

# SASP News

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Winter Edition

February/March 2008

## President's Message

By Shilah Scherweit, SASP President, Oklahoma State University

Greetings SASP Members! The SASP board is working hard on many projects this year. Please take a minute to read through our first newsletter of the year to learn more about all of the opportunities available through SASP. This year the board is working to reestablish many of our great programs as we reach out to new chapters and new members in the school psychology community. Cindy Altman, the Convention chair, is already busy preparing another great mini-convention for APA 2008 in Boston, MA. Kendra

Wilson, the Diversity chair, also has exciting developments in the works including a new mentorship program and an additional diversity scholarship. Janine Kesterson, the Technology chair, and Sara House, the President-Elect, recently completed the new and improved SASP website and listserv updates. Kristin Rezzetano, the Communications chair, Shelley Hart, the Membership chair, and Courtney LeClair, the Liaison chair, are also making great progress with their positions. 2008 will indeed be an exciting year for SASP

## SASP Mini-Convention 2008: Your Chance to Be a Part of APA

By Cindy Altman, SASP Convention Chair, Duquesne University

Hello SASP members! With all of the responsibilities that you are juggling, did you miss the deadline for submitting proposals to present at the American Psychological Association (APA) conference this summer, but want to go to Boston? If so, then I have good news for you, so please read on!

As the Convention Chair of SASP, I am pleased to announce that once again this year, SASP will be hosting a mini-convention during the annual conference of the APA, being held August 14 – 17, 2008 in Boston, MA. The specific date, time, and location of the mini-convention are not yet finalized, but as more information becomes available in the coming months, it will be posted to the SASP website and published in

future editions of SASP News. As in years prior, the mini-convention will include a keynote address, student paper and poster presentation sessions, and various networking opportunities. It provides a very informal, supportive atmosphere in which students can share their research, discuss ideas, and receive valuable feedback regarding their work.

Students who wish to present are encouraged to visit the SASP website for an extended description of session types and detailed guidelines for preparing and submitting proposals. Submissions may reflect empirical research or theoretical arguments, but should have clear applications for the practice of (or training in) school psychology. Proposals will be consid-

ered as long as they are received by the deadline of April 15, 2008. All materials must be submitted electronically, and presenters will be notified of their acceptance via email no later than May 15, 2008. Students whose proposals are accepted are eligible to receive a small amount of travel assistance to attend the conference.

All SASP members and graduate students in school psychology are encouraged to present at the mini-convention this year. Please visit the SASP website for ongoing updates and watch for information in upcoming editions of SASP News. You may also email me at [cindylaltman@gmail.com](mailto:cindylaltman@gmail.com) with any questions, concerns, or suggestions in the meantime. I hope to see you in Boston!

## Exploring Issues of Diversity in SASP

*An Update from SASP Diversity Chair Kendra Wilson, Duquesne University*

My name is Kendra Wilson, I am a doctoral school psychology student at Duquesne University, in Pittsburgh, PA and the new SASP Diversity Chair for the year 2008. As Diversity Chair my primary role is to focus on topics related to diversity, including ethnic heritage, women's issues, ageism, sexual orientation and disability issues. I will work to develop initiatives, programs and resources within SASP that support and advocate for the needs of diverse students within and outside of SASP.

Currently, I am collaborating with the Executive Committee to explore

avenues for the development of a diversity mentorship program. This program will match students with trainers and practitioners within school psychology, for the purposes of student retention, support, and professional development.

I also plan to write articles for the SASP and Division 16 newsletters that address issues of diversity relevant to recruitment and retention of students to school psychology programs. I will work to increase the visibility of the field and thereby the pool of diverse applicants through university and community dialogue.

Finally, I will work to increase the visibility of the SASP Diversity Mini-Scholarships. **SASP is pleased to announce that two Diversity Mini-Scholarships in the amount of \$1000 are now available: One for an incoming first-year doctoral student and the other for a more advanced doctoral student. Application requirements and deadlines are forthcoming.**

For additional information, questions, or suggestions regarding the SASP Diversity goals and/or projects for 2008, please contact Kendra Wilson at [kdwilson7@yahoo.com](mailto:kdwilson7@yahoo.com).

## What's new on the Web

*An Update from SASP Technology Chair Janine Kesterson, Oklahoma State University*

“SASP has a new and upcoming website at <http://saspweb.info>”

SASP has a new and upcoming website at <http://saspweb.info/index.htm>. This website includes many different features including membership applications, information and applications for the SASP Mini-Convention, and related links for graduate students in school psychology. The related links include general links such as resources and policies, Curriculum Based Assessment, social emotional, academics, websites to monitor academic

progress, scholarships for students, and other organizations affiliated with school psychology. Upcoming additions to the website include presenters at the SASP Mini-convention once announced, previous presenters and pictures from the convention.

SASP also has a listserv. This keeps students updated with upcoming conferences or any other information related to school psychology that SASP or

other members of the listserv send out. In addition to hearing information the student can make school psychology related announcements. To register for the listserv you can visit <http://lists.apa.org/cgi-bin/wa.exe?A0=SASP-D16>. If there are any questions or concerns about the website or listserv, contact SASP at [saspweb@saspweb.info](mailto:saspweb@saspweb.info).

## Connecting SASP to APAGS

*An Update from SASP/APAGS Liaison Courtney LeClair, University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Hello! My name is Courtney LeClair, and I am currently serving as the SASP/APAGS Liaison. My passion for school psychology, mental health, and political activism led me to seek this position. I am a fourth year School Psychology doctoral student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and currently work under a Department of Education Response to Intervention Training Grant. My goals for the year are varied, but above all I hope to expand the traditional role of the Liaison. In the next year, I will encourage

other students to attend the APA convention and participate in the concurrent SASP mini-convention. I intend to increase student awareness of training opportunities and workshops through the use of the SASP list serve, as well as help others to better understand legislation that affects the field, such as the Model Licensure Act. I plan on providing graduate students with an opportunity to voice their opinions regarding the climate of their respective training programs through an anonymous on-line survey. I intend

to summarize and report the results of the survey to program training directors and encourage them to consider the adoption of suggested changes. Finally, I aim to develop and strengthen the connections between the SASP team and various other organizations, including APA, NASP, and other appropriate institutions. I am looking forward to the year, and would appreciate hearing any suggestions you have for the position. Feel free to contact me with suggestions, questions, or concerns at [CLECLA11@BIGRED.UNL.EDU](mailto:CLECLA11@BIGRED.UNL.EDU).

## Spotlight on a SASP Chapter: Oklahoma State University

By Sara House, SASP President-Elect, Oklahoma State University

In the isolated town of Stillwater, OK sits Oklahoma State University (OSU), which is home to an APA and NASP approved school psychology program. The school psychology program is made up of approximately 50 PhD and EdS students and 5 full time faculty members. The students of OSU's school psychology program have been active members in SASP for the past several years, with student members serving as SASP president, communication liaison, and technology chair. At OSU, the SASP chapter is represented in the School Psychology Graduate

Organization (SPGO). One of the main goals of SPGO is to promote camaraderie between the students and facilitate a family-like environment within the school psychology program. However, this can be a difficult goal to achieve in the busy and stressful lives of graduate students. SPGO has come up with several creative ways to try to achieve this goal.

**“One of the main goals of SPGO is to promote camaraderie between the students and facilitate a family-like environment”**

One way SPGO attempts to relieve some of the stress of graduate school and promote a family-like environment is to host three parties a year that encourage students, faculty and their families to socialize outside of the classroom. The first party of the year is at the beginning of the fall semester and focuses on getting to know the incoming first years. For SPGO, it is important that the first years feel that they are welcome in the school psychology program and that all cohorts of students interact with each other. SPGO also hosts a holiday party in December and an end of year party in May.

This party is an opportunity to say goodbyes and congratulations to the students who are leaving for internships.

Another thing SPGO does to promote unity among the students and within the Stillwater community is to participate in philanthropy projects and university-wide events. Most of the school psychology OSU students do their school-based practicum ex-

periences in the Stillwater school district. Therefore, it is important for the students to be seen as active contributors of the community. One thing SPGO tries to do annually is participate in the schools' local fundraisers. For example, last year members of SPGO ran the carnival games at one of the school's carnival fundraisers. Since Stillwater is a college town, it is also important for the SPGO to stay connected with university events. One way they do this is by participating in the annual homecoming events at OSU. Each year, SPGO has a booth to sell baked goods during the festivities that occur the day before homecoming.

Graduate school is a stressful time and to get through it most students need a support system of people who understand the stressors. At OSU, SPGO's goal is to provide that support system to their students by giving them as many opportunities as possible for socialization and community events. Those who choose to take advantage of this social support system find that not only do they gain lifelong knowledge, but also lifelong friendships during their graduate studies.

## Fostering the Presence of SASP at APA

*An update from Convention Chair Cindy Altman, Duquesne University*

Hello fellow SASP members!

My name is Cindy Altman and I am currently a fourth year doctoral student in the school psychology program at Duquesne University. I serve as the Convention Chair of SASP, and am responsible for soliciting and reviewing student proposals for presentation at the annual SASP mini-convention, securing a guest speaker for the mini-convention, scheduling mini-convention events, and assisting with the overall running of mini-convention activities.

This is my second year in the position of Convention Chair and I am excited to be acting in this capac-

ity again.

My primary goals for this year include the following:

- To secure a prominent guest speaker for the mini-convention. I intend to select an individual who possesses a strong commitment to the professional development of graduate students in school psychology, and who can present on a topic that is both timely and relevant to the student population.
- To provide a broad outreach in the solicitation of student proposals for presentation at the mini-convention and to advertise the mini-convention more

widely than it has been in previous years. I am seeking to accomplish this by disseminating information regarding the mini-convention via posts to the SASP listserv and SASP website, articles in *SASP News* and *The School Psychologist*, and email contact with university training directors.

I am optimistic that my efforts will result in increased student attendance at this year's mini-convention and high-quality programming that appeals to a wide variety of interests. Please assist me in fulfilling these goals by getting involved in the mini-convention this year!

STUDENT  
AFFILIATES IN  
SCHOOL  
PSYCHOLOGY

Email:  
saspweb@saspweb.info

Check out our website!  
<http://saspweb.info/>

### Save the Date!

- Proposal Deadline for SASP Mini-Convention at APA: **April 15**
- Deadline for Submissions to SASP News Spring Edition: April 2008 (Exact date will be announced in upcoming weeks)

## Contribute to SASP News!

Greetings! My name is Kristin Rezzetano and I am the SASP Communications Chair. My primary goal this year is to facilitate timely and meaningful communication amongst SASP through SASP News. This edition of SASP News was created with this goal in mind. Readers may have noticed the front page article about the SASP Mini-Convention at this year's national conference of the APA. This column will be updated in each issue of SASP News in order to bring readers the timeliest information about the Mini-Convention, as well as information on where they can find out more. SASP News will also include a regular column that spotlights SASP chapters throughout the country. This will give readers the chance to learn more about other SASP chapters, and incorporate innovative ideas shared by others in their own chapters. Please consider highlighting your own chapter in an upcoming issue of SASP News.

SASP is seeking contributions for its Spring Edition of SASP News. Submissions will be considered which address current issues in school psychology. Submissions may be based on student research or field-based experiences. All graduate students in school psychology and members of SASP may submit to SASP News. Publishing in SASP News offers students the opportunity to share their findings and ideas with other graduate students, professionals, and faculty in school psychology nationwide. If you are interested in submitting, please contact rezzetanok@duq.edu.

Join the SASP listserve and learn more about scholarships, board activities, and convention news.

Go to

<http://lists.apa.org/cgi-bin/>

*Don't have a SASP Chapter at your school?*

Find out more about beginning your school's Chapter! Email Shelley Hart [shart@education.ucsb.edu](mailto:shart@education.ucsb.edu)

*Not a SASP Member?* Find out more at <http://saspweb.info/index.htm>

### Division 16 Announcement: APF-Paul Henkin Student Travel Grant

Division 16 of the American Psychological Association is pleased to announce the continuation of the APF-Paul Henkin Student Travel Grant. In past years, his generosity has provided up to \$1,000 to support a graduate student member of Division 16 to attend the APA annual convention. This generosity has been extended through a generous gift to the American Psychological Foundation (APF). The APF-Paul Henkin Grant is intended for students who do not have funding to attend APA. The award is not renewable. Employees of APA and persons receiving reimbursements from other APA sources to attend the convention are ineligible for the award.

The award committee will consider the applicant's demonstrated potential to make an outstanding contribution to the field of school psychology, accomplishments and research, communication skills, community involvement, commitment to working in public schools, and evidence of knowledge of the demands of the field of school psychology and the value of continuing professional development. Interested candidates are invited to send an application form, a letter of recommendation, a 500-word essay, and a curriculum vitae online at <http://forms.apa.org/apf/grants>. **The application deadline is April 15, 2008.** A recipient is recommended to the board of Trustees of the APF for final approval.