



THE TEXAS SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

Newsletter of the Texas Association
of School Psychologists

<http://www.txasp.org>

Affiliate of the National Association of School Psychologists

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President's Corner

Robb Matthews, LSSP

I am writing this article during the ever-shortening summer break (also known as time to catch up), although it won't be published until we have all returned to work. Let me say welcome back and I hope you can see over the pile of paper work on your desk until at least the Thanksgiving holidays. I attended a workshop this summer where the speaker discussed incidental benefits. These are the benefits people receive from adaptations made for someone else. An example of an incidental benefit is an entrance ramp at a public building. The ramp not only allows the physically challenged to enter the facility, but also allows others to utilize wheeled equipment, such as hand trucks and baby strollers, without having to carry the equipment up stairs. This discussion inspired me to think about Texas public schools and the incidental benefits they receive, or could receive, from their LSSP(s).

As I considered the question, I began to think of the TASP brochure titled "What is a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology?" The brochure was designed to focus on our level of training and the direct benefits students, families and the districts receive from access to LSSPs. The brochure has become very popular and demand continues to grow, but it lacks the numerous incidental benefits of access to an LSSP. I would like to hear from you regarding what incidental benefits you see. When considering the benefits, think about what appeals to certain groups, such as parent groups, teachers, administrators, school boards, etc. Can access to LSSPs enhance TAAS scores, lower incidences of bullying or save money in some way? These are the types of observations needed for this project.

Please forward all responses to your Area Representative, who will compile the results for your area. If you don't know which area you're in or who your representative is, go to www.txasp.org and select the membership link to get the information. The responses submitted by the conference will be used to develop a resource guide for promoting school psychology in Texas. Our goal in developing resources is to have tools available to educate people outside the profession of school psychology. Ultimately, TASP as an organization can only develop the tools and engage in large-scale promotion and information distribution. It is the

individual LSSP who must take the resources and use them to affect change in local services. When we work together positive changes happen.

Two important events to keep in mind this school year are the *Pursuing Excellence* conference in San Antonio and the upcoming Texas legislative session. We will have our first conference in the new Fall schedule October 26-28. If you have not registered for *Pursuing Excellence*, I encourage you to do so. If you have not received a *Pursuing Excellence* brochure, you can download the conference information from our website or call us toll free and we'll be glad to send you one. *Pursuing Excellence* is sure to be one of the best conference opportunities this year.

The Texas legislature will be in session during Spring semester of the 2000-2001 school year. This is not only important to LSSPs,

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but also to parents, other school based professionals and the districts themselves. As we move toward the frenzy of a biennial legislative session, it is important for LSSPs to focus on essential issues. If you have legislative concerns or priorities relating to school psychology and/or the students we serve, contact your TASP area representative. Each area representative will compile members' responses and pass them on to the Government and Professional Relations (GPR) committee chair, Margaret Kaltman.

A second essential issue is when to contact your legislative representatives. The best time to make contact is now, when their offices are moving at a slower pace and they have time to speak with constituents. Your contact may be simple, such as an introductory note, or very involved, such as volunteering time in a representative's office. The choices of how to become involved and the amount of time to give are up to you. Obviously, the more familiar you are to your representatives and their staff members, the more awareness they will have of your issues. If you are interested in GPR and would like to be a part of the TASP committee, Margaret's contact information can be found at the back of this issue of The Texas School Psychologist as well as at our website.

Finally, if you're a member and have moved or changed jobs during the summer, be sure to update the TASP database. You can do this by going to our website (www.txasp.org) and selecting the membership area or by calling TASP toll free at (888) 414-8277. It's quick and easy and will ensure you continue to receive The Texas School Psychologist as well as other TASP information. If you're not a member, but would like to continue to receive The Texas School Psychologist as well as substantial conference discounts and other membership benefits, you can find a membership application in this publication.

I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio.

The Texas School Psychologist is published three times a year. Articles, announcements, advertising, employment notices, and letters should be submitted to:

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e-mail: dgb25@aol.com

Deadline for receipt of material by the Editor

No. 1	Fall	July 15
No. 2	Winter	Dec. 1
No. 3	Spring	April 1

Proposed Constitutional Changes Set for Vote during October Professional Development Conference

During the May 2000 TASP Executive Board Meeting, a proposal for calendar year changes for several TASP functions was approved. These changes will require minor constitutional and by-laws changes and the general TASP membership will be asked to vote on these changes during the Professional Development (PD) Conference in October 2000. Members not attending the Conference will be mailed a ballot. The Board is recommending these changes to improve the functioning of the Board and to align the election of officers and dates of officer service with the change of date for the annual PD Conference. Elections had been held during the February PD Conference with newly elected officers taking over their positions on July 1 (through June 30). The proposal is to hold elections during the Fall (September/October) PD Conference, with service dates of January 1 through December 31. Membership and fiscal years would remain the same (July 1 through June 30). The proposed change would require a transition year (2000-2001) in which currently elected officer years would be extended for six months. The next election of officers would occur during the Fall 2001 Conference. Members will be provided with exact text changes for both the Constitution and By-Laws of the organization with the ballots. You may contact Phyllis Hamilton, Immediate Past-President and Chair of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, for further details.

Membership Report

Susan Logan - Membership Chair

We began our new 2000-2001 membership year on July 1st. If you have not sent in your application, please do so. As you know our conference this year will be October 26-28 in San Antonio and is more closely aligned with our membership year. Currently our total membership is: 224

Membership by category is:

- Affiliate 6
- Regular 197
- Retired 2
- Student 15
- Trainee 4

All new members will receive a certificate and a membership card. All renewing members will receive a membership card. The TASP Newsletter will automatically be mailed to each member at each publication date. The membership directories will be given to members who attend the October conference.



Pursuing Excellence – October 26-28, 2000

If you have not already registered, it's not too late!

Use the registration form that came in your conference brochure. If you don't have one available, call TASP at (888) 414-8277 and request one or download one off the web at www.txasp.org. Be sure and note the cutoff dates for early versus regular/on-site registration as well as the **significant** discount members receive over nonmembers.

- ◆ TASP plans and promotes workshop topics important to the profession and to school services in Texas. The Pursuing Excellence conference workshops have been planned around four strands including Ethical and Legal Issues, Multimodal Intervention, Cognitive Assessment, and ADHD Assessment and Intervention. This conference is truly focused on Pursuing Excellence.
- ◆ Pursuing Excellence also allows expanded training on certain topics by indicating the level of knowledge needed to benefit from a particular presentation. We are offering some topics that include both an introductory and an advanced session and some that require previous knowledge or practice in the topic area. Now you have a choice of both content and level of training. Be sure to carefully read workshop descriptions to ensure you select a workshop commensurate with your desired level of training.
- ◆ We again are excited to offer a half-day preconference workshop in addition to our traditional full-day preconference workshop. Now you have a choice of topics for these valuable and well attended training opportunities.
- ◆ Preconference workshops may be attended without a full conference registration. Be sure to let your colleagues who usually do not attend our full conference (administrators, counselors, behavior specialists, social workers, diagnosticians, etc.) know about the available preconference workshops.
- ◆ The popular legal update is again scheduled for Thursday evening just prior to the Presidential reception.
- ◆ We are again offering a vegetarian option for our Friday luncheon. You may indicate your need for a vegetarian meal on your Pursuing Excellence registration form. The vegetarian option is only available during early registration.
- ◆ We are offering extended registration times on Wednesday afternoon and evening. Be sure to check your conference brochure for specific times.
- ◆ This year we are offering an ice-cream reception Wednesday evening during registration. Stop in for a snack, relax and visit with colleagues from across Texas.
- ◆ To meet the needs of our members, Pursuing Excellence will feature paper presentations after the luncheon on Friday. Be sure to check your conference notebook for locations and topics.

Alicia Scribner

Alicia Scribner - San Antonio

After serving for seven years on the TASP Board as Area Representative, Chair of the Trainers' Committee and, most recently, as Editor of The Texas School Psychologist, I leave the Board with very mixed feelings. For many of us, serving TASP is truly a labor of love. It has been a pleasure working all these years with such a dedicated group of people. We have come a long way and I am very proud to have been a part of what TASP has been able to do for the school children of Texas.

For the last two years I have been editor of the TASP newsletter, The Texas School Psychologist. This, too, has been a great experience . . . hard work but rewarding as we were able to make the newsletter more relevant to the needs of school psychologists in Texas. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who so willingly cooperated with me to make our newsletter one of the best in the country. In particular, I would like to thank Ralph Louis of Your Third Hand, who labored with me on every issue as we struggled with late submissions, laughed about our own mistakes, and brought the newsletters to press on a fairly regular schedule. I wish my successor, Donna Black, the best as she resumes the editorship of The Texas School Psychologist.

The reason for my leaving the newsletter editorship is that I am on developmental leave for Fall 2000, and will be away from Texas for most of the semester. I am busily working on two writing projects — a chapter for NASP's Best Practices IV and a book on the use of interpreters in the assessment of second language learners. I hope to see many of you at the October TASP conference in San Antonio.

A Fond Farewell to Ron Palomares

Ron Palomares, past chair of TASP's School Psychology Trainers Committee, recently announced his acceptance as Assistant Executive Director (AED) for the Policy & Advocacy in the Schools department in the Practice Directorate of the American Psychological Association. The AED initiates and directs coordinated federal and state advocacy efforts to promote the practice of psychology in school settings at all levels. The AED also directs activities related to psychology in the schools within the APA governance structure and central office, serves as staff liaison to related APA constituencies and represents APA at national organizational meetings. They develop and maintain state advocacy efforts to assist state psychological associations and state and local education agencies to ensure adequate program funding and appropriate program management. They also are responsible for developing and promoting training programs at federal and state levels for psychologists in school settings to engage in service delivery and curriculum development meetings.

TASP wishes Ron the best of luck in his new position! His contributions to school psychology in the state of Texas are sincerely appreciated and he will be greatly missed.

NASP Delegate Report

Daniel C. Miller, Ph.D., N.C.S.P., L.S.S.P.

Greetings! I hope everyone has a successful school year for 2000-01. I am writing this column from my hotel room in Durham, New Hampshire. I have a lovely view of a forest outside of my window and I woke up to 50 degree temperatures this morning. I get a feeling I'm not in Texas anymore. My wife said it was 103 degree in Denton yesterday.

I am at the University of New Hampshire attending the NASP Executive Council and Delegate Assembly meetings. This year's Delegate Assembly meeting is unique because it is being held jointly with the International School Psychology Association (ISPA). Last night I had the opportunity to attend a welcome party for ISPA attendees and mingle with school psychologists from all over the world.

What's new with NASP? In June, I attended my first NASP budget meeting. As a volunteer organization we frequently have more requests for programs and activities than our budget will fund for any given year. We spent the weekend balancing the budget by \$200,000. In July, Scott Poland, our native son, took over the reigns of the NASP Presidency for the year. Scott has set several priorities for the upcoming year. First of all he is very concerned about the high incidence of young people in our country committing suicide and other acts of violence. One goal for NASP this year will be to create linkages with other professional organizations to help create solutions to these problems.

The second major goal of NASP this year is to examine the growing shortage of school psychologists across our country. A task force has been assembled to address this issue and I was honored to be asked to serve as task force chair. The task force met for the first time yesterday. The goal of the task force will be to recommend activities that can improve the shortage situation by focusing on four areas: training issues, models of service delivery options, recruitment issues, and practitioner issues. If you have specific

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Newsletter Policy

The Texas Association of School Psychologists Newsletter is a nonprofit newsletter wholly owned, operated, and published by the Texas Association of School Psychologists. Although it is an official publication of the Association, the contents of this Newsletter and the opinions expressed in it do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the Texas Association of School Psychologists, or the elected, or appointed officials of the Association.

Anything but Conventional...

Continuing Education, 1997-1998
 Especially for members of the TSPS who have taken

the following courses, you will receive 12 CE hours for the 1997-1998 CE cycle. If you have not taken all of the following courses, you will receive CE hours for the courses you have taken. For example, if you have taken only the first two courses, you will receive 2 CE hours for those courses. If you have taken all of the following courses, you will receive 12 CE hours for the 1997-1998 CE cycle.

1. Introduction to the TSPS
 This course is designed to provide new members of the TSPS with a comprehensive overview of the organization and its resources.

1.00

2. Introduction to the TSPS
 This course is designed to provide new members of the TSPS with a comprehensive overview of the organization and its resources.

1.00

3. Introduction to the TSPS
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11. Introduction to the TSPS
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13. Introduction to the TSPS
 This course is designed to provide new members of the TSPS with a comprehensive overview of the organization and its resources.

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14. Introduction to the TSPS
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15. Introduction to the TSPS
 This course is designed to provide new members of the TSPS with a comprehensive overview of the organization and its resources.

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16. Introduction to the TSPS
 This course is designed to provide new members of the TSPS with a comprehensive overview of the organization and its resources.

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17. Introduction to the TSPS
 This course is designed to provide new members of the TSPS with a comprehensive overview of the organization and its resources.

1.00

18. Introduction to the TSPS
 This course is designed to provide new members of the TSPS with a comprehensive overview of the organization and its resources.

1.00



NASP
 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

For more information on continuing education opportunities, please contact the TSPS at (817) 495-1234 or visit our website at www.tspsonline.org.



Global School Psychology Network Issues a Call for High Quality Papers by Graduate Students

A new area devoted to high quality papers by graduate students is being added to The Global School Psychology Network's (GSPN) online library. Graduate students who may be interested in publishing a brief paper to appear on the GSPN Internet site, should read the following message from GSPN:

"Papers can be submitted on any topic related to school psychology. Papers and references should be prepared in accordance with the APA style manual. Our on-line librarians will review the paper and make a decision regarding the publication in two to eight weeks. The librarians may request changes prior to publication and reserve the right to edit the paper. The paper should be between four and eight typewritten pages. The author(s) will retain copyright of the paper and may republish the paper as long as a footnote in the paper reflects the fact that it was published on the GSPN. Pertinent references not included in the body of the paper can be listed in a separate "Bibliography" section that follows the reference section. Papers previously completed for a graduate course may be submitted for possible publication.

We request that students send us a digital copy of their papers. They can send their papers in one of three ways: (a) in an e-mail message, (b) as an attachment to an e-mail message, or (c) on a disk via postal mail (Louis Kruger, 203 Lake Hall, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115). We prefer e-mail because it will save time and enable us to give prompt feedback. If the paper is sent as an attachment to an e-mail message or on a disk, please indicate the word processing program (e.g., Microsoft Word 98), and type of computer (i.e., Windows or Macintosh). Submissions can be sent directly to the librarians at: submission@www.counsel.neu.edu."

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Louis Kruger, Psy.D.
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Northeastern University
Boston, MA 02115

Visit the TASP website at:
<http://www.txasp.org>

Best Practices Hotline

This column is designed to address practice issues in the field of school psychology. Questions should be sent to: Dr. Ginger E. Gates, 1936 Portsmouth, Houston, TX 77098.

Questions...I get questions...For this issue, I am listing some questions I have been asked recently that have fairly short/easy answers. So...here go some "quickness"—

Question: Can a child be labeled as "Learning Disabled" (LD) in the area of spelling?

Answer: No. Spelling is no longer named in state statute as a skill area for LD.

Question: Do I *always* have to conduct a Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) before I develop a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP)?

Answer: Legally, no. IDEA only mandates an FBA for a student with a disability when: (1) the district has not already conducted a functional behavior assessment and implemented a BIP; and (2) the district takes any of the following disciplinary actions:

- The district first removes a student with a disability for more than 10 school days in a school year.
- The district commences a removal that constitutes a change in placement.
- The district places the student in an alternative interim educational setting for a weapons or drug offense.

Now, from a best practice standard, the purpose of an FBA is to gather data that will make a more effective BIP. So, though not legally required, it may be appropriate to gather the kind of information that an FBA provides in order to enhance the BIP.

Question: My district does not have much money and can't afford updated versions of assessment instruments. (We are still using the WISC-R.) Is that a problem?

Answer: Yes, that is a PROBLEM!!! I won't get into all the statistical problems with using outdated tests, but will go straight for the ethical issue. As a credentialed professional you are held to ethical standards that are in place regardless of monetary issues. You personally (and your license) could be held accountable for using outdated (or illegally photocopied) instruments. The general standard is that the old version of a test that has been revised should not be used longer than one year past the publishing of the newer version. This timeline may be even less for some instruments.

Question: I was told that with the new IDEA Regulations an ARD committee can decide that a student does not need a reevaluation. Is that true?

Answer: No. A student with a disability is still required to have a reevaluation at least every 3 years. However, what has changed is that the IEP committee can determine the “scope” of the reevaluation. The scope of the reevaluation can range from “review of existing data” to a full assessment. The amount of new assessment is determined by what additional information is necessary to answer the following questions:

- Whether the child continues to have such a disability?
- The present levels of performance and educational needs of the child?
- Whether the child continues to need special education and related services?
- Whether any additional modifications to special education and related services are needed to enable the child to meet the measurable annual goals set out in the IEP of the child and to participate, as appropriate, in the general curriculum?

Basically, the better the information brought to the IEP meeting, the less additional data that will need to be gathered.

Treasurer's Report

7/1/99 through 6/30/00

Susan Riordan - TASP Treasurer

Dear TASP Members,
Financial highlights for the twelve months ended June 30, 2000, are presented below:

TASP Financial Highlights For the Twelve Months Ended June 30, 2000	
Revenues	
Membership Dues	\$ 30,763
Convention	82,997
Other	<u>1,634</u>
Total Revenues	\$115,394
Expenses	
Travel and Meeting Expenses	24,444
Convention	44,352
Supplies, Postage and Printing	19,225
Fees	11,487
Clerical	6,884
Other	2,196
Total Expenses	<u>108,588</u>
Revenues in Excess of Expenses	6,806
Beginning Cash	<u>47,245</u>
Ending Cash	<u>54,051</u>

Detailed accounting records are available upon request

Minutes of the TASP Executive Board Meeting

Andrea Ogonosky- Secretary

The TASP executive board meeting was held at the Omni Hotel in San Antonio, the location of the October 2000 conference. The meeting was called to order by President Phyllis Hamilton at 9:10 a.m. on May 6, 2000. Board members present were: Phyllis Hamilton, Robb Matthews, Susan Riordan, Andrea Ogonosky, Michael Dixon, Tom Wood, Carol Booth, Jan Opella, Jo Ann Campbell, Dan Miller, Evie Chandler, Laura Reagan, Mae Fjelsted, Art Hernandez, Alicia Scribner, Donna Black, Margaret Kaltman, Francis Chen, and Ron Palomares. The minutes from the January and February executive board meetings were read and approved

Committee Reports

Susan Riordan, treasurer, reviewed financial statements with the board and reported the organization is doing well financially. There was a discussion on receiving membership dues late in the membership year. A motion was made and seconded that if membership dues are received within 60 days of the end of the membership year then Area Representatives will contact the member to determine which membership year the money will be applied to. The motion passed. Susan discussed the executive committee budget. Amendments to the budget were discussed and approved.

The membership report indicated current membership totals are approximately 653. New member names were distributed to board members. A subcommittee recommended revised changes to the membership application form and the board approved the changes.

Phyllis Hamilton discussed the calendar change with regard to board members' terms. Michael Dixon, Area Representative, moved that the board member term of office be changed from the current term of July 1 to June 30, to January 1 to December 31 as recommended by the committee, upon *effective ratification by TASP membership* (ratification to be held at the October 2000 conference.) The motion passed. If ratified, the new board members will serve an additional six months on their current cycle, along with the board members who are not leaving this year.

Alicia Scribner, Newsletter Editor, was recognized for her hard work and dedication. Alicia will be leaving the TASP board and Donna Black will replace her as Newsletter Editor. *July 15th is the deadline for submissions for the August newsletter.*

Dan Miller, NASP delegate reported that NASP has approximately 800 Texas members. The NASP leadership conference this year will be held in San Antonio in November. NASP will pay for the delegate and the President designee to attend. Dan discussed the possibility of some additional members attending and the possibility of hosting an event on the Friday evening of the conference. The NASP conference in New Orleans was reported to have the largest attendance of School Psychologists in its history. Dan reminded the board members that the 2004 NASP conference would be held in Dallas. He also discussed the issue of the development of a specialist degree at Texas Women's University. . The budget for the NASP delegate was reviewed.

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Sugar and Spice:
Is Everything So Nice?

and

Savoring the Spice:
Anger and Resilience
in Women and Girls

by

Lyn Mikel Brown, Ph.D.
Jessica Henderson Daniel, Ph.D.

Friday and Saturday, September 15 - 16, 2000
Austin, Texas

Co-Sponsors

The Center for Women's Studies
at the University of Texas at Austin

The Ophelia Project

The Capital Area Psychological
Association



Sugar and Spice:
Is Everything So Nice?

Friday, September 15, 2000 7:00 to 9:00 PM

What does it mean to be a "Good Girl" or "Good Woman" at this point in history? How does it differ for girls and women of diverse backgrounds? Drs. Jessica Henderson Daniel and Lyn Mikel Brown have worked with, listened to, and written about will discuss the tension women and girls struggle with to remain connected with themselves and each other while managing pressures that directly conflict with these goals. A conversation with the audience will follow. This program is open to adolescents, parents and professionals.

\$15.00 (\$5.00 for students)

Savoring the Spice:
Anger and Resilience in Women and Girls

Saturday, September 16, 2000 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

What does anger have to do with resilience and personal power in girls and women? How do the experiences of adolescent girls from various backgrounds affect their development as women? In this workshop for professionals, Drs. Lyn Mikel Brown and Jessica Henderson Daniel will challenge the stereotypes of the "generic white girl" and the under-achieving, unruly young women of color, offering more authentic pictures of the diversity of young women's experiences. Both presenters will address the question: How can we as mental health professionals help these girls and women sort out what it means to be female and how to use their anger and resilience to empower themselves? Join us for these presentations, case studies and discussions.

\$95.00 (\$65.00 for students)



Presented by

Dr. Lyn Mikel Brown, a developmental psychologist, is an associate professor and co-chair of the Education and Human Development Program, Women's Studies, Colby College, Waterville, Maine. She is also the author of Raising Their Voices: The Politics of Girls' Anger and co-author with Carol Gilligan of Meeting at the Crossroads: The Psychology of Women and the Development of Girls.

Dr. Jessica Henderson Daniel, a clinical psychologist, is an Assistant Professor of Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. At the Children's Hospital - Boston, she is co-director of training in psychology in the Department of Psychiatry. She has authored and co-authored chapters and papers on trauma in the lives of African-American women and the exclusion of girls of color in research publications.

Location for Both Events

The Joe C. Thompson Conference Center
at the University of Texas at Austin

For Registration

Information

call (512) 478-3322

Continuing Education

Approval has been received for 6 hours for Psychologists,
.6 hours for Social Workers, and 6 hours for
Licensed Professional Counselors.

Government & Professional Relations Committee

Margaret Kaltman, NCSP, LSSP, GRP Chair

The Governmental and Professional Relations Committee, in conjunction with Francis Chen, Webmaster, and Leah Cook, Associate Webmaster, has been working on a new look for the GPR page on the TASP website. Thanks to Francis and Leah for all their hard work on the GPR page, which should be up and running very soon.

TASP was invited by the Attorney General's office, along with several other individuals, to review the proposed curriculum titled Consequences, which was developed for 8th grade students. The curriculum was reviewed by Andrea Ogonosky and Ginger Gates, who then made recommendations for possible revisions.

According to the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, the latest revision of the Psychologists' Licensing Act and Rules and Regulations should be published and mailed this summer. More information regarding LSSP Licensure can be found at the TSBEP website: www.tsbep.state.tx.us.

As of the writing of this article, the proposed Commissioner's Rules Concerning Special Education Services have not been published or made available for public comment. Members can visit the TEA website this summer to review the status of the Commissioner Rules and learn how to become involved in the process of public feedback. Hearings are typically held throughout the state for public comment and the dates and locations will be published by TEA soon. The TEA website can be accessed at www.tea.state.tx.us.

TASP Members who are interested in Professional and Legislative issues are encouraged to e-mail me at mkaltman@inetport.com.

Awards and Honors

Mae F. Fjellsted, NCSP, LSSP - Awards and Honors Chair

This year the annual conference moves to October. Since this will be the second conference this year, the annual awards will be handled differently. Instead of calling for nominations, Elizabeth McDaniels will be honored at the Awards Luncheon for Outstanding Service To The Profession of School Psychology. Liz was not able to attend the spring conference and the board decided that they wanted to honor her for her many years of dedicated service to the field of school psychology. The President's Award will be presented to the family of Al Riester (1941-1999) for his contributions and dedication to school psychology. Both Dr. McDaniels and Dr. Riester have family, friends, and students (current & former) who live in or near the San Antonio area. We invite them to attend the conference to help pay tribute to their current/former professors.

Call for nomination forms will be available at the conference and we encourage you to pick them up so you can make nominations for the 2001 conference.

See you in San Antonio in October 2000!

KEEP INFORMED!

Let TASP know your e-mail address.
Send your e-mail to TASPorg@aol.com or call TASP at their toll-free number:
1-888-414-TASP(8277) or in Austin at 836-1001.

Southwest Texas State University School Psychology Program

SWT offers a specialist level, Master of Arts Program in School Psychology, accredited by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). The program endorses the scientist-practitioner training model and leads to institutional recommendation for certification as a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) by NASP and for licensure as a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP) from the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. SWT also offers a Respecialization Program for individuals who already hold a Master's degree in a related field and wish to re-specialize in the area of school psychology.

For more information, please contact:

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The Texas Association of School Psychologists'

Pursuing Excellence Conference October 26-28, 2000

at

San Antonio's
Omnihotel

Area Reports

Area I Report - Michael Dixon, Ph.D., LSSP

School is out! At least for most of the students in our area. We have eight elementary schools that meet 200 days that are still in session so some services are still needed and there are always the ECI cases and a few left over Autism or ED assessments that did not get finished, so I remain busy along with the other two 240 day psychologists on our staff.

In an exciting development we were able to put together a last minute, special one week Summer Challenge program for at-risk high school students using our Challenge Course located at the Outdoor Learning Center on the shores of Eagle Mountain Lake. Psychological Services staff, along with others in our district, used experiential learning techniques to work with small groups of students who were bused each day to the OLC. On the final two days we used the high elements of the Challenge Course as the capstone to a week of intense, but fun activities. We had a total of 33 students to participate and we anticipate approximately 50 middle school students next week in a repeat performance of our first week's program. We used a minimum of two adults for each group and started with games and ground initiatives and progressed to low elements with the 12 foot climbing wall and some of the high elements on the final day. We were pleased that we had almost no attrition until the last day when one bus misconnected and we lost about 9 students. This program was the result of the past experience of our staff combined with the efforts of case managers who recruited the students that participated. We feel very good about the overall effort and participation of the students and the feedback we received from many of the students. Too bad we could not have taught them some writing skills while we were doing the games! Some of the spelling etc. on the feedback forms took a bit of interpreting to understand.

On a sad note, many of our staff have elected to seek employment elsewhere following what has been a most difficult year. The basic notion that you cannot use diagnosticians or special education supervisors and LSSPs as if they were interchangeable

parts seems lost on the administrators and the consultants who organized and implemented the changes in psychological services. And while there are many hopeful signs on the horizon that needed changes are coming, such as lighter work loads, with more time for school psychology work and technological support (lap tops for all staff) it is too little too late for many of the staff. This is not to say that FWISD may not yet become a place where LSSPs feel both valued and rewarded by their day-to-day activities, but it is not the place that it used to be and never will be again. The camaraderie, the support, the friendship and the sense of purpose and accomplishment are gone. It is truly the end of an era and as the poem says, we will not pass this way again. So it is with a profound sense of loss and sadness that I say good-bye to valued colleagues and friends and to a department that was more than a place to work, but a place to share and grow and learn and laugh and even at times cry and always to feel that what you did made a difference and that you counted for something. How do you count the memories of discussions over difficult cases, puzzling kids, upset teachers, funny encounters with students and parents, fun times at the annual Christmas "white elephant" gift exchange and so much more. It truly has been a privilege to work with a dedicated group of professionals who over and over again amazed me with their willingness to go above and beyond the expected and who thoughtfully gave their best professional effort to what often seemed an unappreciative consumer. But that is what each of us have, memories and so may I say a final thank you to all those who served as staff or who came as interns or practicum students and who helped make the memories. I cherish them and hope that you do also.

Area III Report - Dr. Carol Booth, LSSP

Hello to all LSSPs! I hope everyone is rested and ready to start another year. It is 101 degrees as I write this so it is difficult to imagine being back in the classroom. It is also hard to believe that it is really time to start thinking about back-to-school activities. Some of you may also be experiencing the lack of summer as I am. Many of our contracts have increased in length so that little time is available between the end of one year and the beginning of another year. The shortage of LSSPs continues to make news as districts struggle to meet staffing needs. What else is new in the world of special education and school psychology? In the Region IV ESC area, NOVA training occurred this summer to help prepare all of us to better respond to crises.

Summer training also occurred in this area to help us with making Method II decisions and in writing better behavior intervention plans. If anyone has the magic dust, please send it to all of us at TASP or our districts. If anyone does receive that magic, please share with your colleagues.

I am extending a warm invitation to everyone to join us in San Antonio for the October TASP conference. Robb is planning a wonderful conference. It is nice to think that we can all get together early in the year rather than right before annual ARD season. See you in San Antonio.

Renew Your TASP Membership TODAY!

All Memberships Expired On June 30th!

Use the Membership Application
on Page 13

Area V - Wende Buchanan Jones, LSSP

This summer, I began my second (and last term) as your Representative from Area V which encompasses San Antonio, South Texas, Edmonton and Corpus. Since my recent reelection, I have found myself reflecting on my first two years as a TASP Board member. It has been an honor to represent you and I look forward to continuing to do so. Over the past two years I have had the opportunity, to work with many dedicated individuals who strive to represent LSSPs well and promote the educational, social and mental health needs of Texas children. As my second and final term begins, I would also like to encourage Area V members to become or continue active involvement in TASP and consider running for office in 2002. It is a wonderful opportunity to represent our area and support education in Texas. Your infusion of new ideas, goals, energy and enthusiasm are invaluable to TASP as an organization and in our area.

Activities currently under way in Area V include: planning more local opportunities for professional development, continued networking with other LSSPs and professionals in related fields and encouraging increased involvement in community service projects. TASP Area V is also proud to host the first fall Professional Development Conference at the Omni San Antonio the last weekend of October. Traditionally the annual conference has provided excellent opportunities for professional development and the SA 2000 Conference will not be an exception. Area V would also like to ask for your help with a community service project and encourages LSSPs to bring new and gently used suitcases, backpacks and duffel bags to the Omni this October. These will be donated to Children's Protective Services caseworkers for their young clients. Our hope is to ease the trauma for children who are in crisis by showing in one small way that they are valued and that their personal belongings are, as well.

In a year that has begun with many personal and professional challenges, I hope to serve you well and encourage continued involvement in local and state activities. If you have area news you would like to share for the next area report, suggestions for local professional development activities or service projects, or would like to assist in local activities please contact me at wendejones@satx.rr.com or call (210) 637-6612 (home). I look forward to hearing from you. I hope each of you have a wonderful beginning to the new school year.

Area VI - Jo Ann Campbell, LSSP

Welcome to a new school year. It is always exciting to see a new school year begin, but sad to see the summer break over. I continue to need an extra hour each day and an extra day each week to finish tasks, even during the summer. I recently read a small but powerful book about change in our lives. It is entitled Who Moved My Cheese by Spencer Johnson, M.D., and is one of several books written by this author about change.

Change is inevitable and we cannot get through life or our jobs without experiencing it. "Change happens. They keep moving the cheese." In many ways the children we evaluate, counsel and for whom we plan educational programs are more difficult, more complex and more demanding each year, as are their families. Our jobs are continually experiencing change and are increasingly more challenging. Are we ready for the inevitable? "Old beliefs do not lead you to new cheese."

Our district is adopting a computerized management system which will require tremendous flexibility and patience. We are all anxious about how we will manage a new school year and a new system. Several of the area Region Service Centers are making personnel and program adjustments and school districts in the area are adding or losing personnel and finalizing budgets. "Move with the cheese and enjoy it."

One of the most exciting changes is the move of the TASP professional development conference to October. The San Antonio conference will be a place of physical, mental and social renewal. This is a positive change. "When you see that you can find and enjoy new cheese, you change course." Please plan to attend and enrich your life and profession.

Have a tremendously productive school year. See you in October! "Savor the adventure and enjoy the taste of new cheese."

**Texas Woman's University
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TWU offers three graduate programs in school psychology, Doctoral, Master's, and Respecialization. All programs are accredited by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). The doctorate in school psychology leads to licensure as a Psychologist or a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP) and certification as a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP). The Master's in school psychology leads to licensure as a LSSP and certification as an NCSP. The Respecialization program is intended for those professionals who have a previous Master's degree in a related field and want to get the national NCSP and the Texas LSSP.

For more information contact:

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Texas Woman's University
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Denton, Texas 76204
(940) 898-2303 (Department Phone)
(940) 898-2301 (Departmental Fax)

Visit our new Web Page at:

www.twu.edu/as/psyphil/sppc/

TWU Service Delivery Accountability Project

Don Goldston, Ph.D. and Daniel C. Miller, Ph.D.

Texas Woman's University is interested in starting a research study designed to investigate how school psychologists are spending their professional time in service delivery. We are looking for a sample of school psychologists to participate in a year-long project starting this fall. As school psychologists, the demands upon our time are great and we frequently do not have extra time to monitor all of our professional activities. However, accountability is very important! A practitioner's job is frequently structured to include work at several campuses. We may have the freedom to come and go as we please based upon the changing demands of our jobs; yet that freedom carries with it responsibility. Teachers and administrators do not often understand just exactly what we do as professionals. When a school psychologist's role and function is not clearly understood by administrators and members of a school board, job security becomes an issue.

Recent events in schools suggest the need to develop a database concerning the practice of school psychology. How do LSSPs spend their time, what services are provided, how much time is spent delivering those services, how many children are served, and are the services effective? Collecting this type of data across a sample of Texas school districts would help to document the scope of our practice and assist in promoting our practice to others (TEA, Texas Association of School Boards, legislative education committees, etc.). Despite the concept of accountability having a foundation in school psychology, we, as a profession, have failed to demonstrate the value of our services and to advocate for the potential roles we can effectively provide.

In order to develop such a database, LSSPs are being sought to record their activities over the 2000-01 school year. Forms will be provided for the coding and recording of such data. The forms used will be very similar to the logs that many of you kept during your internship year. Each participant will complete weekly logs of their activities. A summary monthly log will be mailed to the principal investigators of this project.

For more information please contact Don Goldston at (940) 566-5553.

Continued from Minutes - page 7

Ron Palomares announced, with sadness, that he is leaving the TASP executive board, effective May 6. Marsha Harman will replace him. He discussed the project the trainers have been working on regarding developing a Texas internship directory. The budget for the trainers committee was discussed. Dan Miller mentioned that Sam Houston State has applied for NASP approval. This will be the 7th program in the state with NASP approval, if they meet the criteria.

TASP applied for, and has been approved, to provide CPD's to Texas educators. The ASBEC website has our number listed. This can be done as long as it is an official activity of TASP. Most of the time this will be used for regional meetings and conferences. Art Hernandez requested board guidelines for approval of trainings. He will also pursue submitting a proposal to APA for continuing education credits. Art also discussed criteria for submitting papers for the annual conference, as well as the evaluation procedures and the selection process for papers.

Francis Chen, Webmaster, reported that the TASP constitution has been updated and posted on the web, along with Area Representative information. He also has a visitor counter in place. The 2000 proclamation is also posted on the site. TASP now has a new internet server. Francis noted that Bill Masten has resigned as webmaster of the job posting. The new person will be Krystie Griffith. Francis is recommending a GPR page with its own webmaster. Phyllis recommended placing a small ad to recruit for a webmaster in the next Newsletter. Gina Marriot was the associate webmaster for the membership page. Francis is receiving e-mails from people who want to advertise their credentials. Francis asked for guidance on posting information on the training page. Francis will research the feasibility of adding a bulletin board to the website.

Awards of appreciation were given to outgoing members. Jan moved to present only special awards at the October 2000 conference and not present standard awards due to the change in conference date. Michael seconded. The motion passed. The Awards committee reviewed the proposed 2000-2001 budget.

Robb Matthews reported that the conference spending for the last conference came in under budget. He also reported an approximate profit of \$20,000. Robb also reported on the evaluation results from the past conference and on the planning for the San Antonio conference. Phyllis discussed the issue of establishing a new structure for planning future conferences with tasks being broken down and delegated to others instead of all the planning being left to the President-Elect.

Area Representatives submitted reports to the board. The reports are included in the Newsletter.

Margaret Kaltman, GPR Chairperson, reviewed legislative activity. Margaret distributed information on TASP legislative priorities, the draft of the TASP position statement on Children's mental health and public schools, and the review of the Attorney General's Consequences Crime Prevention Curriculum. Phyllis recommended that the GPR committee review the drafts and make recommendations to the board for approval. Brad Shields, TASP Lobbyist, recommended that briefing papers, signed by the TASP President, be presented to candidates during their legislative campaigns. NASP will host a Public Policy Institute in February 2001 in Washington, D.C. TASP will not attend the NASP Public Policy training this summer due to budgetary constraints. Margaret discussed the comments from TASP regarding the Attorney General's Violence Prevention curriculum. Margaret reported that TEA would send her the proposed Commissioner's Rules as soon as they are released. Robb Matthews questioned Brad on the current status of the retirement system for special education teachers. He would like to pursue the issue of the LSSP being recognized as a professional body impacted by a critical shortage in the state. Brad will research this and report to the board.

Susan Riordan reviewed the 2000-2001 TASP operating budget proposal. The finance committee recommended TASP secure two corporate credit cards: one for the President and one for the President-Elect. The motion passed by consent.

There was a motion to accept the TASP operating guidelines with corrections and the motion passed. The board continued to address the 2000-2001 proposed budget, the budget was approved. Phyllis reviewed the goals and priorities for TASP submitted by the individual committees. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm. on May 7, 2000.



THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

(Federal Tax ID # 74-2673792)

Initial and Renewal Membership Application

Dues are for July 1 to June 30 Annually

Name: _____
Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone Home: (_____) _____ Work: (_____) _____ Fax: (_____) _____
E-Mail Address: _____ Place of Employment: _____

Please do not print my address and phone number in the Texas Association of School Psychologists membership directory.

I am a current member of: (Circle all that apply) NASP APA TPA TPA-Div of Sch Psych TAPA

Please list the county in which you reside: _____ and in which you work: _____

I am applying for membership in the following category (Circle choice): Renewal New Member

Please check the appropriate category of membership:

Professional Member

1. Regular Member (voting member) \$55.00

- (a) Currently functioning as a school psychologist
(b) Trained as a school psychologist and working as a consultant, supervisor or administrator
(c) Primarily engaged in training of school psychologists at a college or university

2. Retired (nonvoting member) \$40.00

- (a) One who was a regular member in good standing and has retired from the field of school psychology

3. Affiliate (nonvoting member) \$40.00

- (a) One who is trained or employed in a closely related field or profession, but does not meet the requirements for regular membership

Provisional Member

1. Trainee (voting member) \$25.00

- (a) has met the training requirements for the Texas school psychology credential and has been designated by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists to be of trainee status. To be eligible under this category the trainee does not hold the NCSP credential or other license to practice school psychology. Copy of letter from TSBEP Trainee designation required.

2. Student (voting member) \$20.00

- (a) One who is actively engaged (minimum of six semester hours or its equivalent per semester) in a program of psychology

Student Advisor's signature required: _____ University: _____

I wish to donate to the Government Professional Relations Fund Amount: _____

Total: _____

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The Texas School Psychologist

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TASP is a volunteer organization. If you would be willing to serve as a committee member on one of the following committees (check all that apply):

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Convention Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Nominations & Elections |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government & Professional Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter & Publications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Information and relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Awards & Honors | |

If you would be willing to be a candidate for an office for next year please check all that apply:

- President-Elect** **Treasurer** **Secretary** **Area Representative** **Graduate Student Representative**

Please send completed form, check, and all supportive materials as necessary to:

TASP
PO Box 141023
Austin TX 78714-1023

Continued from NASP Delegate Report - page 4

comments about what you think we all can do to lessen the shortage of school psychologists, feel free to email me or write your thoughts down and mail them to me.

I was also asked to serve on the NASP/APA Interorganization Committee (IOC) along with Pat Harrison (University of Alabama) and Peg Dawson (New Hampshire). The focus of this year's IOC meetings will be to develop joint initiatives to lessen the shortage of school psychologists.

NASP books for sale at TASP. NASP has decided to experiment with selling their books directly to attendees at several of the larger state conferences and Texas has been selected as one of the sample states. A pre-order form will be sent to NASP/TASP members before the conference and members may pre-order NASP publications. The books will be available for you to pick up at the conference and you will not be charged for shipping. A limited number of additional copies of books will also be available for sale at the conference.

NASP Membership. Thank you to all NASP members who would have renewed their memberships this year and welcome to the many new members. In the past ten years, NASP membership has doubled in Texas and we have lots of room for growth. By the end of the 1999-2000 school year, Texas

became the 9th largest state in term of NASP membership! In many states where school psychology has been well established for years, 80-90% of the eligible school psychologists belong to NASP. In Texas, we have made great strides in NASP membership, yet only around 40% of all eligible school psychologists in Texas belong to NASP. If 80-90% of eligible Texas school psychologists joined NASP we would be the third largest state, only behind California and New York. In 1993, we had 457 NASP members and by the end of the 1999-2000 school year we had 791 NASP members. There are over 1600 LSSPs in the state many of whom have not yet joined NASP. As the school year is getting starting, if you are not a member of NASP, take a few minutes to join NASP on-line via their web site at www.naspweb.org.

I hope you have a great year and I look forward to seeing all of you at the TASP conference in San Antonio!

Plan to Attend

The Eighth Annual Professional Development Conference

Omni in San Antonio

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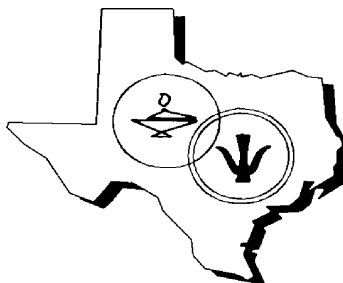
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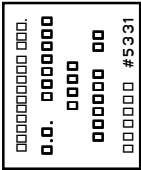
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**Texas Association
of
School Psychologists**



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