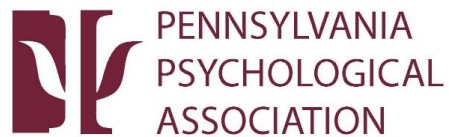


PPAGS



December 2016

Get out of town...and enjoy a resort for the 2017 PPA Convention!

Keri Smotrich



The 2017 PPA Annual Convention will be held June 14-17 at The Omni Bedford Springs Resort in Bedford, PA. The resort is a 90-minute drive from Pittsburgh and three hours from Philadelphia and moving the conference from downtown Harrisburg will allow next year's conference to feel more like a getaway than before!

Plus, the resort combines historic charm with modern comforts and is also a National Historic Landmark. As a PPAGS member, you receive discounted rates and learn more about next year's conference theme: Striving to Overcome Interpersonal Violence. Additionally, the conference is a great space to meet with early career psychologists (and pick their brains about internships, working in the real world, etc.!) Also - this is a great chance to meet with other graduate students from around the state and check out the opportunity to submit for the poster presentation.

If you are interested in learning more about how to submit a [poster proposal](#), and book a room [here](#).

A Student's Perspective: My Involvement with PPA

Billy Jean Miller



One way to become more involved with PPA is by joining a Committee. For example, I am highly involved with PPA's Membership Committee. As a committee member, I have contacted new members to welcome them to the organization, coordinated networking socials, and helped to establish the Emerging Leaders Program. It has been fun to work with a variety of professionals in the field. My active participation in the organization has afforded me the opportunity to see the inner workings of the organization, learn from those who have come before, and establish friendships and working relationships with those who are also invested in the betterment of the field of psychology.

To find a PPA Committee that aligns with your interests, check out the Committees and to join, reach out to the Committee Chair.

Why Is Advocacy Important For Students?

Giovanna Steinhaus

You are a student now but, someday in the near future, you will be a practicing psychologist. Therefore, advocating for laws you feel are important now, even if you are only in your first year of graduate studies, is important for your practice in the future. So how can you advocate for laws you think are important to your future practice as a psychologist?

- PPAGS and PPA hold an annual Advocacy Day in Harrisburg every spring. This event enables students to spend time with state legislatures and discuss specific topics that are currently being addressed legislatively.
- The American Psychological Association of Graduate Students (APAGS) also engages in advocacy work. Specifically, APAGS has a student State Advocacy Coordinator who deals directly with Pennsylvania and is implementing advocacy groups on some campuses.
- Pennsylvania Psychological Association's Political Action Committee (PennPsyPAC) is dedicated toward making financial contributions to political candidates who believe in having public access to psychological services. During fundraising periods, PennPsyPAC seeks student volunteers to make phone calls in order to get donations.
- There may be local opportunities for advocacy, whether it be on your campus or in your community. Some outreach events incorporate aspects of advocacy into their messages.

CHC's Multicultural Forum Organizes Town Hall Dialogue Series to Explore Race, Racism and Racial Violence

Kameelah Mu'Min

Over the last several months, it has become increasingly evident that we are living in a particularly polarizing time - one in which the rise in incidents of overt racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia and anti-Muslim bigotry are incredibly disheartening and simply too great to ignore. As an African American Muslim woman and a psychologist-in-training, I have eagerly sought opportunities to process my own personal experiences as well as increase my ability to serve clients similarly affected by current events.

During the summer of 2016, the Pulse Orlando Shooting, murders of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, deaths of police officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge, and rise in anti-Muslim sentiment increased the sense of urgency to address these issues, both personally and professionally. In the aftermath of the above-mentioned tragedies, Chestnut Hill's doctoral program chair, Dr. Cheryl Rothery, sent a heartfelt letter to our psychology department staff and students. She acknowledged the enormity of these devastating events and expressed the feelings of despair and hopelessness felt by many. This letter also offered words of encouragement, hope, and perhaps inadvertently, a call to action.

Chestnut Hill's Multicultural Forum in collaboration with the Human Rights and Rainbow Forum responded by organizing a series of town hall events to open dialogue for doctoral students. We felt strongly that students needed a safe space to explore the personal and professional impact of race, racism and racial violence. While we fully acknowledged that dialogues on racial justice, diversity, and privilege could be daunting, we also recognized that they are necessary to build relationships, empathy, personal growth, and to enhance training.

These student-led conversations were attended by a diverse group and could not have been more timely, relevant and inspiring. Students shared openly and honestly about their hopes, fears and frustrations. They also shared about efforts to engage in self-care and a desire to connect with likeminded students.

We encourage other doctoral psychology programs to consider facilitating similar student-led discussion in accordance with [APA's Resolution Against Racism](#) : "...the struggle against racism requires continuing active resistance against it at all levels and areas in the field of psychology...[and] call[s] upon all psychologists to speak out against racism, and take proactive steps to prevent the occurrence of intolerant or racist acts."