

## Herb Gingold's Thank You Speech to the Academic Division

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

I thank you very much for this great honor. It is particularly significant as David Mitchell was founding president of our precursor organization 99 years ago. We are approaching our centenary year.

I would like to relate a few interesting facts that John Hogan, our NYSPA Historian, shared with me about NYSPA, David Mitchell and other celebrities in our field:

- And as you all probably know, NYSPA was the first state psychological association in the country.
- David Mitchell is considered by some to be the first U.S. psychologist to make a living entirely from fees collected from the public.
- Margaret Floy Washburn was honorary president of NYSPA in 1921, the same year she was president of APA, the second woman to hold that office.
- NYSPA developed what is almost certainly the first code of ethics for psychologists, twenty years before APA developed its code.
- NYSPA's upstate representative for most of the 1930s was a young graduate of Columbia U. He left Rochester, NY to accept a position at Ohio State and write a book that would bring him immediate fame. His name was Carl Rogers.
- NYSPA dropped this college professor from membership for non-payment of dues. It turns out he had left his position at Brooklyn College to assume the chairmanship of psychology at Brandeis. He was Abraham Maslow.

The great tragedy of being president for one year is that you don't know what you're doing until it's actually over and by that time your opportunity to make a difference has passed. David Mitchell was president for 10 years and had plenty of time to shape and develop the nascent organization. I was given a second chance but unfortunately my attention was focused on making sure NYSPA actually made it to its centenary year.

So what do I see as important to do as we approach our 100<sup>th</sup> year? In no particular order:

- Create a sensible and equitable plan for reorganizing our leadership structure. As many of you know, we have had a persistent struggle within the organization with two sides that, have become increasingly entrenched and unable to work well together. Alan and I have been working to bridge that divide.
- Bring back our faculty and educators. It's appropriate to mention this at a meeting of the Academic Division. When I joined NYSPA, we used to have a robust community of academics and they promoted a scholarly atmosphere. We lost many of them but now is the time to get them back. Dan Kaplan and I have been discussing this problem. I hope this division can help in that task.
- Create a more professional and formal training for people elected to NYSPA-wide office. In the year after I was elected, I avidly consumed books on leadership. I consulted with former presidents. Even then, I was unprepared for the challenges that overtook the organization in the previous two years in which I served. Leadership is serious business and I don't think we adequately prepare people for it. We've previously had ED after ED who said don't worry your little heads about it. I'll steer. But there were always serious problems. I'd like to develop at least a rudimentary curriculum for organizational training. I'm creating a booklist and would welcome suggestions. OCW could be invaluable in this.
- I'd like to see a greater understanding of how automatically women can be talked over, ignored and sidelined. By and large, men just don't get it.
- I'd like us to be reaching out more aggressively to students in more various and supportive ways. June Feder and I were starting this initiative during my first presidency. I would like to see a state-wide internship and externship directory hosted by NYPSA that prospective sites on which sites could list opportunities and students consult. I'd like to see an aggressive marketing of mentoring to students all over the state and more outreach to college and graduate programs and the many post-doctoral training

institutes. And many more opportunities for students to benefit, such as training to run a business, understanding insurance, beginning errors clinicians make – you can imagine many of these. With mandatory CE approaching we have enormous opportunities ahead of us.

- I'd like to see us really promoting our upcoming 100th anniversary

Thank you again for this most precious award. It means so much to me.