

# THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF COUPLE & FAMILY PSYCHOLOGY

## AACFP Newsletter

<http://acfamp.org/newsletter.html>

### A Message From The President: "Reflections"

By Melton Strozier, Ph.D., ABPP,  
President, AACFP

My earliest work with families presented me with issues that my traditional education did not address. During my doctoral program I worked part-time in a local community counseling center. A family came in consisting of a mother, son, and stepfather. The chief complainant was the stepfather. He said that he was tired of all the "fussing and fighting" going on between the mother and son, and he wanted me to "fix them."

I knew I could do that. I had been trained in parenting models and communication skills and I knew all I had to do was teach them how to communicate and resolve conflicts properly and all would be well. This was the kind of case neophyte therapists love to get - a no-brainer with YAVIS clients. We scheduled appointments and I met with the mother and son regularly, attending diligently to the assigned task to "fix" them and reduce the conflict between the two. We dealt with parenting skills and communication and conflict negotiation and resolution skills. They made good progress in a short period of time. After a number of weeks they seemed to be getting along well together and all was as it should be.

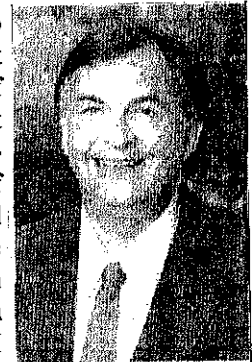
We went several weeks without an appointment. Then, the three showed up again in my office with a new complaint. This time the mother voiced the problem. She told me that I needed to "fix" her husband and son's relationship.

In an eerie restatement of the presenting problem which echoed the first visit, she told me that her husband and son were fussing and fighting and she needed me to "fix them". I was fascinated. The description of the issue was exactly the same, but the roles had completely shifted. It seemed remarkable to me that this had happened. Even more remarkable was the fact that no one in the family seemed aware that the new problem was the same as the first one, but with a shift in roles from conflict between the mother and son with the stepfather playing rescuer to conflict between the stepfather and son with the mother playing rescuer. How had this happened? What was going on?

I sought out a professor who had a strong family systems orientation. He laughed at me when I described the process in my confused manner and introduced me to the basics of systems dynamics. The professor helped me craft an intervention strategy that focused on the process rather than the content of the family's dynamics. I would love to be able to say that the treatment was remarkable but that was a very longtime ago and I remember the aha! moment of discovery more readily than the rest of the story.

The thirty five years after this first experience have continued to be a wonderful process of learning about families. That brings me to this most recent cherished experience of serving as your Academy president.

It is hard to believe that four years of involvement in the Academy of Couple and Family are coming to a completion for me. I served two years as president-elect, and am completing two years as president. I will still have two years as past president, but that doesn't involve the chance to write in this venue. I will be on sabbatical later this year, so I thought I would say a few words now about my experience.



Melton Strozier, Ph.D., ABPP,  
President, AACFP

I think of two things when I reflect on ABCFP/AACFP - the mission and the people. First, the mission. Promoting the practice and science of family psychology is a noble task and one accomplished quite handily by ABPP, the Board and Academy of Couple and Family Psychology, the Society of Family Psychology (43), and other groups who are like minded. Many of those of us who are from the "older generation" were trained in traditional clinical or counseling psychology programs while we also did training in family therapy, sometimes parallel or subsequent to our doctoral programs. We were largely left to our own devices to struggle with the integration of

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THE AMERICAN BOARD OF COUPLE & FAMILY PSYCHOLOGY

Brief Description of Specialty

Intervention and assessment in Couple and Family Psychology embracing the total family system including individuals, couples, families, and the intergenerational systems.

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## ABPP Approves Consideration Of Subspecialties

Florence Kaslow, Ph.D., ABPP  
ABC FP Representative to ABPP Board of Trustees

### Long ago and far away

Before the existence of Division 43 of APA, ABCFP and AACFP there was the Academy of Psychologists in Marital, Family and Sex Therapy. Out of this pioneer group came the initial leadership who formed the Division and later the American Board of Family Psychology. But, the sex therapy aspect seems to have vanished. Both our Board and Academy believe it is now time to bring this back to the forefront in an updated and expanded form, as an important part of what many couple and family psychologists do. For the time being, we are calling the potential subspecialty Clinical Sexology.



Florence Kaslow, Ph.D., ABPP

For subspecialties to come into being in a form ABPP will recognize, ultimately they must come from and through an existing Specialty Board. Thus, as the ABCFP representative to the Board of Trustees, and someone very interested in promoting this development now, I have proposed we form a Special Interest Group (SIG) under Academy auspices in Clinical Sexology/Human Sexuality of those Diplomates with expertise and great interest in this domain. This proposal has been accepted and we are ready to move ahead. Some of you have published key texts and professional books on sex therapy. Others direct major training programs. We need your involvement and you need to know you definitely have a home as a well respected Board Certified Couple and Family Psychologist.

It is intended that out of this SIG will come the draft of the document to be revised and submitted by the Board and Academy to ABPP for this subspecialty to be recognized. It will define educational background and practice experience necessary within the foundational and functional competency model now being utilized by ABPP and APA.

Much remains to be fleshed out and determined. If you are interested in being part of this SIG, please let me know by January 30, 2010, before our mid-winter joint Board/Academy meeting. Initially we will communicate by email and hopefully, we can have our first SIG meeting at APA in San Diego in August 2010. If this newsletter reaches you after the January due date, please respond anyway so that you can be included.

Direct responses to:  
drfkaslow@bellsouth.net

## A Distinguished ABCFP Diplomate Honored

In August 2009, at the American Psychological Foundation Awards Ceremony, ABCFP Diplomate Dr. Anne Kazak was the recipient of the \$50,000 APF Cummings PSYCHE Prize. Dr. Kazak is a psychologist at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and professor and director of psychology research at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics. She is immediate past editor of the Journal of Family Psychology and a former member of the American Board of Couple & Family Psychology.

Dr. Kazak plans to use her award to further develop health-care information for patients, families and providers of services. This includes a book on the integration of psychological science and practice in pediatrics and setting up a Web site that will offer continuing education for physicians, nurses, and psychologists on trauma care for children.

At the APA Convention in 2010 Ann will be one of the panelists on the Masters in Family Psychology panel chaired by Dr. Florence Kaslow, ABCFP representative to the ABPP Board of Trustees and on which Dr. Nadine Kaslow, ABPP President, will be the discussant. The program is sponsored by the Society of Family Psychology (Division #43).

Congratulations, Anne! This honor is well deserved and we are all so very proud of you.

## Report from ABPP

ABPP is moving head to implement many of the ideas and plans generated at the Board of Trustees meeting in December 2009 as well as their subsequent monthly Executive Committee Meetings. The web site is up and running and Tom Sexton, a current member of the ABCFP Board, is our Board's contributing webmaster. Another website, set up by Academy President Melton Strozier is maintained by the Academy. Both websites are updated fairly regularly so please visit them as often as you can.

As you will see elsewhere in the newsletter ABPP is sponsoring and hosting a number of workshops in Portland, Oregon from July 6 - 10. These will provide an opportunity to mix and interact with other psychologists interested in continually learning and staying up to date in our specialty and other, psychologists interested in pursuing Board Certification in difference specialties; a stellar, carefully selected faculty and ABPP Board of Trustees members. It should prove an energizing and worthwhile experience for all.

Various new outreach projects are underway to publicize to all psychologists why they should pursue Board Certification and

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## Reflections

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traditional individual psychology with family systems and family therapy. There were early mentors among us, though, who helped influence us toward this integration. My mentor at the Houston/Galveston Family Institute, Don Williamson, did so for me and for a number of others who are now in leadership positions in family psychology. I well remember buying the first reference books in which Luciano L'Abate coined the term, "Family Psychology." They still sit on my shelf. I remember going to my first workshop with Florrie Kaslow and watching as she ran a demonstration of a couple's therapy group from a systems approach. I remember when efforts were successful in creating Division 43 in APA, now called the Society of Family Psychology, and recently celebrating its 25th birthday. How far we have come in my lifetime, moving unsteadily through our early theories of working with family systems, until we reached this place. We have far to go still. But I feel as though the idea that the focus of psychology should be upon the biology, psychology, and relationships of humans is on solid ground and pretty mainstream now.

For anyone who is able to see how important this integration is, how impossible it is to split out these three major areas of human behavior, and how essential it is to work in the integrative biopsychosocial web, I urge you to be a part of the Board and Academy of Couple and Family Psychology. These are right and good places to be.

That brings me to the second focus of my reflection the people. The people who belong to and work in this field are so extraordinary that I still cannot believe it has been my privilege to serve with them for this time. Thanks to Florrie Kaslow who nominated and supported me, to John Thoburn who mentored me in all things related to the duties and responsibilities of the president of the Academy, and to each Academy officer for their service - Lenore Walker, Andy Benjamin, Charles Guyer, Charles Huber, and Rod Nurse. Their dedication and commitment to our endeavors has been invaluable. If you are considering casting your lot with those who lead us regarding family psychology, these and many other very fine psychologists will be your comrades in arms. That's a pretty impressive group. Thanks again for the privilege to serve.



## MENTORING

**Mentoring is helping qualified colleagues prepare their application, theoretical paper and work sample, and to prepare for examination.**

**If you would like to be more fully and formally involved in the very satisfying mentoring process, please forward your name to Dr. Melton Strozier at**

**strozier\_am@mercer.edu**

## Distinguished Service and Contribution to the American Board of Professional Psychology Award (Established in 2006 as the Russel J. Bent Award)

Florence W. Kaslow, Ph.D., ABPP

### 2010 Recipient Award

Florence Kaslow Ph.D. ABPP will receive the American Board of Professional Psychology's highest award, the Russell J. Bent Award at the San Diego APA conference. The ceremony will be on Saturday August 14th.

There are few psychologists who represent the heart and soul of psychology, especially family psychology and are more dedicated to specialization through the ABPP process than Dr. Kaslow. I first met Dr. Kaslow as my Professor at the University of Pennsylvania. I found her to be exceptional in that she not only assiduously made certain that we knew and understood theory and basic concepts, but also took great pains to demonstrate their application to clinical practice. After receiving my doctorate, I met up with her at my first APA convention and without skipping a beat she introduced me to key psychologists and helped me gain access to key committees and projects. She also encouraged me to write in specific journals and guided me in selecting relevant topics. Later, she offered me co-authorship in some of her own works, which aided me in developing future writing ventures.

As I became more active in APA I watched as Dr. Kaslow mentored other psychologists in writing and professional activities, and more importantly, she steadily maintained and expanded her own publishing and committee work. Whether in the Society for Family Psychology, the American Board of Couple & Family Psychology (ABCFP), or the American Academy of Couple and Family Psychology, she has been consistently active in advancing key projects, including the careers of others and following through with the more mundane day-to-day work whether as President, Committee Chair, or dedicated colleague. Her willingness to take the initiative, collaborate in careful planning and do the hard work required to successfully achieve a goal have made her a model to literally hundreds of her colleagues.

Dr. Kaslow is one of the most well-rounded psychologists and prolific authors in the field. She is a master clinician, widely sought after for her couple and family work, especially for her emphasis on family businesses. She has been a consultant to many corporate, nonprofit, academic, professional, and government organizations. She has been an academic Dean and Professor at distinguished universities, and is known for her concise, affable, and informative style as a public speaker. She has worked internationally in dozens of countries, and regularly hosts foreign psychologists at APA conventions. One of her most valuable and notable contributions is working with both survivors of the holocaust and families of the perpetrators. I am constantly amazed at the breadth of her writing and involvement in nearly every area of family, forensic, clinical, training, and

many of the subspecialties of psychology. She writes originally, simply, and perceptively, as sole author and also with noted authors and early career professionals.

Dr. Kaslow is a Diplomate in Clinical, Couple & Family, and Forensic Psychology and a current Board member of ABPP. She has consistently been either President or a member of the ABCFP since its inception, served as its regional coordinator and examiner, and contributes regularly to its bulletin. She has undoubtedly been responsible for more of its diplomates than any other individual, and believes that Board certification is essential to specialty practice, constantly inventing creative ways to bring new members into the process.

Her activities in APA include Fellow in six divisions, past President of three divisions, member and chair of multiple committees and she currently serves on the Council of Representatives. She has presented regularly at summer ABPP and APA continuing education seminars and has been an invited speaker by AAMFT and other many professional organizations and universities. She has also had a popular radio show broadcast internationally on psychological topics of general interest. She is well known for all of the qualities mentioned above, and every one with whom she comes into contact knows that Dr. Kaslow will speak thoughtfully and incisively and participate actively in a most collegial manner. I know of no other psychologist more deserving of this award than Dr. Kaslow.

Terry Patterson, Ed.D., ABPP.

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As you will see from what is written below, Dr. Kaslow is not a 'do what I say' kind of person, but a 'do what I do' kind. Her work ethic is second to none and her output in the field prodigious. Dr. Kaslow is currently in practice as a psychologist, family business consultant, and coach in Palm Beach County, Florida where she is president of Kaslow Associates. She is director of the Florida Couples and Family Institute, and a visiting professor of psychology at Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne. In 2007 she was appointed a clinical professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Mercer University Medical School, Macon, Georgia.

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Florence Kaslow, Ph.D., ABPP

## Guidelines for Representing Certification by the ABPP

The ABPP confers board certification upon the recommendation by the relevant Specialty Board. As such, the "ABPP" certificate itself indicates the particular specialty. The "ABPP" is considered an earned credential and may follow the degree designation of the specialist.

The ABPP Board of Trustees supports clear and simple designation of board certification status, which will ensure that the credential is understood by the public. Toward that end, the preference is for the following format:

- Jane Doe, Ph.D., ABPP  
Board Certified in Clinical Psychology

For individuals who have more than one board certification from ABPP, the following format is recommended:

- Jane Doe, Ph.D., ABPP  
Board Certified in Clinical Psychology and Forensic Psychology

For individuals who also hold a board certification other than ABPP, in order to clarify the ABPP board with which one is affiliated, the following format is recommended:

- Jane Doe, Ph.D., ABPP
- Board Certified in Clinical Psychology
- ABFE Certified in Forensic Examination

*Please note: when individuals wish to indicate a board certification other than ABPP, it is recommended that the additional board certification is placed on an additional signature line, as indicated above.*

ABPP may be spelled-out if desired. ABPP is a "brand name" which is readily recognized by the profession. Abbreviated designations of certification such as ABCFP or ABCP should not be used.

## Why I Became A Diplomate In Couple And Family Psychology

Chris Tobey, Ph.D., ABPP  
(New Couple & Family ABPP)

I have always considered myself a lifelong learner and I have enjoyed intellectual curiosity and the stimulation that is accompanied with such inquisitiveness. The pursuit of board certification in Couple and Family psychology was another opportunity in along these lines. I appreciated that the examination process required diligence, thought and focus. I found the oral examination, the culmination of the board certification process, as an opportunity to sit with other psychologists and share my perspective on various aspects of the paradigm of systems theory and family psychology. I personally found the experience challenging and rewarding.

I have fond memories of a mentor saying "If it were easy everyone would do it." It is not a difficult process but it does as I said require focus, thought and diligence. I not only enjoyed the process but I have enjoyed being involved in the academy and becoming acquainted with other psychologists from across the country. I believe these new professional friendships will further nurture my inquisitiveness.

I encourage other psychologists to take the time to become board certified in family psychology. It is well worth the time and diligence.

## ABCFP President's Column Summer 2010

*Couple and Family Psychologists in particular will relish ...*

Rod Nurse, Ph.D., ABPP

this year's ABPP Convocation at the APA annual convention. Our own Florence W. Kaslow, PhD, will receive the 2010 ABPP award for Distinguished Service and Contribution to the American Board of Professional Psychology (established in 2006 as the Russell J. Bent Award). So here I add my own voice to that of many colleagues calling your attention to the convocation Saturday, August 14, at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel, Elizabeth Ballroom G, 1 Market Place, San Diego, from 2 PM to 3:50 PM.

I have been privileged to know and work with "Florrie" since before family psychology was accepted into the APA fold as a division in the mid-1980s. In the late 1980's she served as the Division's Secretary and then President. 1990 was a seminal year for her and for family psychology: first, she served as one of those founding our specialty within ABPP; second, her crucial two volume work, *Voices in Family Psychology* (Sage), was published, but in recent years has garnered less attention. For *Voices* she organized chapters from our field's developers up to then, creatively organizing them as from four generations: I, *Pioneers and Renegades—Pre-1969*; II, *Innovators and Expanders—1969-1976*; III, *The Challengers, Refiners, and Researchers, 1977—1982*; and IV, *Integrators and Seekers of New Horizons, from 1983 into the future*. *Voices* has tended to be eclipsed by her subsequent, significant publications, such as *The Handbook of Relational Diagnosis* (Wiley) which she edited, and the series of books edited by her on *Couple and Family Dynamics and Treatment* (Wiley). Her *Voices'* two volumes were essential in structuring our field's early identity. This was at a time when there were far fewer contributors to and builders of family psychology as such than at present.

Many of us have known "Florrie" through her tireless, energetic organizational activities, including as President of ABCFP and more recently as ABCFP Board Representative (her terms end this year). Also many of us, including me, owe her an undying debt of gratitude for her personalized, encouraging, and warm but tough mentoring. I do hope every reader of this column who attends the APA convention in San Diego will celebrate "Florrie" by their presence at the ABPP Convocation.

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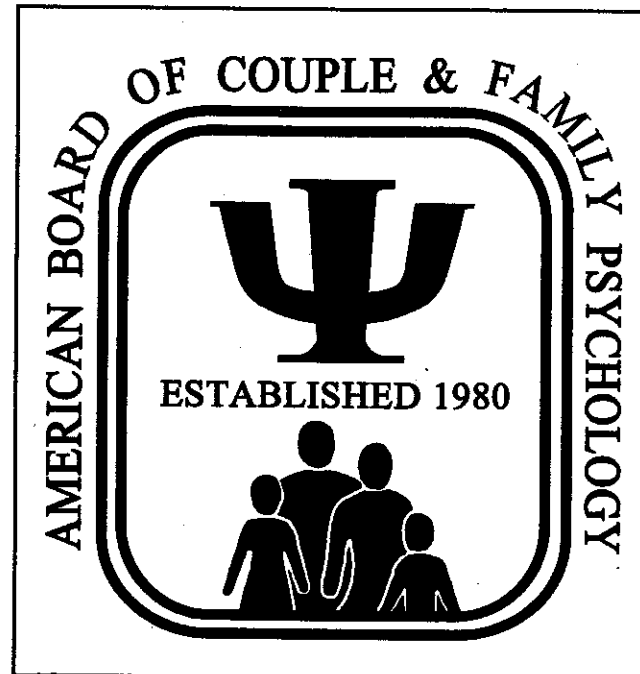
I would like to mark this year as the only one (within my memory) in which the Boards of Directors of ABCFP, the AACFP, and the Society for Family Psychology met in the same place and time for our mid-winter business meetings. Along with each Board meeting separately to carry on business as our Bylaws require, a broader intent was to also meet together to strengthen cooperation in working toward common goals. The

catalyst for this meeting in the larger group this year was the urgent need for a meeting of a separate new Work Group (composed almost entirely of members of the three groups at the midwinter), developed under the auspices of the Family Psychology Specialty Council (FPSC). This Work Group had been formed to develop an application whose acceptance would allow for full APA accreditation of doctoral programs in family psychology. (Facing realities of various sorts it seems to some of us that full accreditation goal may need to be modified for now so that family psychology might call for some interim steps, for example, a combined program with clinical, counseling, or school psychology. John Thoburn (President of the Society), Melton Strozier (President of AACFP), and I were central in organizing this meeting. Terry Patterson is Chair of the Work Group, which was formed out of efforts of Michele Harway, President of FPSC, and others. Thanks to John, Melton, Terry, Michele, and others within our groups for their efforts in making this meeting possible. I believe we have a pattern that in occasional years ahead might prove useful to consider.

Rod



A. Rodney Nurse, Ph.D., ABPP



## Distinguished Service and Contribution to the American Board of Professional Psychology Award

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Dr. Kaslow has been a board member of APA Division 41, *Psychology and Law* and she is past president of both Division 43, the Society for Family Psychology and Division 46, Media Psychology. Dr. Kaslow is board certified in clinical, family, and forensic psychology by the American Board of Professional

Psychology and was president of both the American Board of Forensic Psychology and the American Board of Family Psychology. She is a fellow of seven American Psychological Association divisions and of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT).

Dr. Kaslow established many firsts in the field. She was among the handful of pioneering psychologists who, in 1984, established Division 43 of the American Psychological Association, the Society for Family Psychology and served as its third president, establishing the *Journal of Family Psychology* during her tenure. She established and served as the first president of the American Board of Forensic Psychology a specialty of the American Board of Professional Psychology. She served as president of the International Family Therapy Association (IFTA) and was instrumental in the adoption of the *Journal of Family Psychotherapy* as its official journal. She initiated and was co-director of the PhD/JD program in psychology and law that Hahnemann co-sponsored with Villanova Law School.

Dr. Kaslow has authored or co-authored extensively; her books include, *Voices in Family Psychology* Vols. 1 and 2; *Projective Genogramming*; *Handbook of Relational Diagnosis and Dysfunctional Family Patterns*; *Painful Partings: Divorce and Its Aftermath*; *Handbook of Couple and Family Forensics: A Sourcebook for Mental Health and Legal Professionals*; *Together Through Thick and Thin: A Multinational Picture of Long-Term Marriages*; *Comprehensive Handbook of Psychotherapy*; *Welcome Home: An International and Nontraditional Adoption Reader*; *Handbook of Family Business and Family Business Consultation: A Global Perspective and the Handbook of EMDR and Family Therapy Processes*.

The above, for which Dr. Kaslow has received many honors over the years from APA, APF and ABPP are all significant achievements and a worthy legacy, but Dr. Kaslow's real legacy is not so much in what she has created, but in whom she has invested - her zealous commitment to mentoring the next generation of psychologists in family, forensics and international work. The men and women she has trained and influenced are now in key leadership positions in media, international, family and forensic research, practice, education and policy making. She has a knack for bringing out the best in the people around her, mainly because she asks no less than the best and she doesn't ask

anything of anyone that she isn't willing to do herself. I can think of no person who has given more service to the profession, who cherishes our field more and in doing so has helped countless numbers.

John Thoburn, Ph.D., ABPP

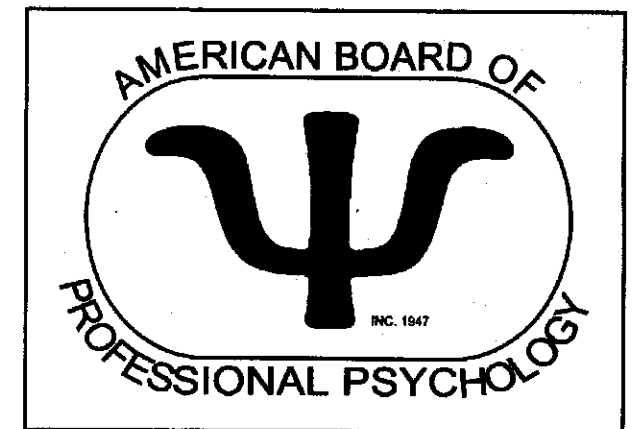
## Report from ABPP

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to persuade them of the importance of the process and of acquiring and utilizing the credential. Overtures are being made to doctoral students, interns, residents, early and mid-career psychologist and seniors. More specifically, ABCFP continues to renew and update its Senior Track and is still offering a two for the price of one "special" for new applicants until the end of the year.

This year the second annual meeting with training directors will take place at the ABPP suite at APA. We have also established an Ambassadors Task Force to help with recruiting, publicizing, public relations and fostering more appreciation of the value of having an ABPP to the individual as well as its criticality to the field of psychology and the institutions and public we serve.

The leadership of both ABCFP and AACFP look forward to meeting you and greeting you at the Convocation on Saturday, August 14; from 2:00 p.m. - 3:40 p.m. at the Manchester Hyatt - Elizabeth Ballroom G. This was the space assigned us by BCA of APA - not our choice. Please join us and introduce yourself as we'd like to know y'all.



## Editor's Notebook: Odds & Ends

*Charles G. Guyer II, Ed.D., ABPP*

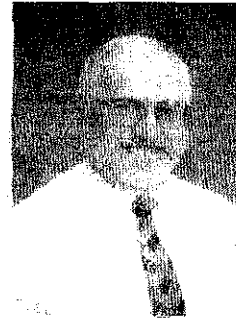
My last column on the past leadership unearthed two boards that I was not able to confirm the presidents or the board members from a newsletter or letterhead paper. I did some more digging through my old notebooks from that era and found a piece of letterhead paper which listed the membership of the 2000-2002 Board of Family Psychology. Dr. Rod Nurse located some letterhead paper listing the 2002-2004 board members. Thank you Rod.

The 2000-2002 American Board of Family Psychology was composed of John Franklin Batkins, Ph.D. (President), Florence Kaslow, Ph.D. (Past-President), Marsali Hansen, Ph.D. (Vice-President), Charles G. Guyer II, Ed.D. (Secretary), Terrence Patterson, Ed.D. (Treasurer), Robert Aylmer, Ed.D., Jay Lebow, Ph.D., Joseph R. McCool, Ed.D., David McGill, Ph.D., Rodney Nurse, Ph.D., Karen Prager, Ph.D., Tanya White, Ph.D., and John Zarski, Ph.D.

The members of the 2002-2004 American Board of Family Psychology were Marsali Hansen, Ph.D. (President), John Franklin Batkins, Ph.D. (Past-President), Florence Kaslow, Ph.D. (BOT Representative), David McGill, Ph.D. (Secretary), Charles G. Guyer II, Ed.D. (Southern Regional Chair), Rodney Nurse, Ph.D. (Western Regional Chair), Tanya White, Ph.D. (Northern Regional Chair), Robert C. Aylmer, Ed.D. (Member-At-Large),

Terrence Patterson, Ed.D. (Member-At-Large), Karen Prager, Ph.D. (Member-At-Large), Maryanne Watson, Ph.D. (Member-At-Large), and John Zarski, Ph.D. (Member-At-Large).

My Next project is the history of our academy so if anyone has information on that history please let me know.



*Charles G. Guyer II,  
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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF COUPLE AND  
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