

SEPA NEWSLETTER

SOUTHEASTERN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

JULY 2003



included in this issue:

SEPA 2003 Revisited

Looking Back: The 2003 Meeting in New Orleans Page 2
Psi Chi: Monkeys and Muffalettas Page 3

SEPA 2004: Atlanta

SEPA's Golden Jubilee! A Peachy Celebration in Atlanta Page 3
Program Highlights (Coming Soon!)

Organization Highlights

2003 CEPO Report- Page 4
The Making of a Convention... News from the Administrative Office Page 5-6
Scientific Conference Procedures and Customs Page 7

And the Winner is...

2003 Special Topics Graduate Student Research Awards Page 8
Outstanding Professional Presentation Awards for 2003 Page 9
Election Nomination Notice Page 9

Hear Ye, Hear Ye: SEPA Announcements

Getting the Word Out Page 2
Important Dates Page 6
Sepa 2004 Conference Page 7
Sepa 2005 Conference Page 7
SEPA Website and Newsletter: Coming of Age Page 10
Notice: Have you Moved? Page 10
Nomination Reminder Page 10
SEPA Website Page 10

LOOKING BACK: THE 2003 MEETING IN NEW ORLEANS

Steve Hobbs, SEPA President

How does one measure the value of a professional meeting? For some, it might be indicated by the number of presentations, especially in one's area of interest, or by the prestige of the keynote speakers. For others, value may come from an idea generated from reading a poster, skills refined in a workshop, an important research collaboration established over dinner, reunions with old friends, or the chance to mentor a student. Certainly our 2003 meeting provided a smorgasbord of valuable opportunities for those who were able to attend.

New Orleans with all its attractions beckoned, the weather cooperated, strained budgets were ignored, and the program itself appealed to the membership: a total of 1460 persons were officially in attendance. Early registrants were treated to a Welcome Reception that, for the first time, was scheduled concurrently with poster sessions and access to our vendors. The following night's Presidential Reception was also enhanced this year through the generous sponsorship of McGraw-Hill's College Division.

The general theme of the 2003 meeting was "Psychological Science and Its Applications," and presentations by the various keynote speakers were certainly in keeping with that focus. Speakers sponsored in full by the SEPA included Robert Sellers (CEPO keynote speaker) from the University of Michigan, Gary Wells (Rosecrans speaker) from Iowa State University, and Christina Maslach (Siegel-Wallston speaker) from the University of California, San Diego. The APA Distinguished Scientist address was delivered by Carol Dwyer of the Educational Policy Leadership Institute, and David Washburn from Georgia State University and the Language Research Center was the Psi Chi Distinguished Lecturer. Illness prevented us from having our first ever APS William James Lecture, but APS Executive Director Alan Kraut ably filled in with an informative question and answer session. And we cannot overlook our fine Presidential Address "The making of a gerontologist: Weaving personal threads through psychology," delivered by Dick Tucker of the University of Central Florida.

Not surprisingly, submissions to our 2002 meeting were down following the terrorist attacks, but we were pleased to see things rebounding in 2003. Thus, even with a return to a more stringent acceptance standard, the size of the program grew, especially in terms of the number of symposia. An analysis of program topic areas revealed considerable breadth, regardless of presentation type (posters, papers, symposia, interest groups, keynote addresses and workshops). Certainly we can expect another great program in Atlanta in 2004 under the direction of Program Chair Al Finch and with the support of our Golden Jubilee Committee chaired by James Pate.

GETTING THE WORD OUT: WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Do you have something you would like to have included in either the next SEPA Newsletter or the SEPA Website?

Please direct any material, questions, comments to:

Drs. Maria Lavooy or Michael Newlin

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PSI CHI AT SEPA 2003

Alvin Y. Wang, Southeastern Regional Psi Chi Vice President

Once again, Psi Chi had a full and exciting program of events at the 2003 annual meeting of SEPA. This year Psi Chi's keynote speaker was Professor David Washburn from Georgia State University. In keeping with SEPA's theme of "Psychological Science and Its Applications," Dr. Washburn's presentation was on "Human Factors Applications of 'Monkey Factors' Research."



Several Psi Chi sessions were scheduled with students' interests in mind. Two of Psi Chi's most popular panel discussions were devoted to helping students prepare for graduate school. Over one hundred students attended these sessions. In addition, students were treated to a newly developed Psi Chi panel discussion on "The Value of Undergraduate Research." This discussion was led by Dr. Warren Jones who is the editor of Psi Chi's *Journal of Undergraduate Research*.

Finally, the ever-popular Psi Chi Hospitality suite was available for attendees to chat, snack on refreshments, or just rest their sore feet. The suite was graciously hosted by students from four Psi Chi chapters: Loyola University of New Orleans, Tulane University, Xavier University, and Covenant College. On the final day of the conference, Psi Chi's Vice President for the Southeastern Region Dr. Alvin Wang hosted an appreciation luncheon for faculty advisors. The luncheon menu consisted of New Orleans muffaletta sandwiches, accompanied by an assortment of Zapp's potato chips. The dessert tray included various moonpies and the beverage of choice was, of course—RC cola...

Psi Chi's 2003 SEPA Distinguished Lecturer David Washburn (right) and Alvin Wang, Psi Chi Southeastern Regional Vice-President.

GOLDEN JUBILEE MEETING IN 2004

James L. Pate, Golden Jubilee Committee Chair and SEPA Historian

The Golden Jubilee Committee is composed of Frances Dunham, Sheila Eyberg, Raymond Fowler, Jennifer Friday, Ellen Kimmel, Julie Lyon (student representative), Harold Moon, and James L. Pate (chair). Ex officio members are Al Finch, Rosemary Hays-Thomas, Stephen Hobbs, and Richard Tucker. The committee has developed plans for the celebration but welcomes suggestions of other ways in which to celebrate the SEPA's fiftieth annual meeting.

The Committee is planning a reception-buffet for Friday evening. The details of the event are not complete, but the committee is planning various entertainments for that evening. In addition to drinks, food, and music, the committee is considering having caricaturists, balloon artists, mimes, and strolling magicians at the reception. Historical displays may be arranged on poster boards at the reception-buffet. If you have earlier SEPA documents or photographs, please contact James Pate (jpate@gsu.edu or 404-351-2199) about the possibility of displaying those documents during that evening.

Ellen Kimmel is organizing a re-union type event of people who have been involved in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and of the Committee on Equality of Professional Opportunity (CEPO). If you were involved in those activities, please contact Ellen Kimmel (kimmel@tempest.coedu.usf.edu).

The usual history sessions (departmental histories, eminent southeastern psychologists, psychology in the Southeast, and the historian's lecture) will have both an historical and a celebratory component. Past presidents and charter members will be involved in several special sessions. One of the more exciting possibilities is a session entitled "What I Wish I Had Said in My Presidential Address," which is being organized by David Clement.

CEPO REPORT

Harriette W. Richard, CEPO Chair

The programming for CEPO at the SEPA convention in New Orleans offered new and exciting activities to an already stellar line-up. This was the first year of the SEPA/CEPO invited speaker event. Dr Robert Sellers, Professor at University of Michigan, addressed the assembly on “Racial Identity Matters: African Americans and Self-esteem.” The historical and empirical evidence of the buffering effect of racial identity has implications for continued research in the area of psychological distress and often monolithic way in which groups are characterized. The question and answer session that followed Dr. Sellers’ presentation was a highlight for many conference attendees.

This year’s SEPA keynote was Dr. Daniel Dodgen from the Public Policy Office of the APA. His presentation on Legislative Advocacy took the participants through the making of a bill and gave us insight on exactly where and how we can make that input effective. The types of legislation, governmental websites, guidelines for effective input, and understanding the culture of political advocacy made for a lively discussion and introduced a new type of involvement at this year’s convention.

More student researchers than ever before – 206 accepted – participated in CEPO’s Undergraduate Research Poster Session conducted by Dr. Pamela G. Banks and Dr. Kaye Sly, Jackson State University, this was also the first year of on-line submissions. The hard work of the committee and student participation resulted in another successful two-day poster presentation and well-crafted program booklet of accepted abstracts.

Dr. Linda Jones, Belmont University, chaired the student research award committee. The winners were Robert Turner, Kristine Jacquin, and Chris Carden for “The independent influence of social and economic status of the defendant on jury decision making in a homicide trial” and Teresa Wise, Noel DiSerafino, Jack McGuire, and Valerie Sims, University of Central Florida, for “Gender issues in the acceptability of naming options for women.” Amanda Brown, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and J. Neil Bearden, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, were recognized for their submission.

A lively Graduate Student Network session was chaired by Andrew Christopher, Albion College, Albion, MI. The topic “Managing Relationships in Graduate School” allowed the presenters Pam Marek (Anderson College) Cynthia Koenig (St. Mary’s College of Maryland) and Jason Jones (University of Delaware) to explore, inform, guide and exchange ideas with the audience on a range of networks and interactions.

The Minority Interest Group presented Dr. Cheryl Forkner, Clemson University. Dr. Forkner’s discussion centered around helping scholars understand the context and presentation of their research ideas. Practical information was given each participant regarding the how, why, when, and where of research as the title “Research from A to Z” unfolded to encourage him or her to examine their approach to specific research questions. The co-chairs of this committee were Dr. Rosemary Phelps, University of Georgia, and Dr. Sekai Turner, University of Pittsburgh.

Last, but not least, an exceptional presentation was given by graduate students from the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Kathy Burlew moderated the presentation entitled “Risk and resilience factors in the outcomes of high risk youth.” Bridgette Mitchell, Kyna Griffith, and Natasha Buchanan examined such mediating factors as neighborhood/community, personal competence and academic achievement.

The new CEPO chair is Dr. Patricia L.N. Donat, Mississippi University for Women. She has been very active in SEPA and I know will continue the excellent programming, faculty, and student participation that has grown throughout the years. It has been my pleasure to continue the goals of CEPO, to actively advocate professional equality for women, minorities, the elderly, men of color, as well as physically challenged psychologists. It has been my pleasure to serve as a non-voting SEPA executive committee member and your representative. Thank you for giving me the chance to further our cause of professional equal opportunity.

THE MAKING OF A CONVENTION ...

AND OTHER NEWS FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Rosemary Hays-Thomas, SEPA Administrative Officer

One of the interesting tasks for the Administrative Officer is the organization of the Convention. It's a complex puzzle and all the pieces have to fit together for a satisfying experience for our members.



First there is the site. At least two years before a meeting, we begin the process of selecting a site. We look at cities that are favorites of our members or are recommended by them. We describe our requirements and the dates we prefer, and hotels make proposals to us. I usually visit the property to see if it will “work” for us. Then we negotiate on matters such as room rates, other costs and obligations, and amenities. I have just signed contracts with the **Renaissance Nashville Hotel and the Nashville Convention Center to host our 2005 meeting**. We were able to secure a favorable contract by agreeing to move our meeting a few weeks into early April, Wednesday evening the 7th through Saturday noon the 10th. This hotel is an attractive downtown facility within easy walking distance of interesting places and nightlife. Nashville is easy to reach by plane or car and will be our first meeting in the northern end of our region in several years. We hope you will enjoy it!



Next there is the program. We depend on you, our members, to submit your research and other proposals for consideration. The Administrative Office now manages the process of mailing proposals to reviewers, receiving and tabulating the evaluations, and organizing the sessions once the Program Chair and Committee have identified those to be included on the program. *Over the next few years we expect to move some of this activity to electronic processing to reduce the volume of postage and paper and increase the efficiency of the process.*

This year we tried scheduling an opening poster session during the reception on the first evening, with registration and exhibits open at the same time and in the same area. This seemed to work well and to be well received by attendees so we plan to include that format next year. We also will arrange the poster rooms with more space for people to move around as they view the posters. Assigning the individual presentations to sessions/days/times/rooms is exceedingly complex and, once “set,” is very difficult to change without creating new problems.



Then there is the plan for financing the convention. We try to keep our members' costs reasonable by negotiating for good room rates. In contracting with a hotel, we agree that our attendees will use a specific number of room/nights and that we will spend a guaranteed minimum on food and beverage at the receptions. In return, we ask for waivers of meeting room rental (we use a LOT of meeting rooms for a convention of our size) and good room rates. If we do not fill our room block, there are financial consequences—*which is why we urge you to stay at the convention hotel and to identify yourself as a SEPA attendee when making your reservation.*



Food and beverage expenditures are the largest cost to us at the convention. We want to increase advertising in our convention program, exhibits by vendors during the convention, and sponsorship of events. At our last convention, McGraw-Hill's sponsorship defrayed part of the cost of the Presidential reception. *Please think about organizations or vendors who might be interested in sponsoring, exhibiting, or advertising with us, particularly for our Golden Jubilee. Have them contact the Administrative Office, or give us information so that we may contact them.* **Think about who would benefit from contact with 1500-2500 psychologists and students in the Southeast? Who in the Atlanta area might want us to know about them?**



Some Other Ideas

We are working on some other things that we hope will serve you better. The Executive Committee has asked us to investigate the use of credit cards for payment by members. We are updating our computer system and will begin doing more things electronically and by use of our Web page, which will save considerably on mailing costs. The Golden Jubilee Committee is planning several special things to celebrate our 50th anniversary next March in Atlanta. We hope you will join us in celebrating this special occasion. Linda and I are open to suggestions on how the Administrative Office can better serve the membership of SEPA.

IMPORTANT DATES

October 1, 2003

Conference submissions postmark deadline

February 11, 2004

Atlanta Hilton Hotel Reservations

February 15, 2004

Conference Advance Registration deadline

SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE PROCEDURES AND CUSTOMS

Steve Hobbs, SEPA President

Each year the Program Chair, Administrative Officer and Administrative Assistant encounter difficult issues that can ruffle feathers and/or inconvenience conference attendees. In most cases these problems can be avoided by attention to points such as the following:

1. Pay careful attention to deadlines and instructions when submitting conference proposals. Errors and omissions are fairly common, slowing the review process.
2. It is expected that proposals represent original contributions of the author(s) and have not been presented or submitted to other venues.
3. Acceptance criteria for proposals to the annual meeting have been tightened. The most common reasons for reviewers to give low ratings are poorly prepared abstracts and evidence that data have not yet been collected and analyzed.
4. Proposals are evaluated on the basis of the type of presentation indicated (oral, poster, symposium, workshop, etc.). Thus, it is not possible to change from one type to another, except in those cases of papers and posters where the authors have indicated a willingness to switch between these two formats on the proposal cover sheet if there are programmatic advantages in doing so. Once a proposal has been accepted and programmed, further changes cannot be made.
5. Especially in the case of symposia, all presenters and/or discussants should be fully committed to participate prior to the time of submission. Once the program has been established, changes in participants cannot be made in the printed program. Be aware that presentations are scheduled throughout the meeting, and the complexity of scheduling prevents us, except in very rare circumstances, from considering preferred times. Proposals should not be submitted unless the presenter(s) agree(s) to be available whenever their session is scheduled throughout the meeting dates.
6. If a presenter learns that he or she is unavoidably prevented from attending the conference, it is appropriate for a co-author to make the presentation. If this is not possible, notify the SEPA office as soon as practical and this can be included in the conference addendum. The session chair should also be notified so that an announcement can be made, in the session, regarding the program change. Currently, the SEPA does not publish conference abstracts. Therefore, cancelled presentations should not be included on curriculum vitae, even if they appear in the printed program.

**SEPA Conference 2004:
March 10-13
Atlanta,
Georgia
@
The Atlanta Hilton**

**SEPA Conference 2005:
April 7-10
Nashville,
Tennessee
@
Renaissance Nashville Hotel
and Nashville Convention
Center**

2003 SEPA SPECIAL TOPICS GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

Valerie Whittlesey, SEPA Executive Committee, Member-at-Large

These awards were originally established and supported through a grant from APA's Science Directorate to encourage more convention submissions from graduate students in subject areas traditionally less well represented on the program. Beginning two years ago, funding has been provided solely by SEPA. In accordance with a decision made by the SEPA Executive Committee at the 2000 meeting, the topics were limited to three areas: cross cultural, animal-biological, and developmental.

Submissions to each of this year's categories were evaluated by at least three faculty reviewers with expertise in that area. Based on these evaluations, two excellent abstracts were selected for recognition: one in cross cultural and one in developmental. The winners of the Special Topics Graduate Student Research awards are:

Cross-Cultural Psychology Category

Perceiving Similarity: A Cross-Cultural Investigation of Prejudice and Aggression
Marios B. Argyrides, Jerrold L. Downey, Anissa L. Moody, and Tera S. Mikula
Tennessee State University

Developmental Psychology Category

Investigating Inhibition in Preschoolers: A Modified Stroop Task
Sarah E. Cummins-Sebree, Meenakshi Lambha, Katherine Kipp, and Ami Patel
University of Georgia

The first author for each winning submission received a check of \$200 and presented a paper from the research in a special SEPA session on Friday, May 28, at 9:00 am. Congratulations to the winners!



OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION AWARDS FOR 2003

Slater E. Newman, SEPA Executive Committee, Member-at-Large

Three papers were tied for first place in this year's SEPA/APA Outstanding Professional Paper Award competition. Recipients, each of whom received a \$400 award, were:

Dr. Catherine Bagwell

Co-authors: Sarah Bender, Cristina Andreassi, Tracy Kinoshita, Staci Montarello and Jason Muller.
"Friendship and psychosocial adjustment in early adulthood."
University of Richmond

Dr. Virginia De Roma

Co-authors: Kerry Lassiter, Virginia Davis, and Keith Manaker
"Adolescent preferences for involvement and focus on parent in correction sequences."
The Citadel

Dr. Kevin Kieffer

"Conceptions of the working alliance: Attempts at developing therapist types."
Saint Leo University

This is the third year for these awards, funded through a grant from the APA Science Directorate. Fourteen papers were selected for final review based on the quality of their abstracts. Then, each paper and its oral presentation were evaluated during the Convention. To our evaluators "THANK YOU, VERY MUCH!" They are:

Ronald Belter	University of West Florida
Lynn Boulter	Catawba College
Joan Duer	University of West Florida
Scott Hutchens	Delta State University
Elise Labbe'	University of South Alabama
Jennifer Lucas	Agnes Scott College
Judith Rhue	Ohio University
Amy Shadoin	National Child Advocacy Center
Jutta Street	Barton College
George Whitehead	Salisbury University

Our Committee encourages you to consider participating in next year's Awards competition. Questions about this program should be addressed to Dr. Slater E. Newman, Chair, SEPA Outstanding Professional Paper Award Committee, Department of Psychology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-7801, Phone (919) 515-1728, FAX (919) 515-1716, e-mail slater_newman@ncsu.edu. Other members of this year's committee are Lynn Boulter, Catawba College and Lillian Range, University of Southern Mississippi. We look forward to seeing you in ATLANTA!

NOMINATION NOTICE!

The following individuals have expressed interest in being nominated for the upcoming election:

President: Chizuko Izawa, Tulane University
Member-at-Large: Maria J. Lavooy, University of Central Florida

SEPA WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER: COMING OF AGE!

Maria Lavooy & Michael Newlin, SEPA Newsletter Editors

The newly-revised SEPA website (sepaonline.com) has been very active this year! There have already been over 21,000 visits to the homepage! The website contains quite a bit of information that may be interesting to the members of SEPA. The site contains information about the 2003 conference in New Orleans, the 2004 conference in Atlanta, important deadlines, election news, contact information for the executive committee, etc. Whenever you have a question about anything SEPA, the website will likely have an answer for you. If you find that there is something that you would like to see on the site, just let us know (mnewlin@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu) and we will do our very best to make the addition. We are in the process of updating the site for the 2004 conference, so now is a good time to let us know what you would like to see on the website. Thanks for all the positive feedback regarding the new look of the homepage!

The SEPA newsletter has also changed dramatically (as you can probably tell since you are reading this on a computer instead of paper). This year, the newsletter was converted to be entirely web-based. Shortly, we will be e-mailing everyone with a summary of the newsletter stories and the links. If you would like anything to be added to the newsletter, let us know using the e-mail address listed earlier in this article. The nicest part of a web-based newsletter is that we can update and expand the contents without having to mail out a new copy to everyone. We do want to give special thanks to the members of the Executive Committee who provided much vision and assistance with the conversion to the web.

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you in Atlanta in 2004!

The SEPA Website address is:
<http://www.sepaonline.com/>

REMINDERS!!!

NOTICE: HAVE YOU MOVED?

If you have moved within the last six months, or plan to move soon, please submit your new address to the SEPA office before August 15th. Your change of address can then be processed before the Call for Papers goes out in the fall.

Please keep your address as up-to-date as possible at all times. This prevents delays in your mail, decreases SEPA's postage costs, and keeps your name on the current mailing list.

Send all address or name changes to sepa@uwf.edu or mail to:

SEPA
Psychology Department
University of West Florida
Pensacola, FL 32514

**Don't forget to send in
your 2003 Nominations
before August 1st, 2003!**