, and aspiring to excellence (Doverspike, 2008). Good risk management involves putting these principles into practice.

Although I advocate a conservative approach to ethical risk management in professional practice, no discussion of ethical risk management would be complete without considering an alternative point of view. I am indebted to my West Coast colleague Ofer Zur (2007a, 2007b) for increasing my awareness of other perspectives by challenging orthodox ethical dogma and offering alternative perspectives that promote meaningful discussion of the complex issues involved in managing dual relationships, boundaries, and psychotherapy. A review of the literature reveals that there are at least three counterpoint views to the prevailing conventional wisdom of risk management. Each of these views provides a rebuttal to the traditional argument that risk management principles reduce the occurrence of ethical complaints and malpractice lawsuits.

The myth of risk management

One hypothesis, which has been referred to as the *myth of risk management*, maintains that clinicians may be using risk management strategies that are not necessarily needed in the first place. This hypothesis maintains that such strategies do not necessarily reduce malpractice complaints, but rather they simply give the appearance of doing so because complaints and lawsuits are such low frequency events in the first place. Statistically, with respect to what has been termed the

base rate phenomenon (Monahan, 1981), it is difficult to predict low frequency events precisely because they are relatively uncommon. For example, an event that has a 10% probability of occurring is relatively difficult to predict, even when using the best of assessment instruments, whereas an event that has a 90% probability of occurring can be predicted the majority of the time simply by guessing.

If risk management principles do not actually lower the risk of occurrence of adverse events, then why do these principles continue to be used and advocated by practitioners? One possibility is because the use of such principles is reinforced by the practitioner's perception that their use actually resulted in the absence of adverse events. This process is similar to the proverbial man on a street corner in London who kept his umbrella open in order to keep elephants from attacking. When a bystander pointed out that there were no wild elephants in London, the man responded by pointing out that his strategy obviously worked. In other words, rather than lowering the risk of occurrence of adverse events, risk management strategies may instead correlate with (rather than cause) the absence of events that are rare in the first place. Rather than lowering the risk of these statistically rare events, risk management strategies may simply lower the anxiety of the clinician.

The curse of risk management

A second hypothesis, which has been referred to as the *curse of risk management*, maintains the position that risk managed strategies may actually raise rather than lower the risk of licensing board complaints or malpractice lawsuits. As yesterday's guidelines become tomorrow's standards of care, one unintended consequence of the risk management movement has been a raising of the standards regarding what constitutes acceptable practice, resulting in an unintended increase rather than a decrease in complaints to licensing boards and lawsuits in civil courts (Williams, 2003). Rather than reducing malpractice complaints, the risk management movement may have unwittingly contributed to an unintentional increase in complaints. Partly due to concerns that the APA (1992) Ethics Code had become increasingly used by attorneys and disciplinary boards to define standards of care for litigation and adjudication, the authors of the current APA (2002) Ethics Code specifically included language designed to avoid creating an undue burden of legal liability for psychologists:

The Ethics Code is not intended to be a basis of civil liability. Whether a psychologist has violated the Ethics Code standards does not by itself determine

whether the psychologist is legally liable in a court action, whether a contract is enforceable, or whether other legal consequences occur. (p. 1061)

The worst of risk management

A third hypothesis, which might be referred to as the *worst of risk management*, states that by being motivated by a fear of lawsuits rather than by a compassion for clients, mental health professionals actually commit the worst of all ethical violations. A blind obedience to risk management that prevents practitioners from doing any harm may also prevent practitioners from doing any good. In his assessment of risk management as it is taught in doctoral training programs, Lazarus (2001) states, "Instead of producing frightened conformists, our training programs should focus on turning out caring and enterprising helpers who have the confidence to think for themselves" (p. 16). Lazarus provides a further indictment of risk management with the following observation: "If I am to summarize my position in one sentence, I would say that one of the worst professional or ethical violations is that of permitting current risk-management principles to take precedence over humane interventions" (2002, p. 31). Similarly, if I were to summarize my own position in one sentence, I would state, "Reasonable clinicians protect themselves by protecting their patients" (Doverspike, 2004, p. 210). One of the best ways to protect the patient is to aspire to excellence in providing a reasonable standard of care.

References

- American Psychological Association. (1992). Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct. *American Psychologist*, 47, 1597-1611.
- American Psychological Association. (2002). Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct. *American Psychologist*, 57, 1060-1073.
- Doverspike, W. F. (2004). Boundary violations and psychotherapy: [Review of the book *Dual Relationships and psychotherapy* by Lazarus, A. A. and Zur, O. (Eds.). (2002). New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company]. *Contemporary Psychology*, Vol 49 (2). Pages 209-211.
- Doverspike, W. F. (2008). *Risk management: Clinical, ethical, and legal guidelines for successful practice*. Sarasota, FL: Professional Resource Press.
- Lazarus, A. A. (2001). Not all "dual relationships" are taboo: Some tend to enhance treatment outcomes. *The National Psychologist*, 10(1), 16.
- Lazarus, A. A. (2002). How certain boundaries and ethics diminish therapeutic effectiveness. In A. A. Lazarus & O. Zur (Eds.), *Dual relationships and psychotherapy* (pp 25-31). New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company.
- Monahan, J. (1981). *Predicting violent behavior: An assessment of clinical techniques*. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage
- Williams, M. H. (2003). The curse of risk management. *Independent Practitioner*, 23, 202-205.
- Zur, O. (2007a). The risky business of risk management: How risk management guidelines can increase risk and decrease clinical effectiveness. Retrieved November 1, 2008, from <http://www.zurinstitute.com/riskmanagement.html>
- Zur, O. (2007b). *Boundaries in psychotherapy: Ethical and clinical explorations*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

In Memoriam

In the past few months, GPA has lost four long time members. The following was written by friends and colleagues of Drs. Nancy Kirwan, Steve O'Hagan and Angel Lopez.

Nancy Kirwan, Ph.D.

On September 26th, the psychology community lost a beloved colleague and a friend when Nancy Kirwan, Ph.D. was killed in an automobile accident. Nancy was an empathic person who applied her talents and energies in multiple ways. Her life was defined by service. She was a long-term member of GPA and participated on several committees through the course of her career including the Professional Standards Committee and the Ethics Committee. She participated as well in several community organizations and served on the board of Paideia School in Atlanta.

I first met Nancy in 1985 shortly after I moved to Atlanta. At that time, she was the clinical director of Summit Psychiatric Center, and I was looking for a job. Fortunately, she hired me. As the new kid on the block, I was naturally somewhat apprehensive about starting out in my professional career, but, in typical Nancy-fashion, she put me at ease by sharing with me the events of her first day at Summit. She had taken the position as clinical director after moving from Florida where she had worked at a community health center. On her first day as a psychologist in Atlanta and in front of her boss, a Florida sheriff showed up, serving her a subpoena involving a case filed by a disgruntled relative of a patient. That's the way Nancy was. Whether putting a colleague, a friend, a patient, or a homeless person at ease, underneath her poised presence, Nancy was humanity's hostess.

Nancy had a wonderful sense of humor and loved people. She entertained frequently and loved to bring people together. She delighted in bringing new experiences to people, whether it was introducing them to a new restaurant or new vacation spot. This knack of hers even extended to her mother-in-law who, in spite of having lived nearly all her life in Atlanta, had

never eaten at the Varsity. Nancy decided to rectify this situation and drove her mother-in-law and her mother-in-law's friends, all donned in white gloves, to the Varsity to partake of the finest chili dog available in the city.

Nancy went through her own periods of loss in her life, first losing her mother and then her father not long afterwards. The final blow was perhaps when her brother, Ben, was tragically killed when he was struck by lightning on a driving range. Somehow she was able to turn her grief into giving, and she joined the Samaritan Counseling Center where she was hired as the clinical director. Her dedication to the job went above and beyond the call of duty. She started a breast cancer support group that she continued to run pro bono for years. Her patients loved her, and she was highly respected and well-liked by the staff. The Center grew and flourished under her leadership.

She took up pottery around the same time and created her own line under the name "Lillie Mae." Lillie Mae, I think, was her alter ego and the whimsical figures she painted even looked a bit like her. Her pottery was prized by many,



and she generously gave of her artwork. Her long-running breast cancer support group was even a recipient as she made an angel plaque that was placed on the wall

in honor of any group member who had lost her battle to cancer. I'm sure that her patients and those who knew Nancy felt like they had been touched by an angel.

Connie Hill, Ph.D.

Angel Lopez, Ph.D.

Dr. Angel Lopez, my friend and colleague, passed on November 2, 2008, after fighting a long battle with cancer. Dr. Angel Lopez was a bilingual psychologist (i.e., English and Spanish) who was survived by his spouse Mercy, daughter Monica, and son Andres. He was a devoted husband and father, and it was my pleasure to attend the weddings of both children during the course of the past year and to work with him in our Duluth office.

To attempt to comprehensively review Angel's career or contributions to the profession of psychology in this synopsis would do him an injustice; therefore I will endeavor to elaborate upon what most impressed me about this man. Angel genuinely cared about those with whom he worked and he adhered to the highest standard of ethics in the delivery of psychological services. He espoused ethics to the students he instructed and supervised, and he committed himself to the numerous professional organizations to which he belonged.

Angel often worked long hours, but he would constantly remind others to take respites from their laborious pursuits. He routinely sought out new learning experiences, endeared knowledge, and routinely applied the information he learned in the service of his patients. In fact, I was informed by his spouse that while Angel was restricted to his bed and plans were being made for hospice care only days before his death, he completed his CE's for licensure. His spouse informed me that she read questions aloud to him in an effort to help him complete CE's under the rubric

of self-study while he lay in bed, barely able to speak. How dedicated a man in this condition to work on completing his licensure requirements two days prior to his death; this is the kind of man that Angel was.

It has been my pleasure to know and work with Angel over the course of the past several years and I, as well as many others, am deeply saddened by his loss. In my last communication with Angel, via an e-mail composed for him by his spouse, Mercy, he gave me his blessing and stated, "I will see you from the skies." In my ongoing pursuit of knowledge and desire to maintain the highest ethical standards, I will reflect upon my time with Angel and I truly hope that he sees his contributions to my life and the lives of others that he has touched.

Humbly Submitted,
Keith Fallon, Psy. D.

I knew Angel from his participation on the Ethics Committee while I was the chair. His wife has kept me in the loop about his illness because of this and I have forwarded on information to the rest of the committee. The things I would say about Angel include:

He appeared to have a strong knowledge base regarding assessment. Being Puerto Rican was indeed helpful to us both linguistically and culturally on the committee. He was a thoughtful listener and willing to share his ideas once formulated. He was never abrasive, but always a soothing force. Angel resigned as he tried to honor the seriousness with which he took his position on the Ethics Committee. Once he started chemotherapy and felt that he would not have the strength to participate, he felt it would be better for someone else to take his position. He will be truly missed.

Steve Perlow
Past Chair
GPA Ethics Committee

Stephen O'Hagan, Ph.D.

Dr. Steve O'Hagan passed away October 17th, after a valiant 3-year battle with lung cancer. Steve received his BA from Manhattan College in 1969 and his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Florida State University in 1974. He came to Atlanta to practice at the Emory Clinic and Grady Memorial Hospital. Dr. O'Hagan developed his private practice in Atlanta, and continued to serve on the admissions committee at the Emory Medical School until 2000. He was a diplomat of the Georgia Psychological Association, specializing in Forensic Psychology, and was a member of the National Academy of Neurophysiologists.

As an active community member and avid sailor, Dr. O'Hagan previously served as Commodore of the Barefoot Sailing Club of Lake Lanier, president of the Hibernian Benevolent Society, and board of directors member to Theatre Gael Atlanta. long time friend and companion, Frances Reedy, of Atlanta, GA.

Steve and I had kids who went to the same high school and we lived in the same part of town, so I saw him sometimes around the school and neighborhood. I also spent time with his partner, Frances Reedy, during GPA conventions.

I was one of the originators of the Forensic Interest Group and remember Steve being at most of the meetings. He had an avid interest in forensics and always had something to discuss. When it was time for me to step down from the Forensic Group, Steve agreed to take over as Chair. He kept it going until he became ill. He was always a quiet, gracious friend and colleague.

Nancy McGarrah, Ph.D.

John Libretto, Ph.D.

John Salvatore Libretto, age 71 of Duluth, passed away suddenly November 23. Dr. Libretto graduated from Penn State University in 1978, served four years in the U.S. navy, and was in private practice for thirty years in the Atlanta area. He was a Life member of GPA,



BOOK REVIEW

Financial Success in Mental Health Practice: Essential Tools and Strategies for Practitioners.

By Steven Walfish & Jeffrey E. Barnett. Washington DC: American Psychological Association. 266 pages with references and index.

Review by David Ryback, Ph.D., ABPP

This very scholarly, erudite guide for success in private practice for mental health workers is thorough and complete. In typical APA fashion, it covers all the bases in conservative fashion, dealing with issues that aren't always apparent to the novice clinician. For example, the first principle it covers is: "You need to resolve the conflict between altruism and being a business owner."

Way down the line comes the following concern: "There are only so many hours in the week during which a private practitioner can earn income. Therefore, it is financially advantageous to develop revenue streams of passive income."

You see, it does cover all the bases. In the first chapter, the authors give very sage advice: "First, you must find out what you really enjoy doing, what is most important and meaningful to you, and pursue that dream."

Covering every possible issue, from personal philosophy to business practices, with accounting and tax issues in between, *Financial Success* offers many extremely helpful suggestions—how to: be an exceptional provider; decorate your waiting room; evaluate partnership possibilities; market your practice; deal with managed care; manage the ethics of sliding fee scales; handle insurance claims, co-pays and credit card payments, including general expenses; and many more issues that you may not have ever looked at as closely as you should.

Financial Success is a book that every practitioner should have on the shelf, but only after perusing every one of its finely written chapters. These are indeed essential tools and strategies that you cannot overlook. Read it both for your financial success as well as for your mental health.

Dr. Ryback's practice focuses on relationship dynamics. He's the author of Putting Emotional Intelligence to Work. He can be reached at David@EQassociates.com.

Walfish, S., & Barnett, J. E. (2009). **Financial success in mental health practice: Essential tools and strategies for practitioners.** Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. ISBN-13: 978-1-4338-0374-1 ISBN-10: 1-4338-0374-7.

Review by William F. Doverspike, Ph.D., ABPP

My first impression of this book was "I wish I had thought of it first." Walfish and Barnett's book is such a good idea that one must ask why this book had not been written earlier. At 255 pages, with over 200 references and five pages of indexing, this book on how to achieve financial success in professional practice reflects a great job of organizing and integrating practical tips combined with a scholarly review of relevant literature. I emphasize the terms "practical" and "relevant" because practical, relevant recommendations for real practitioners are a rarity in books published by the American Psychological Association (APA). Not so with this APA book, which is filled with facts, functional tips, and financial information founded on sound business fundamentals. For example, the section on loss prevention is excellent in its depth and breadth of coverage. The advice in this section alone is worth the price of the book.

Speaking of price, purchasing Walfish and Barnett's book is like paying \$59.95 for lunch with two experienced colleagues who share their 45 years of combined practice experience. After reading their book, I not only wish I had written it, but I wish I had read it 30 years ago because it describes the nuts and bolts of successful practice that many of us learned the hard way. For example, there are sections devoted to topics such as the minutia of the CMS-1500 form, the advantages and disadvantages of

limited liability corporations (LLC), and even retirement planning and closing of a practice. There are chapters of information relevant to practitioners at all stages of career development, ranging from emerging professionals who are beginning their careers to seasoned practitioners who are beginning their retirement--and all those in between.

Speaking of "in between" practitioners, I think I may be one of them. It may be no coincidence that I obtained a copy of this book during

one of the historically worst weeks ever witnessed on Wall Street, yet by the end of the second week of reading this book I had already begun implementing some of the ideas into my own work. In plain English, some of these ideas actually translated into dollars which, although not worth as much as they were worth a year ago, are a lot better to earn than to lose. It is certainly no coincidence that one of the authors (Walfish) has conducted career surveys in which he has identified 180 different areas of professional

practice in the field of psychology. Those who complain about the erosion of fees in the practice of managed care may need to be reminded of the 179 other ways that psychologists earn income and achieve financial success.

As a bonus, given that the other author (Barnett) has served on the APA Ethics Committee, it was not surprising to me that I also learned some new information that I could use in lectures in my ethics classes. However, lest anyone think that this is just another one of those

boring books about ethics, let me assure you that this book is neither a boring book nor an ethics text. Instead, it is an interesting and informative book about creating financial success in professional practice. My recommendation: "Buy this book."

Welcome New GPA Members

MEMBER

Michele Hill, Ph.D.
NGCSU — Dept of Psychology & Sociology
201A Dunlap Hall
Dahlonega, GA 30567

Gregory Brack, Ph.D.
GA State University
Dept. of Counseling & Psychological Svcs
COE 9th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303

Anya Griffin, Ph.D.
GA State Univ/Regents Ctr
P. O. Box 3995
Atlanta, GA 30302

Jaymie Fox, Psy.D.
2308 Perimeter Park Drive
Atlanta, GA 30341

Alfred Hughes, Ph.D.
485 Huntington Road
Athens, GA 30606

Philip James DuBose, Psy.D.
308 Tuxedo Drive
Thomasville, GA 31792

Betty Jean Smith, Med
2248 Highway 82
Georgetown, GA 39854

Kelle Ray, Ph.D.
1805 Herrington Road, Building 2
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

Cynthia Suveg, Ph.D.
Dept. of Psychology/UGA
Athens, GA 30602

Leslie Talbott, Ph.D.
375 Highland Avenue, Unit 1002
Atlanta, GA 30312

Carlyle Bruce, Ph.D.
4708 Elam Forest Drive
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Jill Anderson, Ph.D.
235 E. Ponce de Leon Ave., Suite 110
Decatur, GA 30030

Jamie Dickson, Ph.D.
Devereux
1291 Stanley Road, NW
Kennesaw, GA 30152

Paul W. Case, Psy.D.
Second Nature
P. O. Box 809
Clayton, GA 30525

Kimberlee P. Barnes, Psy.D.
1235 Pleasanthill Road
Lawrenceville, GA 30044

Arcella J. Trimble, Ph.D.
5839 Memorial Drive
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Kristen E. Michener
182 Ben Burton Circle, Suite 100
Bogart, GA 30622

Stacey Jackson, Ph.D.
7441 Petal Place
Fairburn, GA 30213

Laura A. Greve, Psy.D.
1115 Upper Hembree Road, Suite B
Roswell, GA 30076

Laura Thompson, Ph.D.
Lighthouse Counseling
121 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Tammy D. Coats, Psy.D.
Medlin Treatment Center
30-C Fox Chase
Cartersville, GA 30141

Tina Everest, Ph.D.
2120 Township Drive
Woodstock, GA 30189

STUDENT/INTERN/POST DOC

Elizabeth Thompson (Beth)
2390 Bethany Bend
Alpharetta, GA 30004

Marcia Lynn Caron
925 Canterbury Road, NE, Apt. 1225
Atlanta, GA 30324

Rebecca L. McConn
35 Aldwych Lane
Atlanta, GA 30328

Kristen E. Gardner
6900 Roswell Road, NE, Apt. K-4
Atlanta, GA 30328

Mary L. Keeley
32 28th Street, Apt 204
Atlanta, GA 30309

Ebony Coney
1604 Summit Springs Drive
Atlanta, GA 30350

Dominique A. Broussard
825 Gaines School Road, Apt. 227
Athens, GA 30605

Eric Russ
1111 Clairmont Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030

Jennifer Scholz, MS
488-B Montgomery Ferry Road
Atlanta, GA 30345

Wendy Heath-Gainer, Ed.S.
1853 Queens Way
Chamblee, GA 30341

Mary Susanne Stribling
3562 Piedmont Road NE, Apt. 105
Atlanta, GA 30305

Matthew A. Carlson
6690 Hauser Road, #G104
Macungie, PA 18062

April L. Coleman
323 Woodridge Drive
Atlanta, GA 30339

Deauna V. Webb
8187 Colquitt Road, Apt. A
Atlanta, GA 30350

Lauren A. Rasmussen
170 Cedar Trace
Roswell, GA 30075

Tara Hudson Allen
3215 Gables Drive
Atlanta, GA 30319

Shelley White
1484 Rochelle Drive
Atlanta, GA 30338

Jill Henderson
4493 Huntington Circle
Dunwoody, GA 30338

Jordan Gilleland
1764 Azalea Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30043



CLASSIFIEDS

Classified advertising is \$40.00 for GPA members and \$55.00 for non-members, limit 50 words (ads over 50 words will be charged accordingly).

OFFICE SPACE

Druid Hills Area: Furnished office available Wednesday, Friday and Weekends, daily rate \$100.00/day. Unfurnished office available for \$800.00/month. Both include full use of all office supplies, waiting room, DSL, fax, copier, etc. Free parking. Druid Pointe @ 2751 Buford Highway, one-half mile north of Lenox road. Call Mary Summerville at 404-633-4992 or 404-431-4359.

East Cobb: Premium Location. "East Cobb Counseling Center" Grand Opening Winter/Spring 09; PRIVATE SETTING; Offices built-to-suit; Access to all office amenities; Large Group Therapy Room; Private waiting room; Private Break Room; One level building with handicap access; 14 offices available; \$8.00 per sq ft. Vicki Deljoo, LPC 404-735-2008 or vickideljoo@att.net.

Alpharetta: Office for rent in Alpharetta location with other established mental health professionals. Quiet, tranquil setting adjacent to Wills Park, quarter mile north of North Fulton Hospital off Hwy. 9. Rent includes utilities, waiting area, fax, copier, phone, voicemail, internet access, credit card terminal, kitchenette, cleaning services and optional bi-weekly professional consultation group. Call Carol (770) 240-8363 or Lisa (770) 240-8364.

Woodstock/Marietta. Great opportunity to start a practice or set up a second office in established adult & couples psychotherapy setting in rapidly growing northwest metro area. Great for psychologists doing evaluations also. Office space available by the part-day, day, week or month. Many amenities (including internet and cc processing) and possibilities of referrals. If interested, contact John Lutz, Ph.D. at 770.592.9065 or at www.johnromanlutz.com.

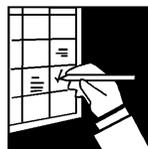
Gwinnett: Full-time and part-time space is available in comfortable and professional suite of offices shared by an established group of psychologists and social workers.

The office location is accessible to 316, 120, and I-85, in Lawrenceville near Historic town square, Justice and Medical Centers. Contact Colleen Taylor, Ph.D. 770-217-7902, drtylor@peoplegrowing.com.

Johns Creek: Part-time new one story condo on Medlock Bridge Rd. Within 3 miles of Emory Hospital at Johns Creek, Gwinnett Medical Center/Duluth, numerous physician's offices, and North Fulton public/private schools. Includes use of furnished waiting room, 2 restrooms, kitchenette, separate back door entrance, and Fax/copier/printer. Wide referral base. Contact Cindy Grapenthin, Ph.D (404) 433-7363.

Vacation Rental

St. Simons Beach Cottages: We have two "Dog Friendly" beach cottages in the old Village of St. Simons Island - during the winter St. Simons is the perfect getaway and you can walk to the lighthouse, beach and village center. vrbo.com/130247 vrbo.com/193834 Carrell Dammann, owner.



CALENDAR

*For up-to-the-minute
Calendar information,
visit www.gapsychology.org
and click on Calendar*

PROFESSIONAL TASK FORCES

- Business of Practice: Joni E. Prince, Ph.D.
- Children’s Legal Issues: Nancy A. McGarrah, Ph.D.
- Insurance & Managed Care: Andrew Gothard, Psy.D.
- Licensing Board Issues: Barbara Calhoon, Ph.D.
- Prescriptive Authority: Andrea L. Fleming, Ph.D.
- Rural Health Coordinator: John Murray, Ph.D.
- Scope Of Practice Issues: William L. Buchanan, Ph.D.

STANDING COMMITTEES

- Annual Meeting Committee: Heidi Halla Bauer, Psy.D.
- Ethics Committee: Carol Drummond, Ph.D.
- Ethnic Minority Affairs: Kamioka Gabriel, Ph.D.
& Felicia Berry-Mitchell, Ph.D.
- Grassroots: Marilyn Vickers, Ph.D.
- Federal Advocacy: Jennifer Kelly, Ph.D.
- Historian: Michael Sessions, Ph.D.
- Legal & Legislative Committee: Daniel Rogers, Ph.D.
& Kamioka Gabriel, Ph.D.
- Membership Committee: Beth Seidel, Psy.D.

CONSULTATIVE TASK FORCES

- Academic Affairs: Cynthia Messina, Ph.D.
- Colleague Assistance: Joanne Max, Ph.D.
- Disaster Response Team: Barbara Calhoon, Ph.D.
- Disability Adjudication: Joan Kent, Ph.D.
- Early Career Psychologists: Alex Cohen, Ph.D.
- Emerging Professionals: Deborah Weisshaar, Ph.D.
& Theresa Carpinito
- GAP-ACT: Jennifer Kelly, Ph.D.
- GA Interprofessional Mental Health Coalition: Paul Cohen, Ph.D.
- Interest Group on Aging: CeCe Kimble, Ph.D.
- Peer Review: Richard Gross, Ph.D.
- Policy & Planning: Linda Campbell, Ph.D.
- Psychologists for the Public Interest: Fran Shaha, Ph.D.
- Public Education: Angela Londono-McConnell, Ph.D.

STAFF

- Clark Thomas, MPA, CAE, Executive Director
- Cyd Preston Wise, Director of Communications
- Ellen McBrayer, Director of Business Services
- Robert Remar, Legal Counsel

— We will no longer be invoicing for ads. Payment is due at time of submission. —

Publication Deadlines & Rate Card

<u>Publication Deadline</u>	<u>Mailed</u>
November 7 (Winter issue)	1st Week of January
February 13 (Spring issue).....	1st Week of April
May 23 (Summer issue).....	1st Week of July
August 15 (Fall issue).....	1st Week of October

Circulation — 2,000

ADVERTISING RATES

The *Georgia Psychologist*, the official publication of the Georgia Psychological Association, is published quarterly with a circulation of approximately 2,000. Please note: all ads must be submitted in black and white; Camera ready art in PMT or Velox form; halftones must be 133 line screen; no bleeds accepted. If any inhouse art production is needed, client will be billed accordingly. If your ad has been designed electronically, please submit all associated files by e-mail or disk along with a hard copy. Ad dimensions: Full page 7 (w) x 9 1/2 (h); 1/2 page, 4 3/4 h x 7 w (horizontal); 1/2 page, 9 1/2 h x 3 3/8 w (vertical); 1/4 page, 3 3/8 (w) x 4 3/4 (h). Mail to Cyd Preston, Advertising, Georgia Psychological Association, 1750 Century Circle, Suite 10, Atlanta, Georgia 30345. E-mail cydwise@gapsycho.org.

Ad Rates for Members:

Ad Rates for Non-Members:

Multiple Issue Rate:

Full page	\$300.00	Full page	\$475.00	Full page	\$400.00
Half page	200.00	Half page	300.00	Half page	275.00
Quarter page	120.00	Quarter page	175.00	Quarter page	150.00
Classified	40.00	Classified	55.00		

Web-Site Classified Ads (ads are online for 6 weeks):

Members: (50 words)	\$50.00
Non-members: (50 words)	75.00

Special Placement Ads:

Back Cover – 1/2 page: \$375.00 one-time / \$350.00 multiple issue
Inside Cover – Full page: \$525.00 one-time / \$425.00 multiple issue

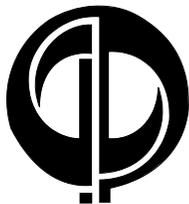
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**GPA Annual Meeting
May 14-16, 2009
Atlanta, Georgia**

Keynote Presenter: Ken Resnicow, Ph.D.

**May 14: APAIT Risk Management
(6 hours of Ethics)**

May 15-16: Annual Meeting



Georgia Psychological Association
2200 Century Parkway
Suite 660
Atlanta, GA 30345

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
ATLANTA, GA
Permit No. 4009