Hello!

Hoping this finds you well. I am looking forward to 2021! One of the many reasons is that the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) annual convention is coming, and the format will an in-person meeting with a virtual option. So on March 17–20, 2021, you can be in Orlando, Florida, or online as we share our science, progress, and fellowship. The meeting space is huge, and COVID-19 precautions will be in place. If you do attend in person, this may be your chance to run into some of your favourite muggles as the hotel is close to The Wizarding World of Harry Potter and Universal Studios. Early bird registration ends on October 8. The Committee on Equality of Professional Opportunity/Psi Chi portal will open soon. The deadline for undergraduates to submit poster proposals is November 20 at 6:00 pm EST. All other professional submissions are due November 6.

**Good Things for 2020**

**COVID-19 Member Support Fund**: We have financial assistance to cover costs for student members who are in need due to the pandemic. [Learn more.]

**Grace Period to Join Psi Chi**: Any students who graduated between March 1, 2020, and August 31, 2021, and who met chapter eligibility criteria to join Psi Chi as student members at the time of graduation, will be allowed to join Psi Chi until December 2021.

**Psi Chi can collect the membership dues.** Tired of collecting membership fees every semester? Students can now pay through Psi Chi though you will still have to collect local chapter dues at your convenience. [Review this new option!]

**New resources**

- Like learning and podcasts? We have something for you: [Free Learning Resources](#) and [podcasts](#).
- There is a new chapter position focused on reducing mental health stigma called the [HelpHelpedMe](#) position.
- This year’s Presidential theme is [Psychological Science: We Have Answers](#).
• **Fall Regional (Virtual) Events:** Regional online events, open to all Psi Chi members regardless of region, are in various stages of planning. Check out each region’s webpage under CONVENTIONS to view dates and topics as they are posted.

**Funding and Award**
Psi Chi turns 91 years old in this pandemic year, and we are going strong with awards and grants. I encourage you to apply for one of our research and travel grants. There are opportunities for everyone with grants available at the undergraduate, graduate, faculty, and chapter level. Here are a few opportunities you may wish to pursue:
- **Undergraduate Research Grants—Fall**
  (Up to $3,500; due Oct. 15)
- **Undergraduate Research Grants—Spring**
  (Up to $3,500; due Jan. 15)
- **Mamie Phipps Clark Diversity Research Grants**
  (Up to $3,500; deadlines vary)
- **Regional Travel Grants**
  (Up to $400; deadlines vary)

**For Students:**
- Graduating? Look for psychology-related jobs in **Psi Chi’s Career Center**, which also offers free resumé reviews and other career resources.
- This year the **Psi Chi Chapter Challenge** officially runs from November 1–December 1 and supports ALL member programs. Find out how you can get started today.

**For Faculty:**
- We are planning SEPA’s annual appreciation luncheon for Psi Chi faculty advisors but need RSVPs now more than ever. The location is to be determined, so let me know if you recommend a place. Otherwise, look for your email invitation in February.
- This year the Southeastern region had a number of winners of the **Model Chapter Awards**. With all the compassionate COVID-19 response from many of our chapters, I expect we will have more that are worthy of recognition next year. Consider starting your chapter’s application early, and you’ll receive tips and reminders of critical deadlines related to the nine objectives.

**Quick Notes:**
• See the *Eye on Psi Chi* quarterly magazine for everything from tips for success at conventions to research on female serial killers.
• Consider submitting manuscripts to the *Psi Chi Journal of Psychological Research*.
• Looking for research participants? Remember you can post studies or participate in research through *Psi Chi’s website*.

Over the last year, there has been a great exchange of ideas between chapters about how to deal with running Psi Chi during the pandemic year. Students have relished the connection of online chapter meetings, so if you have a good idea—or are struggling to run the chapter this year—please get in touch at *southeasternvp@psichi.org* or through my email below. Thanks and hope to hear from you soon!

Warm regards,

Darren Bernal, PhD
Psi Chi Southeastern Regional Vice-President
University of North Carolina Asheville
dbernal@unca.edu