TPA’s 2011 President-Elect, Dr. Lane Ogden, and 2011 President, Dr. Rob Mehl
Underwritten by ACE American Insurance Company, Philadelphia, PA. ACE USA is the U.S.-based retail operating division of the ACE Group headed by ACE Limited (NYSE:ACE) and rated A+ (Superior) by A.M. Best and AA- (Very Strong) by Standard & Poor’s (ratings as of July 22, 2011). Administered by Trust Risk Management Services, Inc. Policy issuance is subject to underwriting.

Protecting You and Your Practice is Ours

Whether you’re providing psychological services independently or with a group, you can be confident that Trust Sponsored Professional Liability Insurance* will be there when you need it most.

The Trust Program is closely monitored by psychologists with insurance expertise and independent insurance experts to ensure that coverage is customized for the profession and keeps pace with evolving areas of practice… and risk.

Program benefits include free Advocate 800 consultations, ethics and risk management continuing education seminars, premium discounts, and more.

Apply Today!

Get answers, check rates, and apply for coverage at www.apait.org, or call us at 1-877-637-9700.

* Underwritten by ACE American Insurance Company, Philadelphia, PA. ACE USA is the U.S.-based retail operating division of the ACE Group headed by ACE Limited (NYSE:ACE) and rated A+ (Superior) by A.M. Best and AA- (Very Strong) by Standard & Poor’s (ratings as of July 22, 2011). Administered by Trust Risk Management Services, Inc. Policy issuance is subject to underwriting.
Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Year In Review</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob Mehl, Ph.D.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Meaning of a “Title”</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David White, CAE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 President’s Message</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lane Ogden, Ph.D.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Report</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcy Laviage, Ph.D.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster Response Network Update</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judith Andrews, Ph.D.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Hamlin, Ph.D.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 Award Winners</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defending the Doctoral Standard</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob Mehl, Ph.D.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Benefits</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For information about articles or advertising in the Texas Psychologist, please contact Lauren Witt at (888) 872-3435 or tpa_lwitt@att.net

1464 E. Whitestone Blvd. Suite 401
Cedar Park, TX 78613
(888) 872-3435 • (888) 511-1305 fax
www.texaspsyc.org
At CPH & Associates, our dedicated consultants are committed to providing the most comprehensive, accessible Professional Liability Insurance featuring NEW HIGHER LIMITS* to protect your most important asset, your peace of mind.

### Unlimited Defense Coverage
Covers you for legal fees and court costs involving claims or allegations at no additional cost.

### State Licensing Board Defense
Automatically receive limits of $35,000 with options to increase up to $100,000 available.

### Deposition Expense Coverage
Pays up to $10,000 per deposition.

### Medical Expense Coverage
Pays up to $5,000 per incident regardless of fault.

### Enhance Your Benefits with
- First Aid Coverage
- Assault Coverage
- Defendant’s Reimbursements
- Portable Coverage
- Professional Liability
- Supplemental Liability

### Ask About Our Discounts**

- **Newly Licensed**
  Receive up to 50% off your professional liability premium if you have been licensed within 24 months.
  
  **For Licensed Clinical Psychologist Only**
  Receive 15% off if licensed within 36 months.

- **Risk Management Discount**
  Save 10% off your professional liability premium for completing your states Legal and Ethical CEU requirement for licensure renewal. Only applicable to fully licensed professionals.

CPH & Associates only provides Occurrence Insurance, protecting you from claims and damages made during the life of the policy, even after it expires. Plus, your premium stays the same year-to-year.

**Trust CPH & Associates, leaders in insurance and risk management solutions for healthcare and social service fields.**

### APPLY ONLINE: www.cphins.com
Save 5% off your Professional Liability Insurance Premium and get your proof of coverage in minutes!

---

* Higher limits not applicable to all coverage benefits listed. **A combination of discounts cannot exceed 50% off the premium.
The Year In Review:
A Letter from the President

As 2011 comes to an end, let us review what TPA has done for psychology this year. It has been a busy year! All of our committees have been active with some highlights noted below.

Communications: A major focus this year has been to communicate more with our membership and with the outside world. You all should know more about TPA this year by receiving our E-newsletter in your email inbox once a month. You have more news and more relevant articles. General emails have been more frequent. We are developing more press releases to the public as well. Thanks to Dr. Brian Stagner and the Communications Committee.

Membership: For the second year in a row, TPA membership has increased over the previous year. This reverses a trend of decreasing association membership both in TPA and nationally. Dr. Marcy Laviage and the Membership Committee have been very active using phone contacts, showing PowerPoint presentations at local area societies, hosting receptions, and focusing on student recruitment. A Task Force to further explore joint membership with local area societies is chaired by Dr. Heyward Green.

Business of Practice: Dr. Bonny Gardner and the Business of Practice Committee continue to be quite busy monitoring practice issues. Bonny has testified against Medicaid cuts. Numerous letters have gone to insurance companies regarding fees, accountability and patient care. Data is being gathered about ways the public is misled about psychology. Issues of Managed Care membership often dominate. This committee often coordinates with APA.

Legislative: The Legislative Committee met three to four times a month during this Spring’s legislative session. We reviewed proposed legislation at every meeting, and letters were written supporting, opposing or suggesting modifications to relevant bills. We testified several times. Numerous psychologists attended our Legislative Day and lobbied the legislature on our Authority to Delegate bill and our bill that moved LPA supervision rules into law. The LPA supervision bill passed through the House without a single dissent, but was stopped in the Senate Committee. The Authority to Delegate bill was passed out of the House Committee, but never made it to the House floor.

Success!: LSSPs proposed a bill to allow use of a credential that would create confusion about whether or not they were “psychologists.” Because of the effective use of the Grassroots Network, help from TPA members, and the support of neuropsychology groups, both nationwide and in Texas, this bill was killed. It did not reach the Senate floor.

The Legislative Retreat: A two-day retreat was held in September, and a long-range plan was developed, along with numerous task forces, to address issues of concern. Planning began for the 2017 licensing law sunset.

The Lawsuit: We won (so far). See the article about the lawsuit (page 15). The fact that we’ve won, and may continue to win on appeal, may make further legislative action on our part unnecessary.

There is much more but space runs out. Pretty good job for volunteers, three full-time and two part-time staff!! There is so much more to do. Please volunteer if you can.
Have you ever wondered how long it takes to become credentialed in some of the higher profile occupations? A dentist goes to school about 8 years; a medical doctor around 10 years; an attorney about 7-8 years; and a psychologist goes to school 9-11 years. Once you complete all your required education, requirements and sit for your licensing exam, you are allowed to practice and represent yourself to the public as a professional in your field. Psychology is no different than any of these other fields. There are prerequisite qualifications you must meet, and once you have met those, you have earned and are allowed to use the title Psychologist.

TPA is unwavering in our position that the title of Psychologist is protected and permitted only for those individuals who have earned the title after having met the qualifications as outlined in the Psychologists’ Licensing Act and Rules and Regulations of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. With that said, your profession continues to be threatened by sub-doctoral individuals who want to identify themselves as Psychologist.

The Psychologist’s Licensing Act states that only individuals with a doctoral degree shall be identified as Psychologists. The current statute also has a provision for individuals who have a doctoral degree and are employed by the school district, to identify him/herself as a School Psychologist. However, some non-doctoral trained Licensed Specialists in School Psychology (LSSP) who receive their license from the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychology (TSBEP), believe they should be permitted to be identified as Psychologists, since they have received a certification which references ‘psychology’ in its title. TPA’s stance is that this belief violates statute. The public, parents and children in our school systems already understand that psychologists have met the requirements set forth by the state and have earned their doctoral degrees. Allowing individuals to use a certification title that references a license title is misrepresentation. The Texas Association of School Psychologists (TASP) recently asked TSBEP to allow LSSP’s, who also have obtained a certification from a non-profit organization to use this certification title, National Certified School Psychologist. Seeking legal guidance on this issue, TSBEP submitted the question to the Office of the Attorney General for a ruling. TPA immediately sent an opinion letter to the Office of the Attorney General outlining our reasoning why non-doctoral individuals should be barred from use of the title of Psychologist. The AG is scheduled to render his opinion any day now.

In all my years working for doctoral trained psychologists, it has become apparent that the profession of Psychology is a highly sought after one. It almost has a mystical attraction. Some want to be associated with such an elite profession without having the proper education and experience that make you a part of that exclusive group. TPA will continue to defend your profession from such outside attacks.

“Allowing individuals to use a certification title that references a license title is misrepresentation.”
One night the week before Christmas in 2009, my wife and I were in the front two seats on the top deck of a double-decker, sight-seeing bus in New York City on a special tour to look at Christmas lights. At that moment, I received a call from my younger brother back in Dallas that permanently altered both my appreciation of life and my existence. My brother told me that my 79 year-old father, whose body and activity level had theretofore been more like those of a 65 year-old, had been suddenly and definitely diagnosed with a brain tumor.

Within a week he’d had surgery, and we were told he had Glioblastoma, and that if he lived long enough, it would unavoidably kill him. What ensued over the next year until his premature death last December at age 80 was an experience that I believe even Aaron Beck would permit me to call a catastrophe! If not, I have no use for that word.

My father, my family, and I found ourselves rapidly and unexpectedly in the midst of a set of events that tested us. Glioblastoma is a particularly insidious and worthy enemy. I would now testify that there are fates worse than death. In short, this terminal brain cancer rapidly sucked the “Gordon” out of the life of Gordon Ogden, then it sucked the person out of the life of Gordon Ogden, and then it sucked the life out of the life of Gordon Ogden.

But that is all it did.

Out of the horror of this suffering arose an unexpected development. Almost one year after his passing, I am able to see now many ways in which this experience has had a profound and wonderful impact on me. A close brush with death has made me better at life. I would now testify that there are fates worse than death. In short, this terminal brain cancer rapidly sucked the “Gordon” out of the life of Gordon Ogden, then it sucked the person out of the life of Gordon Ogden, and then it sucked the life out of the life of Gordon Ogden.

But that is all it did.

Out of the horror of this suffering arose an unexpected development. Almost one year after his passing, I am able to see now many ways in which this experience has had a profound and wonderful impact on me. A close brush with death has made me better at life. If you will indulge me, I would like to share with you one of the parts of the legacy I received from my father—perhaps the kindest and most people-loving individual I have ever met.

The confluence of events in life puts one in position to make choices, in fact demands it. We sometimes have little opportunity to do much to control our fate. However, we have much power to determine how we respond to our circumstances, and in all things we have the option to find and to do much good. I would like to talk about something I have been thinking about—you.

“Psychologists”. More than twenty five years after a government agency, which was created to protect the public, told me I could use that term, I still like the way it sounds and feels when I say it. “Psychologist.” Sometimes, I still can’t believe it.

You are Psychologists. Of all the myriad of options open to you, you chose to become a psychologist. You chose to enter a helping profession. You knew it wouldn’t be easy—jumping through all those academic hoops designed to eliminate the uncommitted. Remember? All nighters. Comps so comprehensive that nobody could ever master all the material. Just the name “dissertation defense” tells you that you’re going to be attacked! Patients and clients who were messed up coming to you for help, and then not taking it when you offered it.

But you persevered (or perhaps perseverated), and you made it. You are a psychologist, a doctor trained to the highest level academia can offer. You proved your seriousness and determination to be, and do, the best you could by preparing yourself for a helping career at this high level.

Good for you, and thank you. You seek in your daily tasks to help people, to make the lives of those who come to you better, and to help them reach their goals. What a calling! Never lose sight of the goodness of that choice you made, and of the betterment your existence and work do for mankind. You are doing God’s work!

The city or area in which you live, the state of Texas, our nation, and indeed our world is better for your presence. On behalf of all these, again I say “Thank You”. You prepared yourself by attaining skills and knowledge that pull toward hope, and that add betterment to the universe. Thank you and keep up the good work.

But there is an inherent danger here as well.
In the place where I work out, and almost certainly where you work out as well, there are two types of people. The majority of us are there to challenge ourselves physically in the hope that our lives, our health and our productivity might be extended by the efforts. We hope to feel better, and do more for longer because our bodies are stronger. Most of us don’t get there as often or do as much as we’d like because we are busy being Psychologists.

But there is a second group of folks there as well—usually relegated to the back or the corners by the mainstream. These are the people who are there every day for long hours. They lift massive quantities of weight, they make guttural noises and show fierce scowls on their faces. They eat and drink mysterious substances as they strain, and we all tell ourselves they must be using steroids to look like that. They are dedicated to the practice. They are there not as we, in the hope that working out will make the rest of their lives better, but this is their life.

These are body builders. They are there solely to work hard in order to build the strongest, most sculpted, largest muscles that they can create. They seek to attain the peak physical states of which humans are capable. And what will they do with these wonderful muscles? Will they overcome huge physical obstacles to save lives? Will they use this magnificent strength to tackle problems the weaker of us can’t tackle? Will their efforts gather and disburse something that is of use to all? Will they lift Volkswagens off injured? Will they leap tall buildings with a single bound?

No. Not at all. They do all this work, expend all this effort, and perhaps ingest all these risky substances so that they can do one thing: They want to pose. They want to be looked at. They want all to see these mighty bodies and to be in awe. That is all.

We too have such a risk. We drift into complacency. We find a comfort zone of least resistance and stay there. We lose touch with earlier passions, zeal and hope. We become discouraged—worse still, angry at our fate, at our circumstances, or at the perpetual unfairness that we know intellectually, and tell our children, is just how life works.

So what? What is the point? What am I advocating as a call to action? As I look forward with a certain amount of angst and trepidation to the coming year as your president, here is what I would ask of you:

Two things, and I conclude—first, what I would call internal and then external change.

Please don’t wait to lose a loved one to reconnect with your potential. Look around you at the future of psychology in Texas. Look in the mirror. Rediscover the hope, ambition and vista of unlimited potential before you still, which you used to see and take for granted. As in most things in life, the greatest obstacles to overcome are the product of the enemy within.

Will you join me in returning to the joy of earlier hope? As I mentioned, your profession is a calling, not a job. Because of your having attained the title ‘Psychologist’, I know it’s true that you possess a skill set and a level of professionalism that can positively impact, and indeed change, the world for the better. Don’t allow time and events to steal that from you.

Why did you become a psychologist? Isn’t the difference in your thinking about the field now more a product of internal than external factors? Where does unnecessary negativity, perceived limitations or seemingly unconquerable resistance bind you? Find a new place or a new way to apply your incredible skills. Break outside the limitations that day-to-day life in an ever-changing, ever-challenging, relationship-based career, inevitably slip onto you. Get creative with what you do. Change your routine.

I challenge you to reassess what you personally are good at, and what you uniquely bring to your world. Find a way to build more of that into your daily life. What phases of your work bring you the most joy? What part of what you do turns you on? What energizes, rather than drains, you?

Age confirms that life is simply too short to drift through, or to be a passive recipient of whatever happens to come your way. You must find ways to maximize your strengths, and search for new venues or circumstances in which to intervene. You must find these; they are unlikely to fall into your lap.

Go for it!

And secondly, as your new president, I plead with you personally to increase your level of engagement in this organization. These are challenging times in which to be a Texas Psychologist.

It is a product of my temperament and upbringing that I am very much an optimist. But I find little to be optimistic about when I ponder the likely fate of Psychologists in this state. We are in a threatened position today. Spontaneous peace is the Middle East is much more likely than a continuation of business as usual. It is my belief that change, and I mean significant change, is inevitable for us. If we act now, we can still exert a substantial amount of influence.
on the directionality of that change. If we fail to do so, I believe that the practice of psychology will soon be redefined by persons other than Psychologists, and that Psychologists as we now exist will become extinct. The data indicates such extinction will be bad for those we seek to help, for our state, and for ourselves. And it is one of the distinctions of Psychologists that we are quite uniquely a data-driven group.

Simply put, you are in a regulated profession, and those with the most power to decide how the profession will be regulated are not Psychologists. What qualifies one to use the term “Psychologist” and what comprises the practice of psychology are determined solely by politics. As a group, we do not like this and, in fact, many of us are tragically in denial about this reality. We are altruistic “People Persons” who naively believe that good somehow is predestined in all things to overcome bad. We don’t want to sully ourselves with political involvement so we sit back, ignore facts and blame leadership when the value of our title is eroded.

And eroded it will be unless we rally. Persons in other professions with other training want a piece of the good name we have created, want to incorporate the term “psychology”, or want to add further regulations or licenses restricting our ability to practice. They have money, political canny, motivation, means, intent and a plan.

I plead for you to act on this information, and to increase your level of involvement in the organization. Here are some specific actionable items, but the first requirement is you make a commitment to break through your denial:

If you don’t want to do much, if you want the cheapest, fastest way out that at least can assuage your conscience somewhat, write a check. Don’t write a check for $20; write it for an amount that says you’re willing to do your part. I would think that the amount you believe your services are worth for a single hour of your time is the absolute minimum. More realistic is the amount that would reflect one hour’s compensation per month—12 hours worth per year. You can bet those trying to get the business you depend on would pay one hour’s worth of what they get to have it. Psychology is in a fight.

Alternately, the second option is to take an active part in TPA: the only organization seeking to represent the interests of Psychologists in this state. We have a patently low membership rate, which means we have precious few resources with which to stop the erosion. We need more members and the best way we can get them is by person-to-person contact. Part of my optimism is the belief that if Psychologists can be made to understand what’s happening, they’ll feel compelled to act in their own best interest and join this organization. Would you take it upon yourself to spread the word, and help in recruitment of those who expect to reap the benefits of TPA’s efforts without personal involvement? I challenge each of you to target and recruit at least one new member in the coming year. Psychologists are in a fight.

The Texas Psychological Association is a volunteer organization. This means for things to work, there are many positions needing to be filled. We are constantly seeking persons to assume leadership roles. A basic position is to be a committee member. If you will contact David, Sherry or any board member with a willingness to help we will get you plugged into a suitable spot. We have work that needs to be done, and inadequate people resources to do so. We need you to take a position. Texas Psychologists are in a fight.

Through the strong leadership of Dr. Mehl, TPA has undertaken to match a constituent psychologist with each and every legislator in the state. We call these folks “key contacts”, and we want them to form a one on one, psychologist-to-legislator relationship. This is how politics works—just like everything else—relationships are key. We have to marshal political influence in this way to remain viable. Would you please be that person, or one of those persons in your legislator’s district? Contact any of us. TPA Psychologists are in a fight.

Finally, 2011 President Dr. Mehl has led in the formation of a number of forward-looking strategic task forces. We need people with knowledge or interest in each task force to take a position. We need you plugged in as an expert and leader for your profession. We need your skills. We, Texas Psychologists, need you. We are in need of something you can do better than most, and we need you to invest that time for the group. You are in a fight.

A final plea for a certain subset of you: We old, white guys know there are too many old, white guys in leadership roles in this organization. We do not like it either. We talk about how to change this because we know it is not good for TPA. We believe that if an organization lacks adequate diversity of thought, opinion and viewpoint it will invariably stagnate. And if allowed to stagnate, it will deservedly die. We need to move into the 21st century with a younger, more colorfully pigmented, representatively diverse group of leaders. Please step forward. You especially are in a fight.

I look forward to my year as President and promise you my best efforts. We can still win these fights. We will not do so with the current status quo. I leave you with this question: Are you willing to modify your behavior and adapt, or must we become extinct?
Franklin D. Roosevelt once said that “taxes, after all, are the dues that we pay for the privileges of membership in a organized society.” Membership is a Privilege, and TPA recognizes that just as our tax dollars (in theory) go to work for us, your dues, our dues, which we all pay to belong to TPA should be working for you, too. And this year, TPA made sure that membership and meeting its members’ needs were a top priority.

This priority was seen at the very beginning of the year when TPA President, Rob Mehl, made sure that the membership committee was comprised of psychologists from all around the state, in a variety of settings. From psychologists in academic settings, to VA hospitals, to medical clinics, and private practices, the members of the committee took the message to their constituents of how hard TPA works for psychologists in Texas. We created a PowerPoint presentation to be used as a tool to help psychologists in every setting learn why TPA is relevant to them. We also developed a flyer with the Top 20 Reasons to Belong to TPA (be on the lookout for these in your workplace!).

This year the committee wanted to reach out to students, interns and post-doctoral fellows – aka, the future of psychology! We held our first social event where those in training could meet in an intimate setting with members from the TPA Board of Trustees. We also created a new task force to cultivate the relationship between TPA and local area societies. TPA knows it needs to be connected to its members in order to serve them, and this year has been a banner year to ensure the foundation of that communication.

Thank you for being a member. In return for what TPA does, and will continue to do for you, we ask that you reach out to your colleagues to help spread the word of the importance of TPA to every psychologist in Texas. Please visit www.texaspsyc.org to renew your membership.
Disaster Response Network (DRN) has a long history of encouraging and preparing mental health professionals to participate in disaster response. This year has been particularly challenging for all of us with an unprecedented number of disasters including tsunamis, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, house fires, apartment fires and wildfires. By the end of September 2011, FEMA listed 84 Declared Disasters, representing all but two states and exceeding the annual totals for the preceding 50 years. The wildfires in North, Central and East Texas put our state at the top of the leader board (not that we were competing for this dubious honor) with 86 declared disasters since these incidents were first recorded in 1953.

Although our Texas Psychological Association (TPA) DRN members largely respond through the American Red Cross (ARC), we are well-represented in or provide support to a number of response organizations including Give An Hour, Strategic Outreach for Families of All Reservists (SOFAR), Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT) under the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA), as well as state and local governmental entities (this list is not exhaustive). This year your TPA/DRN Co-Coordinators also assumed the mental health leadership for the Greater Houston Chapter of the ARC covering Houston and surrounding counties. Along with the DRN committee, we also have been able to offer support to other chapters across the state including several Red Cross training opportunities.

Our TPA/DRN colleagues have provided many hours of service over this difficult year. We have assisted in the aftermath of floods along the Mississippi delta and in the Northeast, unprecedented tornadoes in Alabama and Missouri, and Hurricane Irene. Of course, our state was particularly hard-hit by the recent wildfires. Texas was forced to face the mental health response needs largely without out-of-state resources—a situation that can be attributed in part to delays in obtaining a federal disaster declaration, exhausted volunteers due to the response demands of the year, as well as several co-occurring disasters—particularly in the Northeast. Only six mental health professionals were deployed for the Texas wildfires from out of state through the Red Cross. At the height of the response, the ARC had more than 20 unfilled open billets nationally for vetted mental health volunteers.

For the future, training and preparedness remain our greatest concern. We encourage our membership to identify a response organization in your area and obtain the necessary training. In response to the immense demand for mental health professionals this year, both here and across the country, ARC offered “just-in-time” training using a webinar format for the first time in an attempt to fast-track mental health volunteers. Supported by TPA/DRN resources including our listserv and relationships with other mental health professionals and organizations, more than 40 mental health professionals from Texas took advantage of this opportunity with more than 30 participants listed at the doctoral level. For those who participated in the ARC webinar, we encourage you to contact your local Red Cross chapter, and complete the requirements to become active with your local chapter and prepared for future needs.

Finally, to those who have taken time from their practices and families to respond, our heartfelt thanks. You have made a huge contribution to the resiliency of our neighbors and communities. We also extend our thanks to the TPA/DRN committee members who have willingly volunteered their time and wisdom to this vital service.
Dr. Paul Andrews has stepped up to the plate whenever he was asked to contribute. He received this award because he always goes beyond what is asked, and does a superb job. When asked to take over as Grassroots Coordinator for the East region, Dr. Andrews quickly signed up a psychologist for nearly every legislator. Where there was no psychologist available, he took the time to establish a relationship on his own. His lobbying of Senator Nichols on our LPA bill was crucial in correcting misconceptions about the bill. As part of the Legislative Committee, Dr. Andrews forwarded crucial information and provided great insight throughout the year. He does the same for the Business of Practice Committee. Always pro-active, he is not only full of suggestions, but is quite willing to follow through to make things happen. During our Legislative Retreat, Dr. Andrews volunteered to be the psychologist liaison to our state board, and also volunteered to be the “Psychologist of the Day” for the legislature twice a month during a legislative session. Thank you Dr. Andrews!

Dr. Bonny Gardner has previously received this award from 2008 President Ron Cohorn, and she more than deserves it again. There might not be anyone at TPA who works harder than Dr. Gardner. She provides excellent leadership for the Business of Practice Committee, addressing the areas of most concern to all of us in private practice. She takes on the insurance companies, writes numerous letters, coordinates with APA, reaches out to the Texas Medical Association on issues of joint concern, and is ever watchful to protect psychology and our livelihood. The Business of Practice Committee is very active, frequently starting new initiatives. Their latest focus is on the development of an education campaign for choosing psychological services, which will be marketed to companies that purchase insurance for employees. In addition, Dr. Gardner has testified twice before the Texas Health and Human Services Commission on behalf of TPA regarding Medicaid cuts. This November, she attended a meeting for the Hogg Foundation to explore TPA interface with their initiative to rewrite parts of the Mental Health Code. Bonny Gardner helps make TPA so much more effective. Thank you Dr. Gardner!
**Outstanding Legislative Contribution:**

**Rep. Jodie Laubenberg**

Representative Jodie Laubenberg was elected to the Texas Legislature in 2003. She serves on the Environmental Flows and Advisory group, which is charged with protecting and preserving water in Texas. She has been a member of the Public Health Committee, for a number of years, and has been both Chair and Vice Chair.

Soon after joining the legislature, Representative Laubenberg became the primary supporter of psychology. She immediately understood the importance of maintaining the doctoral standard in psychology. For three sessions, she has sponsored our bill regarding Licensed Psychological Associates into law. As you know, that bill was passed through committees and the House all without a single dissent!

She is always available and gives TPA the time we need. This award is one way we can express our deep appreciation for all she has done for psychologists in the state of Texas. Thank you Representative Laubenberg!
Outstanding Contribution to Science:

Dr. Julia Babcock

Dr. Julia Babcock is an Associate Professor in the Clinical Psychology Program at the University of Houston. She is the director of the Center for Couples therapy. She trained with Dr. John Gottman during her graduate studies and continues to collaborate with him. She serves as a grant reviewer for numerous entities, including the Center for Disease Control and the National Institute of Justice. She has received grants of her own for numerous studies which have focused primarily on domestic violence in couples, including studying PTSD in battered women and testing a typology of domestically violent couples. She has published widely on such topics as intimate partner violence, physical/psychological abuse in breast cancer survivors, and on personality typology of batterers. She has served as expert witness in cases involving intimate partner violence, and she frequently presents to the community on treatment of the battering male. She has been a finalist in University of Houston mentoring and teaching excellence awards. She continues to support, mentor, lecture, and otherwise nurture the development of a new generation of psychologists while maintaining a role as an active researcher who is developing a national reputation. Congratulations Dr. Babcock!

Outstanding Contribution to Education:

Dr. Monte Bobele

Dr. Bobele has been a member of Our Lady of the Lake University Psychology Department for over twenty years. He has been an intellectual leader in the graduate programs in psychology, and he has most notably worked in the development and promotion of walk-in psychotherapy services. He has been an innovator in the psychology department, with such notable advances as introducing a certificate program in psychological services for Spanish-speaking populations. He has co-edited a book on walk-in, single session therapy. He has helped the city of San Antonio in the planning for Haven for Hope, a transformational center for the homeless. Additionally, he has received a grant to help develop a practicum site for Our Lady of the Lake University students to offer counseling services there.

He was recently named a Fulbright Specialist and worked in Mexico City this summer. While there, he was instrumental in the development of the California Clinic: Centro de Terapia y Dialogo Alliant, which will provide a walk-in, single session therapy service to the community. We congratulate Dr. Bobele for his creativity and tireless effort in psychology!
Outstanding Contribution to Public Service:

Dr. Rebecca Hamlin

As Coordinator of TPA’s Disaster Response Network, Dr. Rebecca Hamlin has endeavored to insure that psychologists are recruited and trained to deploy to communities affected by disaster in Texas and around the nation. She has worked to generate and maintain a network of disaster-trained mental health professionals in Texas—promoting and sustaining membership in the TPA DRN through communication regarding training and communication regarding deployment opportunities at the time of disaster. Additionally, Dr. Hamlin has assisted with deployment of mental health professionals at the time of disaster, and fostered the psychological support of the mental health professionals deployed and/or returning from disaster response. Dr. Hamlin has worked for the inclusion of mental health professionals in local and statewide disaster planning, and has worked to insure that mental health is a component of every disaster response plan. Finally, Dr. Hamlin has herself deployed to numerous disasters: Katrina, Mississippi tornadoes, and Texas wildfires. Congratulations Dr. Hamlin!

Outstanding Contribution to Public Service:

Dr. Roberta Diddel

Dr. Roberta Diddel has greatly enriched the Texas community in numerous ways that go beyond her roles as active psychological practitioner and educator. She is a part-time faculty member in the Psychology Department at Rice University. She has established a mentorship program for undergraduate students which connects them with senior psychologists and helps to expose them to opportunities in both research and clinical work. She serves as a trainer for the Lone Star Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and she also has served on the Clinical Advisory and Clinical Programs committees. She frequently lectures on their behalf.

Her most significant contribution to public service, however, is her pioneering work in the area of disabilities. She is founder and Executive Director of Disability 101, a non-profit organization that teaches people with disabling medical conditions and their families to adapt and thrive. She provides educational and support services such as webinars and seminars for interested parties, and she also sponsors and instructs caregivers of individuals with chronic diseases and disabling medical conditions. She has profoundly impacted the quality of life of individuals with disabilities in Houston and beyond. She puts into practice the reality that psychology has much to offer not only to patients but also to family members, caretakers, and medical and mental health providers. Congratulations Dr. Diddel!
Robert H. McPherson Legislative Action Award:
Dr. Brian Stagner

Dr. Brian Stagner’s contributions to Texas psychology have been unparalleled this year. He has worked tirelessly for our profession these past years on our various legislative concerns, with this current year needing someone of his caliber and wisdom more than ever.

He has been instrumental in growing and protecting our profession through committee work, by serving on the state licensing board, and by championing our profession to various state legislators. He is a fountain of knowledge regarding our current legislative concerns, including not only understanding the content, complexity, and potential pitfalls but also by knowing and contacting the key players in the arena. Dr. Stagner showed up wherever and whenever the profession needed him during this last legislative session. Quite literally, he was there at the eleventh hour, ready and willing to provide testimony at midnight. He consistently demonstrated excellent judgment and great leadership in his tenure on the Executive Committee of TPA, and he did an outstanding job as President. He is a wise and experienced colleague who has consistently shared his expertise and knowledge with us all. Congratulations Dr. Stagner!

Psychologist of the Year:
Dr. Rick McGraw

Dr. Rick McGraw richly deserves The Psychologist of the Year Award, as it always goes to one of our members who has given much to our profession over the years. In 2000, Dr. McGraw became TPA’s 53rd President. For the past fifteen years, he has actively served on TPA’s Executive Board in a variety of capacities. Within TPA, he has held positions such as Social Justice Division Chair, President of the Association for the Advancement of Psychology in Texas, and President of the Texas Psychological Corporation. He has served as President of the Psychological Association of Greater West Texas, and he has been a true advocate for psychologists’ involvement in rural areas of the state.

Currently, as the Texas Representative of APA’s Council of Representatives, he serves on the Executive Committees of numerous caucuses, including the Executive Board Council, The council of the Practice of Psychology, the Rural Health Interest Group, and the Utilization of New Talent caucus. Additionally, as Texas Representative to APA’s Business of Practice network, he has been responsible for recognizing Southwest Airlines, American Airlines, and the City of Grand Prairie as APA’s Psychologically Healthy Workplace Award recipients. These organizations won at both the state and national levels. Congratulations on this award Dr. McGraw!
Dr. Robert Gatchel, ABPP, is the Nancy P. and John P. Penson Endowed Professor of Clinical Health Psychology, and is Distinguished Professor and Chairman of the Department of Psychology at the University of Texas at Arlington. He also serves as Clinical Professor and Director of Clinical Research at the Eugene McDermott Center for Pain Management at UT-Southwestern Medical Center. He is Clinical Professor and Director of Biopsychosocial Research at the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center in Fort Worth.

He is a reviewer for such varied professional publications as the American Psychologist, the Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Pain Management. He is currently Interim Editor of the Journal of Applied Social Psychology as well as for the Journal of Applied Biobehavioral Research. He serves on numerous advisory and editorial boards for such publications as Spine, the Journal of Occupational Rehabilitation, and the Journal of Pain Research. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Spine Specialists, and he is the Chair of the American Pain Society Task Force on Comprehensive Pain Rehabilitation. He has written or co-written 24 books on the subjects of pain management, assessment and research of pain, and on disability and health. He has literally hundreds of journal articles on various topics relating to pain. He has received many awards for his contributions to undergraduate and graduate minority mentorship, and he has supervised master theses, psychology doctoral dissertations, and other graduate-level and post-doctoral level projects for students in a variety of associated fields from 1977 until the present time. His distinguished career also has included being the principal investigator or co-PI on grant-funded research for projects sponsored by NIH, NIMH, the Department of Defense, and various other community organizations, pharmaceutical companies, or family donors. His previous professional awards have most recently included the Distinguished Record of Research Achievement Award of UT-Arlington in 2006, the 2011 APA Division 38 Award for Outstanding Contribution to Health Psychology, and the 2011 Graduate Dean’s Excellence in Doctoral Mentoring Award at UT-Arlington.

His professional career has spanned over thirty years, and his achievements clearly reflect his tireless devotion to the assessment, understanding, conceptualization, and management of pain in our lives. A very special congratulations to Dr. Robert Gatchel!
Since the Psychologists’ Licensing Act was designed and the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (TSBEP) was created in 1969, all newly licensed psychologists are required to have a doctorate degree. There was a provision for grandfathering those with a master’s degree who were practicing as psychologists before that time. Licensed Psychological Associates (LPAs) were created to aid and assist the practice of psychologists, much as in other health care professions. Since that time, no LPAs have been allowed to practice without supervision. Some LPAs claim they can practice independently in exempt State agencies. However, there are multiple levels of supervision and oversight within these agencies.

Ever since the profession of Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) was created in 1981, and especially since LPCs gained insurance reimbursement in the early 1990s, some LPAs have attempted to achieve independent, unsupervised practice. TPA has always fought these initiatives in order to protect the doctoral standard for psychology. The term “psychology” and derivatives are expressly reserved for Licensed Psychologists at the doctoral level. The vast majority of LPAs achieved licensure as LPCs, but a smaller group has continued to push for independent, unsupervised practice. There are numerous avenues for those with master’s training to gain independent practice including the LPC, Licensed Clinical Social Workers and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists. This group of LPAs has tried many methods to this end, including using the Psychological Associates Advisory Committee (PAAC) when it was part of TSBEP from 1993 to 2005. In 2006 and 2010 they petitioned the board to obtain independent practice through the rule making authority of the board. The board declined to usurp legislative intent in both instances.

In September 2010, the Texas Association of Psychological Associates (TAPA), filed a lawsuit in Austin, Texas, against the TSBEP on the grounds that the board has no statutory authority to prevent Licensed Psychological Associates from practicing independently. While the Attorney General’s office defends the board, TPA joined the lawsuit as an intervener to help protect the doctoral standard for psychology. This frontal assault on the standard required the most vigorous defense we could provide. On August 18, Judge Rhonda Hurley in Travis County District Court, Austin, Texas, ruled that the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (TSBEP) has the authority to regulate the practice of Licensed Psychological Associates (LPAs) through its rule making authority. Our attorney and his associates did a masterful job. The judge rendered an opinion within two days of the hearing, and by this ruling, the doctoral standard was upheld. This is a great success. We could not have done this without the monetary contributions of many psychologists to the Doctoral Defense Fund. TPA also received a grant from the Committee for the Advancement of Professional Practice (CAPP) at the APA Practice Directorate. I wish we could relax. On August 30, TAPA filed a notice of appeal. Should their attempts be rebuffed again, they can appeal once more to the Texas Supreme Court. This group of LPAs have been fighting this battle for 30 years, so I expect they will continue as long as they can. Thank you for your help. Your contributions have been substantial, but we still have legal fees to cover and more to come.

Please continue to help. We have shown that through our teamwork we can prevail. Please make a contribution TODAY. A contribution of $100 or $200 or more will go a long way to protect your license. A donation of any amount is helpful. Thank you!
Membership Benefits

- **Director of Professional Affairs:** Marla Craig (512) 475-6921, a volunteer member Psychologist, to answer member questions and requests for information concerning professional affairs.

- **Legal Consultation Contact:** TPA has a long standing relationship with Sam Houston (713) 650-6600, a Houston attorney who can assist with legal matters related to your practice.

- **Save 20% on you Professional Liability Insurance with American Professional Agency.** Additionally, save 5% more when you attend a risk management course, 5% more for attending ANY 6 hours of CE, and additional discounts if you are a member of ABPP. Call today: (800) 421-6694


- **Career Center:** Post your resume for free and browse hundreds of psychology-related job openings. http://careers.texaspsy.org

- **Subscriptions to TPA E-Clips:** Daily news clipping service, TPA E-Newsletter—Monthly electronic publication of local/state/national stories as they relate to the psychological community.

- **Member list serve subscriptions:** focused on LGBT issues, Early Career Psychologists, Forensic Practice, Diversity, Aging, and others.

- **Discounted member rates to CE programs:** both live and online home study at www.seminarweb.com/tpa

- **Free Personalized Web Page** hosted at www.texaspsy.org

- **Low Cost more extensive Web Page and a special offer** through our preferred partner can be found at www.therapysites.com/TPA


Renew your membership today! www.texaspsy.org

SHEPHERD, SCOTT, CLAWATER & HOUSTON, L.L.P.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Representing Mental Health Professionals in the following areas:

- Board Complaints
- Malpractice Lawsuits
- Business Disputes
- General Litigation

SAM HOUSTON, Partner
Board Certified - Personal Injury Trial Law
Texas Board of Legal Specialization
Associate: American Board of Trial Advocates
shouston@ssclaw.com

2777 ALLEN PARKWAY, 7TH FLOOR
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77019-2133
(713) 650-6600 • FAX (713) 650-1720
www.ssclaw.com
Join TPA in Italy
La Bella Vita...April 14-20, 2012

Six CE credit hours, Five nights in Florence, and a “Day in Tuscany”

Ambasciatori Hotel in Florence: www.ambasciatori.it/
Visit www.texaspsyc.org to register