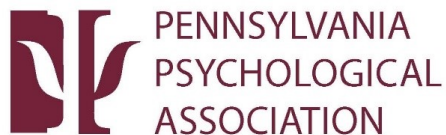


# PPAGS



## Graduate Student Newsletter

July 2016

### New Year, New Leadership

Welcome to our new Chair!

Amanda Sellers, M.S.



I'm thrilled to take on the position of PPAGS Chair for the 2016-2017 year. I am a doctoral candidate at Chestnut Hill College. I am wrapping up my pre-doctoral internship at Friends Hospital and will begin my postdoctoral fellowship at KidsPeace in the fall. I have been involved with PPAGS for several years, having served in the roles of Communications Chair and Chair Elect.

I encourage all doctoral grad students to get ACTIVELY involved with PPAGS as a way to aid your development as a future psychologist. PPAGS offers plenty of exciting opportunities throughout the year. For example, if you're interested in advocating for our patients and our profession, you can attend Advocacy Day in Harrisburg in the spring. If you are applying for internship, attend our Annual Internship Fair at Chestnut Hill College in September, in order to network face-to-face with local internship directors and learn how to market yourself as an applicant. If you are looking to make connections with others in the field, go to one of our Networking/Social Events, held at various locations throughout the state during the year. There are also scholarships available, with applications available every spring. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved, advocate, grow your network, build your CV, and develop as a psychologist-in-training. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events soon!

Get to know the other PPAGS officers [here!](#)

### Passage of Act 53: What This Means for Psychology Students

Rachael Baturin, MPH, JD  
Pennsylvania Psychological Association

On June 23, 2016, Governor Wolf signed into law the Psychological Practice Modernization Act. This law updates the Professional Psychologists Practice Act and takes effect on August 22, 2016.

There were several updates to the law; however, two of the changes are particularly important for students.

First of all, the old law required that psychology license applicants had to wait 6 months to retake an examination if they failed it. This provision was enacted more than 3 decades ago when the licensing board only had two in person examinations a year (April and October) in three locations across the state (Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Pittsburgh). This archaic restriction is now removed and psychology license applicants will no longer have to wait six months before having to retake the exam if they fail it.

Secondly, psychology applicants are still required to get two years of supervised experience, although they will eventually have the option of getting the two years completed before they earn their doctorate (right now, at least one year must be postdoctoral). However, psychology students will need to show some patience. It may be necessary for the State Board of Psychology to issue regulations before this particular provision can be go into effect. PPA staff will monitor this issue carefully and alert psychology applicants once this provision goes into effect.

If you would like to see the full Act to review all of the changes that were made, please click on the following link:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2016&sessInd=0&act=53>

## PPA Annual Convention: #WhyIWent

Emelie MacFarland, M.S.  
Chestnut Hill College

The 2016 PPA Convention on Overcoming Interpersonal Violence Throughout the Life Span was a great experience. It provided thoughtful dialogue on many of the salient issues that are flooding the media, as well as difficult situations that clinicians face. In addition, it provided a platform for student and young professionals to network and gain connections to potential internship sites and future employers. As a student who is interested in working with older adults, I had the opportunity to meet several supervisors at potential internship sites that work specifically with older adult populations. It was my first time attending the PPA annual convention, but I plan to do so again next year!