SEPA 2020 in New Orleans, Louisiana at the Sheraton New Orleans! Starting on Wednesday, April 1st & running through Saturday the 4th, 2020. Submission deadline October 8th, 6 p.m.

Checkout SEPA online for more info: http://www.sepaonline.com/
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Presidential Message

The Southeastern Psychological Association has been an important influence on my own career for nearly 30 years, and so it is my distinct honor to serve you as SEPA President this year. SEPA continues to expand its reach to our professional community, and this year in particular I am looking forward to our upcoming 2020 Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, where we again will have a fantastic lineup of professionally satisfying options for you, including high-quality research presentations, thought-provoking presentations by invited speakers, opportunities for continuing education, and numerous chances for networking and reconnecting with professional colleagues. In addition, our meeting will be an excellent opportunity for students to develop their professional skills, and their circle of professional contacts.

How can you get involved in our program for the next Annual Meeting? Get your program submissions ready, and volunteer! The call for submissions will be arriving in your inbox very shortly with deadlines and procedures for submitting clearly identified, and I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to be a part of our robust program. You also can volunteer to become a session chair or to work on a committee, and consider running for an office. In addition, you will receive information about our various awards, which recognize members at all points in their careers – consider nominating a colleague or yourself so that we can recognize the good work that our SEPA members are doing! We will be happy to answer any questions you may have about how to get involved with our program, or about our awards, so feel free to reach out to me or others who are listed as contacts for more information.

Although things generally are going very well for our Association, I did want to devote some attention in my message to update you on the tough circumstances we have faced this year with the loss of our dear friend and colleague Dr. Kevin Eames, who was serving as our President-Elect. Kevin was a superstar in our organization – a long time member, a strong advocate for SEPA, and one who helped many students find SEPA as a starting point in their own career development. Many of our members have come forward to share with us the profound impact that he had on their lives and their professional development, and we have heard numerous stories about the myriad contributions he has made to SEPA over the years in the form of committee work, volunteer opportunities, and service as an officer. Kevin was dedicated to SEPA to the end. For example, even when Kevin knew he was facing serious health issues, he continued to work on SEPA matters, including arranging several speakers for our upcoming meeting. We will miss him and his contributions, and we extend our sincere condolences to his department.

In cases where an officer is unable to serve out the term they have been elected to fill, our Constitution directs the President to appoint a replacement in consultation with
members of the Executive Committee. I took this obligation very seriously, and so did our EC. The result of our deliberations was unanimous support for my appointment of Dr. Sharon Pearcey (Kennesaw State University) to serve as our new President Elect. Sharon has a long history of working with SEPA, and has served on the Executive Committee as our Secretary-Treasurer for several years, so she will be able to hit the ground running as she joins the Executive team. I hope you will join me in welcoming her to her new office, and that you will support her wholeheartedly as she moves into the role of President next year.

It is going to be a great year for SEPA! See you in New Orleans - Laissez les bon temps rouler!

Passing the Commemorative Gavel. Pictured: Laurie Couch and Michael Beran
Greetings!

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the summer with all that it has to offer. This year’s Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, FL was by all accounts another successful event. The Hyatt Regency was a gracious host by providing us with ample meeting space at a relatively cost effective rate. Moreover, the Thursday and Friday outdoor receptions on the terraces afforded beautiful scenic backdrops. And, if you were around for Thursday and/or Saturday, you were treated to impromptu performances by the LSU pep band in the hotel lobby. I’m not sure what more we could ask for in an Annual Meeting!

The 2019 Annual Meeting in Jacksonville was attended by well over 1,300 students, faculty, and professionals who had opportunities to see in excess of 500 posters, papers, symposia, and other sessions. Additionally, we were treated to some amazing invited speakers who gave compelling talks in their respective areas of expertise. If there was a common criticism that we fielded in the Central Office, it was that too many appealing sessions were seemingly scheduled in conflict with one another (which is not at all our intent). Seems to me like that’s a good problem to have.

The 66th Annual Meeting of SEPA will return to “The Big Easy” April 1-4, 2020. Once again, the New Orleans Sheraton will play host to us. As I write this, Amy and I are preparing for a visit to the hotel to continue preparations for the 2020 meeting. We certainly hope that you will consider submitting a proposal to present your research or perhaps host a Continuing Education workshop, as well as consider reviewing submissions or serving as a session chair at the meeting. Our Electronic Submission System will open on Thursday, August 15th and is scheduled to close on Tuesday, October 8th. Moreover, our membership and meeting registration portals should be available sometime in early August at the latest. Among our list of usual exemplary invited speakers, we have recently learned of two additional, highly respected scholars who are making plans to join us in New Orleans. More details will follow once their plans firm up a bit.

Too close, I would like to use this opportunity to acknowledge the loss of a great friend to SEPA, namely Dr. Kevin Eames from Covenant College. I did not know Kevin as well as I would have liked, but I am aware of how highly respected he was by his students, colleagues, and friends. As a testament to the professional that Kevin was, despite the
recent health issues he had been confronting, he remained resolute in carrying out the duties of the office for which he was elected (President-Elect) by soliciting and securing invited speakers for the 2020 Annual Meeting. Suffice it to say, Kevin and his jovial presence at our Annual Meetings will be sorely missed by all of us. I extend my heartfelt sympathy to those of you who called Kevin a colleague and/or a friend.

I am very much looking forward to seeing all of you in New Orleans next April for what will prove to be yet another fantastic Annual Meeting. As they say in NOLA, “Laissez le bon temps rouler!”

Tim Hanchon, SEPA Administrative Officer, The Citadel

Use the image below to follow SEPA on Instagram:
Amy’s Message: SEPA in N’Orleans

Everything you have heard, is true! The 66th SEPA Annual Meeting promises to be one of the best. Present, earn credit hours, socialize and collaborate with mentors and colleagues in the most hospitable city in the nation!

Don’t miss out! Submit your proposals on time, register early and reserve your guest-room now. There really is more to see and do in New Orleans!

General Information for the 66th Annual Meeting

• Date: April 1st - April 4th (Wednesday-Saturday)
• City: New Orleans, Louisiana
• Location: Sheraton New Orleans, 500 Canal Street, New Orleans LA 70130
• Group Rate Booking Website: https://book.passkey.com/e/49923755

Submission Information

Our convenient, time-saving Electronic Submission System (ESS) will enable you to submit proposals from the Internet. In order to access the ESS your dues must be current. You may pay your dues and SEPA Meeting registration with Visa, Master Card, Discover or American Express online at any time at www.sepaonline.com. **ESS closes October 9th, 6 p.m.** Authors should clearly state the status of data collection and analysis in their proposals. For papers and posters, it is expected that empirically based proposals are based on completed research, or at least on work which is complete enough in terms of data collection and analysis so that preliminary conclusions can be drawn. Reviewers will be instructed to use discretion in evaluating proposals based on incomplete data, and to reject proposals for empirically based papers or posters when data have not yet been collected. Proposals for conceptual or theoretical presentations will be evaluated on the basis of stage of completion as well as quality. Everyone attending the SEPA Meeting must register and receive a name badge. Your badge is your admission ticket to SEPA sessions. **Advanced Registration opens August 15th**
and closes February 15th. After February 15th, registration will be available onsite during the Meeting.

Registration & Payment Information

- Register early and save! After October 8th, 2019, the fees will go up.
- Registration forms received after **February 15th, 2020**, will NOT be processed. You will be required to register on-site.
- For links and more info about paper and poster submissions and registration visit the [SEPA website](#).
- The amount paid towards event registration is non-refundable.
- CEPO / Psi Chi poster submissions for students should be made here:

Online Registration is open from August 15th, 2019 to **February 15th, 2020**. There are no refunds for dues or registration.

**Early Bird Registration (August 15th, 2019- October 8th, 2019):**
- $75 SEPA Life Members and Professional Members whose dues are current
- $75 Advanced Graduate Student Members whose dues are current (two years or more years in their degree program)
- $75 Affiliate Members whose dues are current
- $70 Student Members whose dues are current (undergraduates or graduate students with fewer than two years in their degree program)
- $140 Professional Nonmembers, Affiliate Nonmembers and Graduate Student Nonmembers (two years or more in a program)
- $115 Student Non-Members (undergraduates or graduate students with fewer than two years in their degree program)
- $50 Guest - Non-psychologist Spouse/Partner/Parent/Child/Friend
- $30 Guest – Child between 10 – 16 years old
- Guest – Child under 10 no cost

**Advanced Registration (October 9th, 2019 - February 15th, 2019):**
- $85 SEPA Life Members and Professional Members whose dues are current
- $85 Advanced Graduate Student Members whose dues are current (two years or more years in their degree program)
- $85 Affiliate Members whose dues are current
- $80 Student Members whose dues are current (undergraduates or graduate students with fewer than two years in their degree program)
- $150 Professional Nonmembers, Affiliate Nonmembers and Graduate Student Nonmembers (two years or more in a program)
- $125 Student NonMembers (undergraduates or graduate students with fewer than two years in their degree program)
- $60 Guest - a Non-psychologist Spouse/Partner/Parent/Child/Friend
- $40 Guest – Child between 10 – 16 years old
Guest – Child under 10 no cost
Checks will be accepted for registration up until January 31st, 2020. Checks received after that date will be returned. Furthermore, names and email addresses must accompany all checks or they will be mailed back to the sender. Payment may also be made via Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express by using our online payment system. Final deadline for payment is January 31st, 2020.

On-Site Registration:

• $120 SEPA Life Members and Professional Members whose dues are current
• $120 Advanced Graduate Student Members whose dues are current (two years or more years in their degree program)
• $120 Affiliate Members whose dues are current
• $100 Student Members whose dues are current
• $170 Professional Nonmembers, Affiliate Nonmembers and Graduate Student Nonmembers (two years or more in a program)
• $150 Student Nonmembers (undergraduates or graduate students with fewer than two years in their degree program)
• $75 Guest - Non-psychologist Spouse/Partner/Parent/Child/Friend
• $55 Guest – Child between 10 – 16 years old
• Guest – Child under 10 no cost
Experience the best of New Orleans when you stay at downtown's Sheraton New Orleans Hotel.

Ideally set in the vibrant French Quarter, hotel guests are within walking distance of Bourbon Street and only minutes from events at the Convention Center, Mercedes-Benz Superdome and The National WWII Museum.

Taste the flavors of New Orleans when you savor the cuisine at Roux Bistro or toast to a successful day at Pelican Bar.

Guests can also take advantage of our rooftop pool, sun deck and modern fitness center.

Amy Limehouse-Eager, The Citadel
SEPA Awards 2019

Report on the 2019 Graduate Student Research Award

The purpose of SEPA is to advance psychology as a science, profession, and as a means of promoting human welfare. Our mission is to stimulate the exchange of scientific and professional ideas across the diverse areas of psychological inquiry and application. The Graduate Student Awards Program of SEPA is designed to encourage and reward presentation of the highest quality research by our student members pursuing a graduate degree, in both popular and traditionally underrepresented fields of psychological inquiry. Based on abstract submissions, graduate students will be invited to present their research. Finalists will be identified and awards presented at the meeting.

This year, contestants will present their research through a data blitz session. A data blitz session will include an oral presentation of about 10 minutes in length during the designated session, followed at a later time by an 80 minute poster session, as scheduled on the program. The intent is to allow more contestants to compete for the award, and for meeting attendees to ask more in-depth questions during the poster session. The contestants also benefit from the opportunity to provide more details about their research during the poster session, while highlighting the key points of their work during the oral presentation. This opportunity to present their work in a poster and orally, is also expected to leverage the contestant’s resume.

For any questions please contact the Chair of the Graduate Student Research Award, Dr. Medha Talpade at mtalpade@cau.edu.

Last year, the invited reviewers included:
Kanika Bell, Clark Atlanta University
Mary Ellen Fromuth, Middle Tennessee State University
Ansley Gilpin, University of Alabama
Medha Talpade, Clark Atlanta University

The judges were:
Dr. David Washburn, Georgia State University
Taylor Edwards, Clark Atlanta University
Medha Talpade, Clark Atlanta University

There were 277 self-nominations for the Graduate Student Award. There were 53 abstracts with high ratings (4 out of 4), 8 of which were sent to CEPO. The invited reviewers identified 4 submissions out of the 45 for the competition. The authors presented their papers in a session devoted specifically to this competition. The session included the following presentations:
A. Paper Title: An Examination of the Factor Structure of the Penn Inventory of Scrupulosity- Revised (PIOS-R) in Christian and Atheist Samples
Authors: Allison Phillips (University of Central Florida); Brian Fisak (University of Central Florida); Alison Bryant (University of Central Florida); Kirsten Klein (University of Central Florida); Alliyah Veilleux (University of Central Florida)

B. Paper Title: Locus of Control and Mere Thought: Effects on Planned Behavior
Authors: Sarah J Ahmed (University of North Florida)*; Christopher Leone (University of North Florida); Shawn Lewis (University of North Florida)

C. Paper Title: Mini-Horses Reduce Stress, Improve Mood for Airport Travelers, College Students
Authors: Shelby Reynolds (Xavier University); Virginia B Wickline (Georgia Southern University - Armstrong Campus); Ana Sanford (Miami University Regionals); Emily Steele (Miami University Regionals); Ashley Bruner (Miami University Regionals)

D. Paper Title: How Lower Socioeconomic Status Students’ Self-Handicapping Causes Academic Underachievement
*Authors: Trent Wondra (University of Wyoming)*; Sean McCrea (University of Wyoming)

The judges identified Trent Wondra as the winner of the GSRA award.

SEE YOU IN New Orleans, LA!

SEPA Graduate Student Research Award Guidelines

*This award is NOT the same as the CEPO Student Research Award.

Cash Awards for Outstanding Research

SEPA is again pleased to offer recognition and cash awards to graduate students for outstanding research. The awards can be for research in any area of psychology. The awards committee will nominate a selection of the submissions for presentation in a special paper/poster session at the SEPA Meeting. The selection of winner(s) will be made based on the presentations in that session. First place winner receives a $200 award. Additional award(s) may be made at the judges’ discretion.

ELIGIBILITY: The sole or first author, as described in the APA Publication Manual, must be a graduate student in a regionally accredited psychology program. The submission must be sponsored by a current SEPA Member, unless the submitting graduate student is a post-masters student and SEPA Member. The paper cannot be simultaneously
submitted to other SEPA competitions or programs. However, legitimate submissions that are not nominated for consideration will automatically be reviewed for the SEPA program. Participants are limited to a maximum of TWO submissions as sole or first author. The deadline for competition submission is October 9th, at 6:00 PM Eastern Time.

HOW TO SUBMIT: Persons who are presently Members or Student Affiliate Members of SEPA can submit through the Electronic Submission System (ESS) on the SEPA website at www.sepaonline.com – you must have a valid e-mail address on file with the SEPA office, and your dues must be current before you can use the ESS. Prepare the submission as for any other paper submission. As you begin the submission process, choose “SEPA Graduate Student Research Award” to indicate that your paper should be judged for the SEPA Graduate Student Research Award. Please do not submit research proposals; The study must have been completed. Do not submit manuscripts.

JUDGING and PRESENTATION: Three to four judges will evaluate each abstract. Entries will first be reviewed for acceptability in the Meeting program. Acceptable papers will then be judged in the competition in terms of overall quality, potential importance, and innovation. Authors of all papers deemed to be of special merit will be invited to present their work in a special session. Awards will be announced and cash awards will be presented at the Meeting. Submission implies agreement to present at the SEPA meeting (as is the case with any other accepted submission). Authors of submissions that are not accepted for the special session but that are accepted for the program will be notified in the usual manner, and their names will be listed in the printed program. All winners (and co-authors if they attend the Meeting) must register for the Meeting in the same manner as any other participant. Authors who are selected to present their work in the Graduate Student Research Award paper session will be expected to be present for the awards ceremony.

For additional information contact Medha Talpade - Clark Atlanta University
DEADLINE: October 8th, 6 p.m. Eastern Time
VIA SEPA Electronic Submission System
Report on the 2019 Outstanding Professional Paper Award

The Outstanding Professional Paper Award (OPPA), which is supported by a grant from the American Psychological Association (APA) Science Directorate, seeks to encourage the oral presentation and eventual publication of high-quality scientific research by professional members at the annual meeting. Papers submitted by professional members whose abstracts were judged by the Program Committee to be of particularly high quality were invited to submit their papers for the award competition. Those who agreed to participate submitted an APA-style paper based on their work to the Chair of the OPPA committee, and then presented their work during the OPPA session at the annual meeting. The OPPA committee rated both the paper and the oral presentation to determine the winner of the competition.

The 2019 OPPA committee was chaired by Dr. Andrew Kelly (Georgia Gwinnett College). The other committee members were Dr. Audrey Parrish (The Citadel), Dr. Jennifer Hughes (Agnes Scott College), and Dr. Gail Bell (Agnes Scott College).

Five abstracts were nominated by the Program Committee for consideration in the OPPA competition, and the authors of each agreed to present their papers at the 2019 meeting. The papers included:

- **Preliminary evaluation of a multifaceted suicide prevention program.** Jamie O’Bryant (co-presenter), Spring Hill College, & Mary-Claire Marshall (co-presenter), University of Mobile
- **Predictors of college student GPA and retention.** Heidi Dempsey, Jacksonville State University
- **“Coming out”: Internalized stigmatization, rejection anxiety, and self-monitoring differences.** Christopher Leone (presenter) & Angel Kalafatis, University of North Florida
- **Optimism and wishful thinking: Consistency across populations in children’s expectations.** Christi Bamford (presenter), Jacksonville University, & Kristin Lagattuta, University of California Davis
- **Learner logs and self-regulated learning in multidisciplinary flipped classrooms.** Michelle Robbins (presenter) & Alan Marks, Georgia Gwinnett College

The competition resulted in a unanimous winner. The winner of the 2019 Outstanding Professional Paper Award was Dr. Christi Bamford, Jacksonville University.

For more information or questions about this years award contact Andrew Kelly, Georgia Gwinnett, akelly2@ggc.edu.
Outstanding Professional Paper Award Guidelines

The SEPA Executive Committee, with funding under a grant from the American Psychological Association (APA) Science Directorate, seeks to encourage the oral presentation and eventual publication of high-quality scientific research by professional members at the annual meetings. Since 2000, the APA has provided funding for awards to be given for outstanding scientific papers presented at the annual SEPA meetings. The Outstanding Professional Paper Award (OPPA) comes with a prize of $500.00. Although a single award usually is made, the OPPA Committee has the option of naming co-winners or first-, second-, and third-place winners should the committee judge multiple papers meritorious. (If more than one winner is selected, the $500.00 will be divided between or among them.)

ELIGIBILITY
• The sole or first (senior) author, as described in the APA Publication Manual, needs to be a professional member of SEPA in good standing at the time of the meeting.
• The paper may report empirical research, or it may be theoretical so long as clear empirical foundations exist.
• The paper must be presented orally by the senior author.
• Entry for the Outstanding Professional Paper Award is by nomination only. Eligible authors whose abstracts are judged by the Program Committee to be of particularly high quality will be invited to submit their papers for the award. Those authors who agree to and who do submit their papers one month prior to the meeting will be eligible to be considered for the award.

SUBMISSION and JUDGING
• Submit your abstract via the Electronic Submission System (ESS) by the submission deadline of October 9th, at 6:00 PM Eastern Time.
• Submit only completed research (not in-progress or proposed research).
• Your abstract will be reviewed in the usual manner by the Program Committee.
• Authors of abstracts that meet the eligibility requirements and receive the highest ratings (see above paragraph) will be asked whether they wish to have their papers considered for the Outstanding Professional Paper Award.
• Those authors who wish to have their submissions considered for the award must submit a complete copy of the paper, which will form the basis of their presentation to the chair of the OPPA committee, at least one month prior to the meeting. The text of the paper should be no longer than 12 manuscript pages; additional pages may be used for references, tables, and figures. The entire manuscript should conform to the rules of APA manuscript style.
• Members of the OPPA Committee will attend the author’s presentation, and the committee will consider the quality of both the previously submitted paper and the presentation equally in determining the winner(s).

For additional information contact:
Andrew Kelly, Georgia Gwinnett, akelly2@ggc.edu.
Report on the 2019 Early Career Award

The Early Career Research Award (ECRA) competition was held this year with thirty-one (31) outstanding abstracts submitted. The ECRA Committee selected 6 finalists, who presented oral papers in a special session. Some of the papers represented collaborative work, but the eligible award winners were early career researchers who were the first authors on the submitted research. The following finalists presented their presentations:

John Shelley-Tremblay, University of South Alabama, presiding

Relations Between Sleep, Mental Health, and Grit Among College Students. Ei Hlaing, University of Lynchburg

Maternal Belief and Support Behaviors Following Child Sexual Abuse. David Solomon, Katherine Kane, Samantha Klaver, Aleah Fieret, Western Carolina University, & Daniel Smith, Medical University of South Carolina

African American Male Undergraduate STEM Majors of HBCU: Significant Factors. Carmen Bucknor, Oakwood University

Taking a Knee: Social Dominance, Authoritarianism, and NFL Protest Attitudes. Kelly Jones, Limestone College

Development of a New Measure of Undergraduates’ Perceived Readiness for Life After Graduation. Amy Browne, Georgia Military College, Steven Kohn & Heather Kelley, Valdosta State University

Examination of Facial Emotions Before, During, and After a Texting Demand While Driving. Theodore Smith, Ashfur Rahman, Colten Dore, Xiaoduan Sun, & Lauren Short, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

This year’s winner was Kelly M. Jones from Limestone College with her presentation, “Taking a Knee: Social Dominance, Authoritarianism, and NFL Protest Attitudes.” Congratulations on the outstanding paper and oral presentation!
**Early Career Award Guidelines**

The ECRA is available to professional members of SEPA who are within 7 years of receiving their doctoral degree. To qualify for this award, the applicant must submit an empirical paper three weeks prior to the annual meeting. He or she must be the first author and must be the presenter of this oral paper at the annual meeting. Qualified applicants should indicate on their abstract submission form their eligibility by checking the appropriate box. All eligible applications are sent by the program committee to the Chair of the ECRA committee.

Early Career is defined as having received doctoral degree no more than 7 years prior to the time of the annual meeting.

Empirical paper – Must be an empirical paper.

First author – To be considered for the award, you must be the first author.

Presentation – To be considered for the award, you must be the presenter.

Criteria for Manuscript to be submitted prior to the meeting – Maximum of 17 pages of text (not including - title page, abstract, references, tables, figures). This paper is due by email submission to the award committee chair three weeks before the meeting.
Report on the 2019 Mentor Award

The Mentor Award for SEPA 2019 was determined by a committee chaired by Dr. Michael Beran. The other members included Dr. Al Finch and Dr. Laurie Couch. Each member of the committee ranked the candidates using a standardized set of evaluation questions and an overall evaluation rating. The committee then discussed those ratings and carefully considered the qualifications of the agree-upon top candidates. The committee noted that multiple candidates this year were especially strong and highly deserving of this recognition. The unanimous decision of the committee was that Dr. Randall Engle from Georgia Tech be recognized with the Mentor Award. The award was presented during the reception on March 22, 2019. Dr. Engle was not in attendance but Dr. Tyler Harrison, a former student, accepted the award on his behalf at that time.

Pictured: Randy Engle
Mentor Award Guidelines

Mentor: An experienced and trusted counselor
(Oxford English Dictionary)

Mentoring is a structured and trusting relationship that brings younger professionals or students into contact with experienced faculty members or other professional psychologists who offer guidance, support, and encouragement aimed at developing the knowledge, professional skills, competencies, and character of the younger person. SEPA recognizes the importance of mentoring relationships as vital to the development of psychology graduates and students at all levels. In 2004, SEPA established a Mentor Award with the support of the Education Directorate of the American Psychological Association (APA) and presented the cash award for the first time. The Mentor Award Committee is comprised of the President and President-Elect of the SEPA and the previous recipient. This award will be presented at the Award Reception during the Convention.

SEPA is seeking nominations for the 2020 Mentor Award. Please nominate a SEPA member who has demonstrated exceptional mentoring through some or all of the following activities:

a. Mentoring and teaching undergraduate and graduate students and early career faculty members and professional members
b. Involving students in the annual SEPA meeting
c. Shepherding the careers of students, and especially student members of the SEPA
d. Contributing to the professional development of other mentees

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To nominate a SEPA member for this award, write a nomination letter (typically, one to two pages in length, but that is at your discretion) summarizing the person’s mentoring activities by addressing any or all of the criteria above. Student, colleague, and self-nominations are welcomed, as are multiple letters supporting a single nominee.

Please email your nomination letter to Dr. Laurie Couch, Morehead State University l.couch@moreheadstate.edu.
Past Mentor Award Recipients

2004 - Mike Rulon of Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, Georgia
2005 - Wallace Kennedy of Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida
2006 - Christopher Leone of University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Florida
2007 - Stephen Nowicki of Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia
2008 - Charles Brewer of Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina
2009 - Sandra Willis of Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama
2010 - Susan Walch of University of West Florida, Pensacola, Florida
2011 - Merry Sleigh - Ritzer of Winthrop University, Rock Hill, South Carolina
2012 - Tammy Lowery Zacchilli of Saint Leo University, Saint Leo, Florida
2013 - Christian End of Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio
2014 - Jennifer Hughes, Agnes Scott College, Atlanta, Georgia
2015 - Larry Bates, University of North Alabama, Florence, Alabama
2016 - Mary Utley, Drury University, Springfield, Missouri
2017 - James L. Pate, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia
2018 - Al Finch, The Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina
2019 - Randy Engle, Georgia Institute of Technology
SEPA History Project 2019

The history sessions for the 2019 meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) in Jacksonville, Florida were the usual ones with a modification of the department history symposium. The History of Departments of Psychology in the Southeast Symposium usually includes a paper about the history of the current SEPA president’s institution in the symposium, but a paper about the department of psychology at Georgia State University, Michael Beran’s university, was in the first of these symposia (1993). In addition, an updated history (2010) of that department has been presented. Thus, papers about the contributions of four departments to the SEPA rather than histories of those departments were in the 2019 symposium. Jennifer Friday (Georgia Gwinnett College) presented a paper about the contributions of the department at the University of Tennessee. Stephen H. Hobbs, W. Harold Moon, Deborah South Richardson, and Georgina Hammock (Augusta University) prepared a paper about the contributions of the department at Augusta University. James L. Pate (Georgia State University) presented a paper about the contributions of the department at Georgia State University. A paper about the contributions of the department at the University of Florida was scheduled but was not presented because the author was ill. These papers are part of a larger project involving changes in participation in the SEPA of people from various southeastern universities.

The 2019 Eminent Southeastern Psychologists Symposium, organized by Debra Sue Pate, had papers about four recently deceased charter members of the SEPA. M. Jackson Marr (Georgia Institute of Technology) presented a paper about M. Carr Payne. Lyn Aubrecht (Meredith College) presented a paper about Slater Newman, who was the founder of Southeastern Workers in Memory. James L. Pate (Georgia State University) presented a paper about Wilse B. Webb, who was the senior living past president for many years. Debra Sue Pate (Jackson State University) presented a paper about Wiley Bolden, one of the Africa American charter members of the organization. James L. Pate obtained a large amount of data about past presidents of the SEPA and expanded the president database extensively. Biographical information (e.g., birth date, birth place, death date, and death place) and information about education (e.g., degrees, institutions, and dates) were added to the database, and some of that information was used in developing the historian’s address entitled “SEPA Presidents: Presidential Age and Other Attributes.”

Numerous databases about the SEPA have been created and updated, and some of the information in the databases is identified in this note. Databases about meetings (city, hotel, attendance), programs (number of submissions and acceptances, invited addresses), presidents (name, affiliation, presidential address title), committees (chair, members), and awards (winner, affiliation) are updated each year. An incomplete collection of membership lists by year has been assembled and is updated as documents are located.
Files of digitized programs and proceedings (annual reports of meetings) are maintained, and other documents (e.g., committee reports and minutes) are being digitized. We continue to collect and to organize historical information about the SEPA and about southeastern psychologists. We are creating an archives and history section for the SEPA’s web page that will include photographs, links to many types of information about the SEPA, and a variety of historical items, such as newspaper articles about SEPA meetings.

If you have information that might be of historical interest, particularly about early activities and meetings, please contact one of us. We are particularly interested in photographs of SEPA meeting activities or participants and of SEPA members. If archival papers of a SEPA member are in your library, please give us that information. If you would like to participate in any of the SEPA History Project events, please contact either of us ([pate@gsu.edu](mailto:pate@gsu.edu) or [debra.pate@jsums.edu](mailto:debra.pate@jsums.edu)). You also may send suggestions for improving the SEPA History Project to either of us.

James L. Pate, Georgia State University
Debra Sue Pate, Jackson State University

Past Presidents at 2019 meeting awards ceremony:
The Raymond D. Fowler
Continuing Education Program

We have continued with using a new online system for completing CE evaluation forms. Rather than completing paper forms after each session, attendees now receive one email after the meeting with a link to a survey where they complete all evaluations at one time and can receive their CE certificate electronically. Thank you for your patience as we have worked out the bugs in this system. We hope to make it better every year!

Thank you to all the excellent presenters this past year in Jacksonville for providing a fantastic selection of CE workshops. Please join us for some exciting continuing education programs in New Orleans in April 2020. We hope to be able to offer innovative options.

Do you have an idea for a continuing education workshop? Are you interested in sharing your expertise in a particular area of practice? We are currently looking for strong, innovative workshop presentations for the 2020 SEPA meeting in New Orleans. Topics can include innovative, empirically supported interventions; best assessment practices; ethical issues; supervision; research or statistical methods; teaching; industrial-organizational topics; and many more. Past presenters are always welcome to submit, but we would like to strongly encourage new presenters as well.

If you have an idea for a CE workshop, but are unsure if you should submit, please feel free to contact me for more information. To submit an application, please obtain an application form from the SEPA website. **WORKSHOPS ARE NOT SUBMITTED THROUGH THE ESS LIKE OTHER SUBMISSIONS** If you have difficulty accessing the form, please contact me directly at the information provided on the SEPA website. Completed workshop applications should be emailed directly to the CE Director.

I am also excited to announce that workshop leaders will receive complementary registration to the SEPA meeting, in recognition of their contribution.

We hope to offer a wide variety of interesting and engaging continuing education workshops for the 66th meeting of the SEPA in New Orleans. We look forward to seeing you there!

Jared Keeley, Virginia Commonwealth University
Report on CEPO

What is CEPO? CEPO is a subcommittee of Southeastern Psychological Association, founded in 1972 as the "Committee on the Status of Women." This committee's mission is to promote professional equality for all psychologists, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, or disability. The committee is charged with monitoring and promoting the professional development and participation of women, minorities, and students in the Southeastern Psychological Association. Check out the 2018 Winter Issue of the Eye on Psi Chi for an article about the Ongoing Need for CEPO.

CEPO Programming for 2019 included 10 sessions. The CEPO/SEPA Invited Speaker was Nicole Patton Terry, Ph.D., Florida State University. Her presentation *Dyslexia and Literacy in High-Risk and Diverse Populations: Issues for Low Income African American Students* set the agenda for more interdisciplinary research that is needed to disentangle the academic outcomes of diverse learners. She reminded us that poverty and race are confounded systematically in the US. Teasing apart the interrelations between language, dialect, and poverty is not easy but attempting to answer tough questions may push us forward.
The CEPO Minority Symposium led by Debangshu Roygardner, PhD and Lauren Roygardner, PhD – City University of New York was both interactive and informative. Attendees learned about Hip Hop Discourse, Psychology, and Evaluation: Examining How Hip Hop Youth Programs Develop Social-Emotional Learning and Civic Engagement. We rapped, danced and received new knowledge regarding innovative intervention practices.

CEPO and Psi Chi co-sponsored the APA Women’s Programming Office I am Psyched Exhibit to Jacksonville. SEPA attendees viewed the multiple panels of the exhibit and honored their female mentors who paved the way for them in the discipline.
The CEPO/ Psi Chi Symposium: Gender Issues also served as the “I am Psyched “ Exhibit keynote address. Melanie Domenech Rodriguez, PhD, President of Psi Chi, Utah State University talked about Nurturing an Intersectional Identity. She encouraged the audience to think about all of our identities and charged us not to be color blind but color brave.
Cynthia Zettler-Greeley, PhD, Nemours Foundation led the **Conversation Hour- for Young Professionals.** Her dialogue centered around *Using Psychologists to Best Professionalize the Early Childhood Workforce.* Since states in the Southeast differ regarding their requirements for early childhood (ECE) teachers, it is necessary for psychologists to use research to inform teacher training programs.
Rosemary Phelps, PhD, University of Georgia led the **CEPO Minority Interest Group**. University of Georgia affiliated presenters collaborated to present research related to *Breaking the Silence: Addressing Mental Health Issues in Underrepresented Populations*.

- The Use of Sandtray Therapy with African American Women with Depression. Ecclesia Holmes, University of Georgia.
- Mental Health Experiences of Black Muslim Women. Humama Khan, University of Georgia.
- Mental Health Literacy, Stigma Reduction, and Help-Seeking Among African American Young Adults. Tanisha Pelham, University of Georgia.
- Well-Being in International College Student Populations. Shujing Zhang, University of Georgia.

**In the CEPO Leadership Institute** led by Jenifer Friday, PhD and Rosemary Phelps, PhD attendees learned about their leadership style and how to balance the responsibility that comes along with leadership roles.
CEPO Student Research Awards for Women or Minority Issues included research related to transprejudice, body objectification, cross-cultural feminist beliefs, and race and jury decision making. Rihana S. Mason, PhD and Ecclesia Holmes served as chairs for the session.

• Effects of Individual Differences and Gender Role Nonconformity on Transprejudice. Sarah Branchfield & David Buck, Elon University (1st Place Gender)
• Irish and American Adults’ Religious, Sexual, and Feminist Beliefs. Sydney Strother & Merry Sleigh, Winthrop University (1st Minority)
• Media Influence on African American Women’s Ethnic Identity and Appearance Satisfaction. Katherine Kennon, Jennifer Mcginness, C. Thresa Yancey, & Tasia Pinkston, Georgia Southern University (2nd Gender)
• Body-Dissatisfaction Among College Women: The Role of Grooming and Self-Objectification. Cianna Piercey, James Brophy-Ellison, & Grace White, University of Central Florida
• The Effect of Race and Aggression in Jury Decision Making. Niyyah Bilal Hayes, Sabrina Mold, & Deah Quinlivan, Florida Southern College
The 2019 CEPO/PSI CHI Undergraduate Poster Sessions included 2 sessions that included 215 poster presentations. Student presenters represented 62 institutions. More than half (54%) of student presenters were members of Psi Chi. This year we added a pre-meeting webinar.

This year's submission deadline for the Psi Chi / CEPO poster sessions will be November 24th. You may submit your poster abstracts at this link for review.
2019 CEPO/ Psi Chi Oral Presentations included 4 top scoring abstracts which became oral presentations. Winners are both non-Psi Chi and Psi Chi members.

- **Examining How Research Affects Acceptance into Graduate Social/Developmental Psychology Programs.** Elizabeth Engsberg, Mengyao Li, Cheyenne Goss, Erika McDonnell, & Jennifer Hughes (Faculty Sponsor), Agnes Scott College
- **Empathy, Dehumanization, and Political Ideology.** Jasmine Madjlessi & Jennifer Samson (Faculty Sponsor), Queens University of Charlotte
- **Undergraduate College Students’ Perceptions of Tattoos.** Jazmin Rampassard & Tammy Zacchilli (Faculty Sponsor), Saint Leo University
- **Young Adults’ Humor Judgments, Prejudice and Experience with Discrimination.** Janei Bethea, Markael Dodd, & Merry Sleigh (Faculty Sponsor), Winthrop University

CEPO is organizing programming for New Orleans that will include several state of Louisiana presenters who engage in research that is relevant to nationwide issues like social justice and culturally relevant parenting practices. The SEPA/ CEPO invited address will be given by Dr. Elliott Hammer, John D. LaFarge Endowed Professorship in Social Justice, Xavier University. His talk will be related to how one’s sense of belongingness matters in educational advancement and how some barriers inhibit this sense in marginalized students (first generation and racial minorities).

Did you know that hair combing interactions can be therapeutic? Dr. Marva L. Lewis, Center for Natural Connections, Tulane University, has been invited to lead a CEPO symposium related to multi-site research h collaboration focused on a community partnership approach to deliver programs that promote positive attitudes towards hair-combing interactions.
STUDENT AWARDS FOR RESEARCH ON MINORITIES & WOMEN

“CEPO Student Research Award”
Sponsored by the Committee on Equality of Professional Opportunity

**** This award is NOT the same as the SEPA Graduate Student Research Award
**** This award program is NOT the same as the CEPO/Psi Chi Undergraduate Research Program

CEPO is the Committee on Equality and Professional Opportunity. CEPO was developed as a sub-organization within SEPA to highlight research on women and minorities as under-represented groups. This award offers cash awards to both graduate AND undergraduate students for outstanding research. The awards for research MUST be in the areas of women or minorities. Minorities can include race/ethnicity (e.g., African American, Hispanic, Middle Eastern), sexual orientation (e.g., LBGTQ, asexual), disability, religion (e.g., Muslim, atheist), among others. Examples of acceptable topics include, but are not limited to, the following as are relatable to women and minorities:
• Gender or minority bias in research
• Legal/economic topics
• Gender or minority identity development
• Social & political issues
• Social and relationship topics for gender or minorities
• Social activism
• Physical and mental health issues
• Sex and/or race differences
• Bias in assessment/therapy
• Educational equity/access
• Employment access/equity
• Violence or harassment

AWARDS: The following cash awards will be presented at the SEPA convention: First Place in Women’s Issues - $250 / First Place in Minority Issues - $250 / Second Place Overall - $100
ELIGIBILITY: **Graduate or undergraduate students in psychology or related disciplines are eligible.** A student who is not a member of SEPA may submit an application for membership or be sponsored by a SEPA member. If the paper is co-authored by a faculty member, the student must be the first author as described by the APA Publication Manual and be able to present the paper if it is accepted for the award.

SELECTION CRITERIA: Papers will be selected by a four-person review committee using the following criteria: Excellence in research design, relevance, importance, style, and innovation. Your abstract will be reviewed first followed by an invitation for a paper.

SUBMISSION: If you are interested in having your abstract considered for an award, please submit your abstract (through the Electronic Submission System (ESS). This system is accessible through the SEPA Web site at [www.sepaonline.com](http://www.sepaonline.com) for dues-paid members. Be sure to select “**CEPO Student Research Awards**” TO INDICATE YOUR ABSTRACT SHOULD BE JUDGED FOR THE CEPO STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD (Choose “FOR STUDENTS ONLY” option in the ESS). If your abstract is scored favorably then you will be required to submit a full paper at a later deadline.

ONLY PAPERS MEETING THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS WILL BE REVIEWED:
Please do not submit research proposals; the study must have been completed. You must submit a completed manuscript, 8-10 pages without references) manuscript in APA format (not including title page, references, or tables).

Please do not submit a full-length thesis. Show the title of the paper on the full-length copy, but show no name or institutional affiliation. Make sure not to mention name or institutional affiliation in the text of the manuscript. Papers will be given blind review by the judges, and author information will be available only to the award program chair. Your advisor will be asked to verify that the work is primarily your work. Papers not selected for awards, but deemed appropriate for SEPA presentation, will automatically be considered for the SEPA program. Further program information can be obtained from the Program Chair listed below. The deadline for this competition is October 10, 2017 at 6:00 PM Eastern Time.

CALL FOR JUDGES: Please consider volunteering to serve as a judge for the Student Research Awards, or nominate a colleague who might be interested in serving as a judge. Judges from underrepresented groups are especially needed. Please contact Dr. Mason if you wish to volunteer.

Rihana S. Mason, Ph.D.
Research Scientist, CEPO Chair, Georgia State University
Phone: (404) 413-8247 E-mail: rihana@gsu.edu
SEPA Invited Speakers

SEPA is pleased to announce its invited speakers for the 2020 Annual Meeting in New Orleans. We are excited to have these eminent professionals share their research and insights with us and expect that their talks will appeal to a broad range of SEPA attendees.

Dr. Charles R. Figley – Tulane University

Title of address: What about the Self of the Psychologist? Self Care Sense of Self

Dr. Elizabeth J. Marsh – Duke University

Title of address: TBD

Dr. Jioni A. Lewis – University of Tennessee

Title of address: TBD
Call for Nominations

Our annual SEPA meetings are a great time to network, learn new information, present work we are doing in our chosen areas of psychology, and introduce our students to professional psychology meetings. The organization, however, does not run itself. It needs dedicated individuals who are interested in helping SEPA stay current and continue in its mission to disseminate information about psychological science. With that in mind, please consider nominating yourself or a colleague for one of the positions on the executive committee that will be coming available in 2020:

- President-Elect
- Member-at-Large

Please note that you are free to nominate up to 3 people for each position. The individuals with the most nominations are the ones placed on the ballot, so it is good to be nominated several times.

A list of current executive committee members and past presidents since 2002 is provided below. Although past presidents are not allowed to hold that office a second time, they are allowed to serve on the committee in other roles.

A call for nominations will be sent to SEPA members in September via e-mail and members will use an online link for nominations.

If you have questions please contact Dr. Michael Beran, Election Chair. He may be reached by email at: mberan1@gsu.edu.
Current Executive Committee
Laurie Couch, President
Sharon Pearcy, President-Elect
Michael Beran, Past President
Q. Christopher Qualls, Secretary-Treasurer
James L. Pate, Historian
Debra Sue Pate, Associate Historian
Timothy Hanchon, Administrative Officer
Rihana Mason, CEPO Chair
Kelly Cate, Member-at-Large
Andrew Kelly, Member-at-Large
Medha Talpade, Member-at-Large
Jared Keeley, Director of Continuing Education
Chuck Robertson, Newsletter Editor

Past Presidents Since 2002
2002-2003, Richard D. Tucker
2003-2004, Stephen H. Hobbs
2005-2006, Jean Spruill
2006-2007, Lillian M. Range
2007-2008, Deborah South Richardson
2008-2009, James L. Pate
2009-2010, David Washburn
2010-2011, Patricia Donat
2011-2012, Debra Sue Pate
2012-2011, Steve A. Nida
2011-2014, Georgina S. Hammock
2014-2015, Elise Labbé
2015-2016, Jennifer Hughes
2016-2017, Karen Brakke
2017-2018, Rosemary Phelps
2018-2019, Michael Beran
2019-2020, Laurie Couch
Updates about SEPA

SEPA’s Data Blitz session on Behavioral Neuroscience and Comparative Psychology

At the SEPA meeting in March, we again experimented with a new type of programming format – the data blitz. This format consists of two parts – first, participants each give a 5-minute, 3-slide presentation, as part of an oral paper session. This is a way to introduce and “tease” their later poster presentation on the same topic, so that attendees can identify people (and projects) they would like to learn about in more detail. In 2018, the neuroscience-themed oral session was standing-room-only, and the posters also were well-attended. This year, the Society for Behavioral Neuroscience and Comparative Psychology (Division 6 of APA) teamed up with SEPA to sponsor the data blitz. The oral session was co-chaired by Jessica Turner and Michael Beran of Georgia State University. Thanks to generous donations, there also was a competition for Best Student Presentation as part of this data blitz session. There were many excellent candidates, and so it was a tough decision for the award committee members, Dr. Bonnie Perdue (Agnes Scott College), Dr. David Washburn (Georgia State University), Dr. Tad Patton (Augusta State University), and Dr. Michael Friedman (Piedmont College). The winner was Brielle James (Georgia State University), for her presentation on "Memory Interference in a Chimpanzee During a Food Naming Task." Ms. James received a plaque and a monetary award. SEPA plans to continue this program at future meetings, and if you are interested in organizing a data blitz on a topic area, please contact the organizers or any of the Executive Committee members.

Dr. Bonnie Perdue (Agnes Scott College) presenting the award to Brielle James (Georgia State University)
Grad School Workshops

This year at the 65th annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association in Jacksonville, FL, graduate student Brielle James organized two successful graduate school workshops. Both workshops featured graduate student panelists from various programs and universities, in various stages of their education. The first workshop, Insights to Applying and Transitioning to Graduate School, involved an hour-long discussion about how to successfully prepare for the graduate school application process and forthcoming transition into graduate student life. The panelists also answered numerous questions from the large undergraduate audience about how to decide which graduate programs to apply to, contact professors, and have a successful gap year – among other topics. The workshop was very well attended by 50+ prospective and admitted graduate students, with the room eventually becoming standing room only!

The second workshop, Insights for Positive Mental Health in Graduate School, was held the following day. Panelists discussed the common challenges and stressors of graduate school and coping strategies to help deal with stress and improve mental health. Panelists reflected on how imposter syndrome has affected them throughout graduate school and shared with the audience their personal strategies for finding effective work-life balance and self-care practices. The panelists did an excellent job of mentoring future graduate students through this session with honesty and practical advice, especially given that they are still navigating academia themselves as students! Thank you to this year’s workshop panelists – Stephanie Baumann, Alesha Bond, Megan Capodanno, Molly Flessert, and Kelly Rootes-Murdy from Georgia State University, Farah Aslanzadeh and Julia Brechbiel from Virginia Commonwealth University, and Jan-Louw Kotze from the University of South Alabama – for all of their time and insight during these two workshops. We hope to include panels such as these in future SEPA programs to better help undergraduate students understand and prepare for the process of getting into graduate school, and graduate students thrive better while in graduate school.
**Twitter**

We finally have a twitter account. Please follow @the_SEPA.

https://twitter.com/the_SEPA

#Hashtags are welcome and encouraged. We suggest #SEPA20 for the 2020 meeting in New Orleans.

**Facebook**

Like and Follow SEPA on Facebook for updates and reminders.

https://www.facebook.com/Southeastern-Psychological-Association-112672366447717/

**InstaGram**

Enjoy photos or our hard work and fun by following SEPA's insta:

https://www.instagram.com/the_sepa/

**Make your plans for Future SEPA meetings**

SEPA 67th Annual Meeting  
Orlando, Florida  
Doubletree by Hilton at the entrance to Universal Orlando  
March 17th-20th, 2021

SEPA 68th Annual Meeting  
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina  
The Hilton Head Marriott Resort and Spa  
March 23rd – 26th, 2022