



Academy of Family Psychology Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 1

December, 2002

President's Message

Theme statement, New officers, and 110th Annual APA Convention
By Frank R. Ezzo, Ph.D., ABPP

The purpose of the Academy of Family Psychology, as stipulated in the Constitution and By-Laws, is to advance Family Psychology as a science, and as a means of promoting family welfare. Specifically, the Academy:

- a) supports research and the expansion of the database of Family Psychology;
- b) enhances communication among its members;
- c) provides continuing education programs;
- d) disseminates information to the public about the

Family Psychology.

My initiative for the next two years will focus on what I call the three M's: Marketing, and Mobilizing the Members of the Academy to promote our specialty, now formally recognized by APA as a specialty. To this end, your elected officers, who volunteer their time and energy, have already started to explore conducting a workshop at the next APA Convention in Toronto. We will also begin to explore regional conferences through the regional state associations, and distance learn-

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- e) specialty;
- e) supports the functions of the American Board of Family Psychology as an affiliated board of the American Board of Professional Psychology;
- f) provides a voice for the specialty within the profession of psychology;
- g) contributes to the establishment and implementation of policy decisions within the specialty, and;
- h) assists the development of the professional practice of

ing through the internet. I am also pleased to inform you that Florence Kaslow will be conducting a Summer Workshop in Family Psychology sponsored by Harvard. Harvard has kindly agreed to also advertise this workshop as suitable preparation for the diplomate examination in Family Psychology.

Historically, the work of the Academy has fallen on a few dedicated members, and the officers, who generously donate their time to the goals of

the Academy of Family Psychology. I would like the success of my presidency to be measured, not by what I and the other officers accomplish, but rather on what you, the members, accomplish in promoting the specialty of Family Psychology and the diplomate process. To this end, I encourage you to conduct workshops in Family Psychology and its sub-specialties, always mindful of promoting the ABPP in Family Psychology. Suggest-

(Continued on page 5)

Editor's Notes

By John Thoburn, Ph.D., ABPP

The day I received notification that I had attained board certification in family psychology was a joyous one, the thrill only topped by the receipt of my state license. The import and significance of the achievement was not lost on me. I ecstatically emailed a friend, also an ABPP, to share the good news and he immediately emailed back "Congratulations!" and, "You know, John, you need to get involved - how would you like to edit the newsletter?" In my euphoric state I replied, "sure, why not," without really knowing what that entailed. Within five minutes of being board certified, I had a job with ABPP!

The reality is, I don't have

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

time to edit the AbFam Newsletter, but, quite honestly, that's not a good enough reason not to do it. I believe that board certification is an important milestone in one's professional career, and I intend to support and promote it among my colleagues, even if it cuts into my time. I want to encourage you to do the same.

Family Psychology has recently taken its place among the specialty areas of psychology, and rightfully so. The basic tenet that persons are shaped by contextual factors has had sweeping implications

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both in research and practice. The inroads being made in treatment theory, especially the intersection of neurobiology, psychodynamic therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy and evolutionary psychology could not have happened without a systems paradigm for understanding how these modalities and disciplines are part of a larger whole. What is needed now is to solidify family psychology's place in the specialty pantheon and AbFam is an important part of that process. We all need to become enthusiastic promoters of Ab-

Fam and help our colleagues a) understand the importance of becoming board certified, b) help educate the public on the value of seeing clinicians who are board certified, and c) encourage and aid our colleagues in the process of board certification.

I hope that you share my enthusiasm for the American Board of Family Psychology. The stronger we grow, the stronger the field will grow as we endorse competent clini-

Board of Trustees Report

By Florence Kaslow, Ph.D., ABPP

The seeds that we have planted during the past six years have definitely blossomed. The number of candidates taking and passing the family psychology exam, both in the senior track and the regular track has escalated and we have top-notch candidates coming through. As I write this column I have just learned that Lenore Walker passed her exam recently as did Ron Levant, John Thoburn, Mark Stanton, and Art Freeman in the past few months. We cordially welcome this distinguished group of family psychologists and look forward to their becoming active in the Academy and on the Board. (My apologies to anyone whose name I have inadvertently left out. Please send these to me for inclusion next time.)

We are now trying to cluster most of the exams at two times of the year – one in February or March in conjunction with our midwinter Board meeting, which will again be held in

Philadelphia in early March, and the other in August at APA in Toronto. Of course other times and locations will be set if necessary.

Those in the early phases of the application process can contact Dr. Bob Aylmer, Chair of the Mentors Committee, if

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they wish to request a mentor, at raylmer@fullerton.edu or (714) 278-3040.

ABPP is focusing on being more member and applicant friendly, facilitating Board activities and increasing the diversity of those who become Board Certified. I serve on ABPP's Diversity Committee and am pleased that Division #43 is making a similar push through its active Diversity Committee.

The various Boards now seem to work in much greater unison than was the case several years ago. ABPP is definitely alive and well and thriving just as is the AbFamP, now under the able leadership of Marsali Hansen. It's great to know that being Board Certified has become increasingly important in a variety of settings in the real world. ■

Practice Enhancement

By A. Rodney Nurse, Ph.D., ABPP

American Board of Family Psychology

By J. Frank Batkins

(Continued from page 1)

tions would be to conduct a workshop at your local and state association meeting, write an article for your state's publication, and simply encourage colleagues with the requisite training and experience to pursue the ABPP in Family Psychology. I, and the other Academy officers, will be available for consultation and recommendations as you plan your strategies. As one concrete example, the ABPP Central Office and the Academy can provide you with brochures that outlines the board certification process in Family Psychology.

To promote and stimulate member involvement, we will have a CONTEST. The Academy member who recruits the most candidates for the ABPP in Family Psychology who progresses to the candidacy level (i.e., work sample accepted and examination pending) will have their state association dues (not to exceed \$200) paid for one year by the Academy of Family Psychology. Current Academy officers and American Board of Family Psychology Members cannot enter this CONTEST. Therefore, keep me informed about your recruiting prospects. Remember, a mentoring program is available to assist those who have passed the credential review. Names of your "recruits" will be kept confidential.

THE ACADEMY AND THE 110th ANNUAL APA CONFERENCE

Family Psychology is now recognized by APA as a specialty. Many Family Psychologists contributed to this ac-

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

accomplishment with the Council for the Recognition of Specialties and Proficiencies in Psychology (CRSPP) petition. One psychologist, however, can be singled out as the major contributor to this process, Roberta Nutt, Ph.D. Dr. Nutt was recognized for her major role in this process by the Academy of Family Psychology. Pat Pitta, Ph.D., now past president of the Academy, presented Dr. Nutt with a certificate of appreciation. From the work of Dr. Nutt and others we all now benefit from Family Psychology's recognition as a specialty by APA.

The ABPP 55th Convocation welcomed eight new diplomates in Family Psychology: Arthur M. Bodin, Ph.D.; Arthur Freeman, Ed.D.; Anne E. Kazak, Ph.D.; Ronald F. Levant, Ph.D.; Rory Remer, Ph.D.; John W. Thoburn, Ph.D.; Maryanne Watson, Ph.D.; and Beatrice L. Wood, Ph.D. Congratulations for your accomplishments, and welcome to the Academy.

Michael Gottlieb, Ph.D. conducted a workshop on the ABPP examination preparation. Participants found it helpful and meaningful for the examination preparation. Thanks and appreciation to Dr. Gottlieb for conducting this workshop pro bono.

A CHANGING OF GUARDS: NEW OFFICERS

The Academy would like to thank past president, Pat Pitta, Ph.D. for her leadership role during her two year tenure as President. An expression of gratitude is also extended to Ben Ferguson, Ph.D. for his work and contributions as past

Treasurer and past editor of the Newsletter.

It is now my pleasure to introduce the Academy's new officers:

President-Elect:

John Northman, Ph.D. has a full time private practice and is a Clinical Associate in Psychology at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Dr. Northman specializes in child custody evaluations. He has authored many articles and is a frequent presenter at conferences and symposiums. In 1991 he was asked by APA to participate in the creation of national guidelines for psychologists who perform child custody evaluations, and APA adopted the resulting guidelines in 1994. The American, New York State, and Western New York Psychological Associations have awarded Dr. Northman honors for his professional work six times since 1992.

He has actively participated in governance of psychology at the local, state and national levels. During 2001 he served as President of the New York State Psychological Association.

Secretary and Web Master:

William D. Lax, Ph.D. is a Vice President and Senior Project Manager at Vermont Technology Partners in Brattleboro, Vermont. He has been involved with Internet projects since 1995 and currently specializes in technology consultations and website development to the healthcare providers. He is a former faculty member and Associate Chairperson at Antioch New England Graduate School, where he taught family therapy for 18 years.

Note: Drs. Northman and Lax are also co-chairs of the Con-

tinuing Education Committee. Treasurer:

Charles G. Guyer, Ed.D. is in private practice in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. In addition to the Diplomate in Family Psychology, Dr. Guyer also is a Diplomate in Counseling Psychology. He is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis. He is past chair of the ethics committee of the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis and past recipient of the Irving I. Sector Award for the Advancement of the Science and practice of Clinical Hypnosis. Dr. Guyer is a past president of the Academy of Family Psychology and of the Academy of Counseling Psychology. We welcome Dr. Guyer for his "second round" of service to the Academy of Family Psychology.

Newsletter Editor:

John W. Thoburn, Ph.D. has been a practicing therapist for 18 years and psychologist for 8 years. Dr. Thoburn has been married for 24 years with 21 year old son and 15 year old daughter. He is an associate professor for clinical psychology at Seattle Pacific University.

As your elected officers we will work for you in advancing the causes of the Academy of Family Psychology. We invite your participation and comments, and look forward to the next two years of service to the Academy. As the practice and science of Family Psychology has evolved to specialty recognition by APA, The Academy needs your participation with recruitment of new diplomate candidates, and we solicit your ideas and comments. ■

