

# SEPA NEWSLETTER

SOUTHEASTERN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

2005

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## SEPA '06: THE ATLANTA YOU'VE NEVER SEEN



Think you've been to Atlanta?

You know the skyline, the Braves, Coca-Cola, the 25 streets with "peachtree" in the name, the outstanding restaurants, and the busiest airport on the planet. You've eaten at the varsity, visited the Martin Luther King, Jr. National historic site and the Carter Presidential Library, toured CNN studios, and enjoyed the music from the Grammy-winning symphony or the other artists from country, hip-hop, jazz, rock, r&b and gospel music who call Atlanta home. You've experienced the museums, the zoo, the golf, the amusement parks, the Buckhead nightlife, and the quiet moments sipping sweet tea in a shady park.

But there's an Atlanta you haven't seen.

Atlanta is experiencing its most significant changes since the 1996 Olympics, and there will be much to see that is new when SEPA returns to the Hilton Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 16-19, 2006. The most anticipated of these changes is the new Georgia Aquarium, which opened in November 2005. Over 100,000 animals from 500 species—including whale sharks and beluga whales—will live in the five million gallons of fresh and salt water of the Georgia Aquarium, making it one of the largest aquariums in the world. Located less than a mile from the Hilton, the aquarium is next to Centennial Olympic park, CNN center, and Imagine it! Children's Museum.

This fall will also see a three-building expansion of Atlanta's High Museum of Art. The expansion allows more current holdings to be displayed and provides increased viewing space for African art, folk art, and contemporary art. With new elements that include architectural exhibits, a sculpture garden and a wine bar, the museum will transform the Woodruff Arts Center campus (located 7 minutes from the Hilton) into a world-class village for the visual and performing arts.

But of course, these and other exciting attractions are only a small part of the reason to attend SEPA 2006 in Atlanta. The conference program will be a strong one—invited speakers and sessions are described elsewhere in this newsletter and on our web page.. As usual, the meeting will offer opportunities to socialize and to network with psychologists from around the Southeast. Graduate and undergraduate students will find the SEPA convention to be an ideal place to begin and to build their careers as scientists.

Plan now to make this the best SEPA meeting you've ever attended... in an Atlanta you've never seen!

**Atlanta-area attractions**

Hilton Atlanta - <http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/hotels/index.jhtml?ctyhocn=ATLAHHH>  
or 404/659-2000

Atlanta Visitors Bureau - <http://www.atlanta.net/visitors/index.asp>  
50 fun things to see and do in Atlanta - <http://www.atlanta.net/50funthings/index.html>

Georgia Aquarium – <http://www.georgiaaquarium.org>

Zoo Atlanta – <http://www.zooatlanta.org>

High Museum of Art / Woodruff Arts Center - <http://www.high.org>

World of Coca-Cola museum - <http://www.woccatlanta.com>

Imagine It! Children's Museum - <http://www.imagineit-cma.org/>

CNN Center studio tour - <http://www.cnn.com/StudioTour/>

Martin Luther King National Historic Site - <http://www.nps.gov/malu/>

Carter Presidential Library - <http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.org/>

Centennial Park – <http://www.centennialpark.com/> Piedmont Park - <http://www.piedmontpark.org/>

Stone Mountain Park – <http://www.stonemountainpark.com/>

Six Flags over Georgia - <http://www.sixflags.com/parks/overgeorgia/index.asp>

NBA basketball: Hawks vs. Jazz (3/17); vs. Magic (3/19) – 404/249-6400

NHL hockey: Thrashers vs. Islanders (3/16); vs. Flyers (3/18) – 404/584-PUCK

ECHL hockey: Gladiators vs. Stingrays (3/18); vs. Wildcatters (3/19) – 770/497-5100

AFL football: Georgia Force - (770) 965-4344

**SEPA 2006 PROGRAM**

SEPA's Program for 2006 is exciting. Our theme is Tracking Psychology, and we have three tracks:

- **Experimental.** We are thrilled to have ' Maple, Ph.D., former head of the Atlanta Zoo and director of the Georgia Tech Center for Conservation and Behavior. In addition to his talk, entitled, "A Psychologist at the Zoo," Terry will also chair a symposium of psychologists who work with animals. Also in this track, Stan Kuczaj, PhD, chair of the Dept. of Psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi will talk on "Reflections of a Psychologist at the Pool," and chair a symposium of graduate students who work with dolphins.
- **Clinical.** We are delighted to have Bob Neimeyer, Ph.D., psychologist at the University of Memphis, editor of Death Studies, and author of numerous books on bereavement and making meaning out of difficult life events. In addition to his talk, Bob will offer a workshop on making meaning.
- **Industrial/Organizational.** We are delighted to have Bob Dipboye, Ph.D., chair of the Dept. of Psychology at Central Florida University, who will talk about discrimination in the workplace and interpersonal relationships as a core construct for I/O Psychology. He will also conduct a CE workshop, Ethics in I/O Psychology.

In addition to our invited speakers, the SEPA/CEPO invited speaker is Jennifer Friday, Ph.D., former president of SEPA and formerly with the CDC, who will talk about applying psychology to the problem of AIDS.

There will be simultaneous programming to coordinate with these emphasis areas, so plan now to present your work, mingle with other professionals, and bring your students. See you there!

# NOTES FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE(R)

Your SEPA Administrative Office has been very busy this summer and fall. Here are some highlights:

1. **The new electronic submission system** has accepted submissions, managed the reviewing process, and calculated scores for us. At this writing, the Office is constructing the schedule and in late December the program decisions will go out. This year they will contain brief comments from reviewers which we hope will prove helpful to authors. The program book will also look different this year and will contain selected brief abstracts of sessions for your convenience.

The electronic process has been a radical departure for us and we appreciate the patience and cooperation of all who used the system to submit and review. (I also thank Lyn Zittel for her service to members who needed to pay dues, get passwords, or receive assistance in using the system.) We have learned this year some things to improve for next year and we welcome your suggestions. We expect to have a feedback session at the Conference for members to advise us on improvements.

2. **Our meeting is March 16-19, 2006, at the Atlanta Hilton.** We have an improved room rate this year and urge you to make plans to stay at the conference hotel. A room at the Hilton will be more convenient and pleasant for you and will help assure that we stay “in the black” this year. We can only afford to have adequate meeting space in a pleasant hotel if we use enough sleeping rooms. Our contract to return to the Atlanta Hilton contains some very favorable provisions that will help us recover from our costly experience there in 2004, when we did not fill our commitment for sleeping rooms and were required to pay the hotel for rooms that were not used by our attendees.

You can reach the Hotel’s reservation system through our Web page. Go to the “Special Accounts” section and enter SEP as the group/convention code. If registering by phone, be sure to say you are with SEPA to get the convention rate and to be credited to our room pickup. Please register early to save anxiety and stress on the Administrative Office staff. We won’t rest easy till we make our room block commitment this year. Please call us if you have any difficulties with your hotel reservation process.

3. **Consider joining the Host City Committee.** If you are located in or near Atlanta, or know a lot about Atlanta and Georgia, we can use your help in providing local touches for the convention and preparing information for the Web page before the Conference. To become more involved in this way, contact the SEPA office.

4. **New Orleans is in our future.** SEPA members have an important opportunity to help New Orleans recover from the disaster of Hurricane Katrina by supporting our 2007 meeting, which will be held at the Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans. The Fairmont is adjacent to Canal Street and the French Quarter and was relatively undamaged by Katrina but nevertheless is undergoing a complete renovation this year. Your Administrative Officer will be visiting in January 2006 to see how their recovery is progressing.

We had negotiated a very favorable room rate at this lovely and historic hotel earlier in the summer by reserving the dates immediately following Mardi Gras, February 21-24. Those who make hotel reservations early will also be able to secure the convention rate for Mardi Gras weekend as well as the conference period, which is Wednesday evening, February 21, through noon Saturday, February 24, 2007. This date is early for our meeting, so plan ahead! We suspect Mardi Gras 2007 will be a poignant, enthusiastic, and especially meaningful step toward the recovery of the Crescent City. We hope you will want to be there.

5. **Charlotte is in our future too!** North Carolina, that is. We have just concluded negotiations with the Westin Charlotte for our 2008 meeting to be held March 16-19. This strikingly beautiful new hotel is downtown in an interesting and very walkable area. Charlotte offers numerous attractions, is centrally located and easy to reach by air or auto, and is a new venue for SEPA. We hope you will enjoy it.

6. **SEPA now takes credit cards.** We have made arrangements for members to pay by credit card during the fall and again in the spring prior to the meeting. We hope this will be a convenience for members in

paying dues and registration fees.

7. **Each one reach one.** If you enjoy coming to SEPA to present your research, hear outstanding speakers, attend Continuing Education workshops, mentor and be mentored, and network with friends and colleagues—then pass the word to colleagues and students who may not yet have discovered SEPA. New faculty member? Another psychologist in your clinic or agency? Graduate and undergraduate students who can profit from attending SEPA? Our membership process is now streamlined to make it easier to show eligibility for membership. Know a potential program advertiser or exhibitor? Please pass the word and the address of our Web site: [www.sepaonline.com](http://www.sepaonline.com)

*If the SEPA Administrative Office can be of assistance to you, please contact us at [sepa@uwf.edu](mailto:sepa@uwf.edu) or by calling (850) 474-2070.*

*Rosemary Hays-Thomas, Administrative Officer*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*Jean Spruill*

SEPA was where I started my professional career as a psychologist. I was in graduate school and my major professor, Irv Berg, was the outgoing president of SEPA that year. He encouraged me to submit a paper and much to my surprise it was accepted. This was in 1962 or 1963. I remember being very excited and also a bit anxious about the presentation. Over the years, I have given many other papers at SEPA and other organizations but the first one was special. The audience was very kind to a nervous graduate student and I think this atmosphere of encouragement for students and faculty/professional members has been a hallmark of SEPA. I never dreamed that one day I would be president of SEPA.

Unlike APA, SEPA has always been small enough to meet and greet friends, colleagues and students, both present and former. It is a chance to attend some outstanding presentations, work on collaborative research relationships and simply renew acquaintances and make new friends. For several years the welcome reception has been scheduled concurrently with poster sessions and the exhibit area, facilitating interactions with others.

SEPA in Nashville, 2005, featured a diverse set of outstanding presentations by prominent psychologists, and was well attended. Some highlights were presentations by Dr. Randy Otto, Florida Mental Health Institute, on his work in the area of forensic psychology; Dr. John Foreyt, Baylor School of Medicine, on trends in the treatment of obesity, and Dr. Kecia Thomas, University of Georgia, on her work in the area of race, gender, and socialization in peer mentoring. Additional highlights were Dr. Norm Anderson, CEO of the American Psychological Association who talked about racial and ethnic health care disparities, Dr. Jill Reich, Bates College, who talked about the aims of education; and Dr. Lynn Hasher, who very cogently explained why we shouldn't teach classes to young college students at 8:00 a.m. and expect them to be awake and able to concentrate. Dr. Reich was sponsored by APA G. Stanley Hall Lecture series and Dr. Hasher was sponsored by American Psychological Society. A quite different presentation was sponsored by Psi Chi and featured Magali Amadei, a fashion model, and Claire Mysko, American Anorexia Bulimia Association, talking about our culture's obsession with thinness and beauty.

We look forward to an equally good program at SEPA 2006 in Atlanta. I encourage all members to become more active in the association and to attend the meetings.

## CEPO REPORT

*Patricia L. Donat, CEPO Chair*

CEPO programming at the 2005 meeting included a wide variety of events in support of its mission to promote professional equality for all psychologists, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, or disability. The SEPA/CEPO invited speaker was Dr. Norman Anderson, Chief Executive Officer of the American Psychological Association. His address, "Unraveling the mystery of racial and ethnic health disparities," examined the challenges in understanding health disparities in the United States and described some of the environmental, socio-cultural, behavioral, psychological, emotional, and biological processes that may contribute to these disparities.

This year featured two CEPO addresses. The CEPO Keynote Address was given by Dr. John Robinson, Professor of Psychiatry and Surgery at Howard University College of Medicine/Hospital. His address, "Enjoying diversity," challenged individuals to seek out opportunities to explore and celebrate diversity. The second CEPO Address was given by Dr. Hilary Lips, Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology at Radford University. Her address, "The gender pay gap: Reflections on an old problem and some new analyses," described persisting differences in women's and men's earnings in the United States and challenged explanations that cite women's occupational choices as the cause of these differences.

The CEPO/Psi Chi Undergraduate Research Program continues to be a huge success. Almost 150 abstracts were accepted for presentation at the meeting. This event is a wonderful opportunity for students to become involved in SEPA programming. This program also provides training for undergraduates in research through supporting their intellectual and professional development. The first author of each poster also receives a proceedings booklet, which includes a copy of all accepted abstracts. Dr. Lyn Boulter and Dr. Karen Horner, Catawba College, chaired the event and are thankful to the individuals who assisted in reviewing the abstracts.

Dr. Linda Jones, Belmont University, chaired the CEPO Student Research Award. Two awards were given in the area of women's issues. The first place award (along with a check for \$250) was awarded to Tanya Ratcliff, Jackson State University, for her paper, "Intentional single parenting by educated African American and South African women: Case studies." The second place award (along with a check for \$100) was awarded to Emily Sheffer and Jessica Bailey, Belmont University, for their paper, "Gender differences in identifying heroic status." CEPO encourages faculty advisors to support their students in submitting materials for consideration for next year's award.

The CEPO Minority Interest Group, presided over by Dr. Rosemary Phelps, University of Georgia and Dr. Comfort Asanbe, Tennessee Technological University, and the CEPO Graduate Network both featured programs highlighting issues related to the professional activities. The Minority Interest Group's program, "Recruiting and retaining faculty and students of color," featured Cheryl Warner Forkner of Clemson University, Paul Nelson of APA's Education Directorate, and Rosemary Jeffries of Tennessee State University. The Graduate Network program, "On the job market: How to apply for academic and non-academic positions," featured Lindsay Holland of Carson-Newman College and Amy Shadoin of the National Children's Advocacy Center in Huntsville, AL.

Presenting the results from the research team at the University of Memphis, Wendy Wonch and Jae Jeong provided general information about same-sex relationships and highlighted some of

the unique experiences of same-sex couples in “Understanding same-sex relationships: A review of recent research.”

The CEPO at Night film was “Normal.” This HBO film is the story of Roy, a middle-aged man who comes to the realization that he wants a sex change operation. The film explores the changes prompted by his announcement for members of his family, church, and community. The film is an interesting portrayal of the social and psychological changes for individuals before, during, and following sex reassignment surgery.

Finally, I conclude in announcing that I stepped down as the CEPO chair at the 2005 business meeting. I have enjoyed working with everyone involved with CEPO and with the members of the Executive Committee over the last two years. Taking over responsibility as chair of CEPO is Lugenia Dixon of Bainbridge College. I am pleased that she has agreed to serve in this role. In the past, Lugenia has served as a CEPO subcommittee chair and I am confident that you will find her to be an excellent chair. Thank you for permitting me to serve in this role.

## **AN INTRODUCTION TO YOUR NEW CEPO CHAIR**

*Lugenia Dixon*

I am Professor of Psychology at Bainbridge College and I have been at Bainbridge College for 16 years. I have a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education and a B.A. in Psychology. All three degrees are from the University of Georgia. I have been a SEPA member since 2000 and am also a member of APA, APS, and the Society for the Psychology for Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts. Since becoming a member of SEPA, I have chaired the CEPO Student Research Awards Program and I have read and rated papers as a member of the SEPA Program Committee. I look forward to serving CEPO and SEPA in the capacity as CEPO Chair.

## **SOUTHEASTERN WORKERS IN MEMORY (SWIM)**

*BENNETT SCHWARTZ*

Southeastern Workers in Memory (more commonly known as SWIM) has been meeting at SEPA since 1970. SWIM holds a symposium in which two speakers, one from the southern region and a second speaker from outside the region, give full 50 minute talks. The symposium brings in memory researchers from all over the country, not just the southeastern region. SWIM has featured some of the most distinguished researchers in memory over the years, including Bill Estes (1975), Larry Jacoby (1978), Daniel Schacter (1990), and Robert Bjork (1995). In 2006, Kristi Multhaupt of Davidson College will give the first talk. Dr. Multhaupt got her Ph.D. from Princeton University and conducts research on issues of source monitoring, aging, and childhood amnesia. She will be followed by our keynote speaker Janet Metcalfe. Dr. Metcalfe is Professor of Psychology and Neurobiology and Behavior at Columbia University in New York City. Dr. Metcalfe has been a leader in the field of metacognition, stress and memory, and mathematical modeling of memory for many years. We are very pleased to have both of these speakers for SEPA in Atlanta this year. This also marks the first time in SWIM history that two women speakers will present their research.

# SEPA History Project, 2005

*James L. Pate, SEPA Historian*

For the 2005 SEPA meeting, I presented, as the Historian's Lecture, a paper about continuing education at the meetings of the SEPA. In preparing that lecture, I discovered that I have relatively little information about continuing education activities in the SEPA archives, and I ask that you send me any information that you may have about those activities. I am particularly interested in any brochures, advertisements, and other similar documents that you may have. I, of course, have the information that is given in the program booklet each year, but not all of the continuing activities occurred at the annual meeting.

I organize an annual symposium on the history of departments of psychology in the southeast, and thus far, people have presented histories of 53 departments. If you are interested in presenting a history of your department, you should contact me to discuss the possibility of your participating in the symposium in 2007 or later. I can provide a general outline for departmental histories and will be happy to aid you in preparing a history of your department.

Beginning with the 2006 SEPA Convention, Debra Sue Pate, Jackson State University, will join me in organizing the annual Eminent Southeastern Psychologists Symposium. The purpose of the symposium is to recognize people in the Southeast who have contributed significantly to psychology and to provide an historical record of those contributions. If you would like to nominate someone about whom a paper should be presented, you may contact Debra ([debra.s.pate@jsums.edu](mailto:debra.s.pate@jsums.edu)) or me ([jpate@gsu.edu](mailto:jpate@gsu.edu)). If you want more information about the symposium, you may contact either of us.

If you are interested in any aspect of the SEPA History Project or have suggestions for improving the history components of the annual meeting, I will be glad to receive your suggestions or to hear of your interest.

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## PSI CHI AT SEPA 2005

The SEPA convention in Nashville was very successful for Psi Chi. We enjoyed meeting everyone and presenting the student awards. The Psi Chi program was very well attended and included the following presentations:

Psi Chi/SEPA Invited Address: "The Perfect Obsession: Strategies for Understanding and Confronting our Culture's Dangerous Beauty Ideal" by Magali Amadei (International Fashion Supermodel) and Claire Mysko (Assistant Communication Director, Girls Incorporated). Afterward, the speakers met with approximately 100 students and faculty members for questions and discussion. There were approximately 450 attendees at the Invited Address, likely the largest attendance at any SEPA presentation.

Both Claire and Magali were wonderful speakers and provided a true highpoint of the conference. Their message regarding body image and the media was heartfelt and affected the audience deeply. We thank them so much for their time and effort!

“Everything You Need to Know About Attending SEPA” Orientation with Paula Miller (Psi Chi National Office) and Elizabeth Yost-Hammer (Loyola University).

“How to Succeed in Graduate School and Beyond” by Bill Buskist (Auburn University).

“Preparing for Graduate School I: Preparation Strategies” by Peter Giordano (Belmont University) and Elizabeth Yost-Hammer (Loyola University).

“Preparing for Graduate School II: The Application Process” by Lyn Boulter (Catawba College) and Maria Lavooy (University of Central Florida).

There were approximately 30 faculty advisors at the Appreciation Luncheon at Jack’s Bar-B-Que including the Invited Speakers Magali Amadei and Claire Mysko. Representing Psi Chi National, Martha Zlokovich, Virginia Mathie, Elizabeth Yost-Hammer and Paula Miller were able to attend. The chapter and chapter advisor awards were distributed during the luncheon.

The Psi Chi Hospitality Suite, hosted by Psi Chi students from Belmont University and University of Central Florida at Cocoa, was very well attended. It was a wonderful place to meet people and stop to have a drink or snack. The Hospitality Suite was open Thursday and Friday except during the Psi Chi/SEPA Invited Address.

The members of the 2004-2005 Southeastern region steering committee are Maria Lavooy (University of Central Florida), Laura May (University of South Carolina Aiken), Lyn Boulter (Catawba College), Maya Giles (University of Central Florida; student), and Christina Sinisi (Charleston Southern University). Maya Giles is completing a one-year term while the rest of the committee is completing the first of their two-year terms. A new student will be selected for the 2005-2006 term to aid with the student awards review process.

Looking forward to Atlanta for SEPA 2006,

Michael Newlin  
Southeastern Region Vice President



# ANNUAL REPORT

## *CEPO/PSI CHI UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM 2005*

**Program Goal:** To encourage research experiences among undergraduate participation in the field of psychology and to support the professional development of undergraduate students.

The Undergraduate Research Program experienced once again a very successful year, marked by maintenance of participation by students and considerably fewer rejected abstracts. Sincere appreciation is given to the supportive officers and staff of CEPO and SEPA. Special recognition is given to our student assistants at Catawba College for their commitment and long hours of work on this project. This is the first year that we (Drs. Lyn Boulter and Karen Horner) chaired the program. We especially thank Dr. Patricia Donat (current Chair of CEPO), Dr. Michael Newlin (President of the Southeastern Region of Psi Chi National Honor Society in Psychology), and Drs. Pamela G. Banks and Kaye F. Sly (former Co-Chairs of the CEPO Undergraduate Research Network). Their support, recommendations, previously archived materials and guidelines were extremely beneficial and assisted greatly in the efficiency of this task.

### **Part I: Undergraduate Poster Session**

In October 2004, students submitted forms of intent, indicating their intent to participate. A \$10 abstract processing fee was assessed and collected. Checks were mailed to the SEPA office on November 4 and 15, 2004. The first report to the SEPA office on October 31, 2004 indicated that 215 abstracts were received, 215 packets with submission instructions had been mailed, and a total of \$2,150.00 in revenue was received. Due to an obsolete and unreliable email system at Catawba, plus a series of severe hurricanes in the Southeast region that deactivated electrical/technological systems for weeks, we were not able to implement the electronic submission of abstracts, a procedure recommended by CEPO and initiated two years ago by the previous Chairs. A total of 213 abstracts were received via the regular U.S. mail system and two were sent by Fax. Below are data regarding abstract submission, review and presentation since 2002: The information from the 2002 Annual Report was submitted by Dr. Angela Farris Watkins and Dr. Pamela Scott-Johnson and the 2003 and 2004 data were reported by Dr. Pamela G. Banks and Dr. Kaye F. Sly:

	2002	2003	2004	2005
• Number of Intents	176	294	225	215
• Number of Submitted Abstracts	140	206	173	157
• Number of Accepted Abstracts	120	150	147	147
• Number of Rejected Abstracts	20	56	26	10
• Number of Abstracts withdrawn	18	9	5	8
• Number of Abstract Submissions by Psi Chi members	39	78	75	108
• Number of Abstract Reviewers	28	42	38	42
• Monies submitted to SEPA on behalf of the Undergraduate Research Program	\$1,760	\$2,900	\$2,260	\$2,215
• Number of program booklets printed	175	200	175	200
• Cost of Booklet	\$1,493.65	\$1,290	\$1,220.93	\$1,319.58

Two faculty members reviewed each abstract. Each Reviewer was provided criteria for evaluating abstracts and asked to determine whether or not the papers should be presented in the poster session. Students' abstracts were accepted on the basis of the Reviewers' responses and at least one Reviewer recommending presentation. Thus, the acceptance and rejections for presentation at the 2005 CEPO/Psi Chi Undergraduate Poster Sessions were based on the scoring and recommendations of the Reviewers. Written feedback was provided by an estimated 85% of the Reviewers. All comments sent by Reviewers were sent to students along with the acceptance or rejection letter. A Proceedings Booklet was compiled of accepted abstracts. During each poster session, booklets were distributed to first authors only and the remaining booklets were sold by the SEPA staff during registration.

Our time table was as follows:

October 12, 2004 - Deadline for letters of intent.

October 25, 2004 - Abstract submission instructions mailed

December 1, 2004 - Abstracts of research due

December 13, 2004 - Abstracts submitted by Psi Chi members mailed to Dr. Michael Newlin.

November 4, 2004 – Checks mailed to SEPA

December 17, 2004 – Abstracts mailed to Reviewers.

January 17, 2005 – Due date for reviews from Reviewers

February 4, 2005 – Mailed acceptance letters and instructions for preparing posters, or rejection letters, plus feedback provided by Reviewers.

March 9, 2005 – Proceedings Booklets printed.

Difficulties encountered:

- Students not following instructions;
- Incorrect email or self-addressed envelopes; incomplete or missing materials
- Reviewers not giving written comments
- Reviewers not returning reviews by due date.
- Human error, i.e., inconsistency between blind review of abstracts and information requested on the forms sent to Reviewers; errors on forms.

Expenditures:

2005 Expenses		Projected 2006 Budget	
Proceedings Booklets	\$1,319.58	Proceedings Booklets	\$1,450
Copying Costs	\$ 84.51	Copying Costs	\$ 200
Postage	\$ 47.10	Postage	\$ 50
Shipping	\$ 60.00	Shipping	\$ 60
Total	\$1,511.19	Total	\$1,760

The Budget for this event so far has totaled approx. \$1300, with the only expenses being the printing of the Proceedings Booklet, printing of letters and forms, postage and shipping. Paper, long distance phone service, and staff were all donated via Department of Psychology at Catawba College.

## Part II: Recommendations.

1. Continue the electronic transmission process. Submissions will be sent to the Chair at lboulter@catawba.edu. The Chair will personally respond to each student as an email message, and abstracts will be saved on the Chair's hard drive as well as the student's disk. Students will still need to send a disk and hard copy of the abstract and other materials through regular mail.
2. Post all information on the SEPA/CEPO web site regarding instructions for abstract preparation and example of appropriate formats, submission information forms that provide contact information and the students' affiliation, and allows them to identify topic or subject area of consideration, "Q & A" sheet regarding the typical information of interest to a novice regarding SEPA/CEPO, and acceptances of abstracts.
3. Send an email to all Reviewers notifying them that the abstracts and review forms have been mailed. Include an attachment with the review forms in case they would like to send back ratings and feedback electronically.
4. Develop a detailed time line for each phase of the abstract review process to pass on to future Chairs.

It was a pleasure to serve these undergraduates and CEPO/SEPA in this manner. All of our labors were greatly reinforced upon the experience of such enthusiasm and passion exhibited by the students in presenting their work. We remain deeply committed to the training of undergraduates in research through supporting their intellectual and professional development.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn T. Boulter, Ph.D. and Karen Horner, Ph.D.

Chair and Co-Chair, CEPO/Psi Chi Undergraduate Poster Sessions at SEPA, 2005

Catawba College, Salisbury, NC

## 2005 PROFESSIONAL PAPER AWARD NOMINEES:

*LILLIAN RANGE*

Professional members are nominated for this award if: (1) they are Professional members of SEPA (not Student members or Affiliates), (2) they submit a paper, or check the box on the submission form saying that they will change to a paper if requested, (3) they receive the highest possible ratings in the review process, and (4) they actually present the paper themselves. In 2005, there were 12 nominees. Following is the list of nominees and the titles of their presentation. The professional award nominee is in bold, but all authors are listed.

- **Ryan Allen, Ph.D.**, The Citadel; Scott Decker, Georgia State University  
*Construct validity of the Bender Gestalt II with the WISC-III*

- **Marios Argyrides, Ph.D.**, Tennessee State University; Jerrold L. Downey, University of South Alabama

*The psychometric properties of the People Perspective Questionnaire*

- **Scott Hutchens, Ph.D.**, Delta State University  
*Eyewitness identification: An investigation of bizarreness, race, and delay effects*  
And  
*Teaching psychology using technology: Is instructional technology effective?*
- **Robin Kowalski, Ph.D.**, Jana Spearman, Melissa Redfearn, Stephanie Kerr, & Laura Vernon  
Clemson University  
*Cadaveric versus living donation: Deciding to be an organ donor*
- **Laura May, Ph.D.**, Devin Byrd, Kimberly Brown, & Jamie Sizemore  
University of South Carolina - Aiken  
*Exploring relationships among hurt reactivity, social adjustment, and psychological well-being*
- **Scott Minor, Ph.D.** & Michele Alexander, University of the West Indies – Mona  
*Societal factors influencing cognitive functioning and academic achievement*
- **Donna Nelson, Ph.D.** & Ashley Knight, Winthrop University  
*The power of positive recollections prior to a pop quiz*
- **Lynne Roetzer, M.A.** & June Linke, Pensacola Junior College;  
Susan E. Walch, University of West Florida  
*Evaluation of an expressive writing intervention following Hurricane Ivan*
- **Tres Stefurak, Ph.D.**, Auburn University – Montgomery; Georgia B. Calhoun, The University of Georgia  
*Subtypes of female juvenile offenders: A cluster analysis of the MACI*
- **Medha Talpade, Ph.D.**, Clark Atlanta University; Enisha Brewster, SRM Group  
*Project Focus: Psychosocial outcomes of homeless males*
- **Paula Waddill, Ph.D.**, Amie Conklin, & Shannon McBride, Murray State University  
*The emotional witness: When is credibility affected?*

All papers and presentations were excellent, so the committee decision was tough. The winners were: Paula Waddill, Ph.D., Donna Nelson, Ph.D., and Robin Kowalski, Ph.D. Winners were announced at the SEPA Business Meeting on Friday, April 8. The SEPA President, Jean Spruill, sent letters of congratulations to winners and their department chairs. The Professional Award Committee, composed of Lyn Boulter, David Washburn, and Lillian Range, encourages all SEPA members to submit papers or posters next year.

## 2004 SEPA MENTOR AWARD: A FIRST!

*David Washburn*

I was pleased to present the first SEPA Mentor Award to Professor Michael J. Rulon of Covenant College. Mike was my undergraduate mentor from 1980 to 1984. He is an innovative and engaging lecturer and a patient advisor, whose commitment to and investment in undergraduate education can be illustrated by the following:

1. Most summers (i.e., when he isn't taking a group of students to study abroad), Professor Rulon organizes and leads a group of 5-10 students in a course called "Psych Tour." Aimed at psychology students in small colleges like Covenant, the course allows students to visit (in a three-week period) many of the influential psychologists who live and work in some area of the country. In the summer of 1981, for example, I enrolled in Psych Tour. A group of 5 students, representing three different colleges, drove together with Professor Rulon in a van to San Francisco, and visited the major universities, research laboratories, and psychologists between central and southern California. Each evening (and on the van-ride to our next appointment) we would read articles about the scholars we were going to interview or engage in discussion about the topics we had just heard. My Psych Tour experience included interviews with names like Jensen, Hilgard, Dobson, Pribram, Gorsuch, and Zimbardo. We saw the Stanford sleep labs, the UCLA EEG labs, and the commune at which "encounter groups" were begun (to mention only a few visits). Additionally, we met as a group to discuss interpersonal issues, controversies, and career plans. Each trip is different, but the common element is Professor Rulon who invests his summer into making this the most intensive learning experience I (and other students like me) could ever imagine.

2. More familiar to the regular attendees of SEPA is Professor Rulon's use of the annual convention of this and other opportunities to teach students what psychologists do and how they comport themselves as scholars and professionals. The 50 or so students who travel with Dr. Rulon to SEPA are not on a weekend of leisure. Each student carries a notebook in which sessions attended must be documented, reaction papers must be written, and questions must be answered. Each student is required to interview some of the speakers they hear during the meeting, and a summary report is submitted before the students return to campus. Each evening, the group meets together to discuss interesting research, controversial topics, or other issues. My own first convention experiences were structured in this way by Professor Rulon. It is through experiences like this that students learn what psychology is—as a discipline and a career, not just a subject or a course.

Other examples could be cited. The energy and creativity that Professor Rulon brings to education and mentoring are amazing, particularly when one considers that he chairs a department with only two faculty members serving the needs of perhaps 100 majors. It is fitting that Professor Rulon should receive the first-ever SEPA Mentor Award because he effectively communicates to students the following: Your life as a psychologist doesn't begin when you get a job, or when you earn your PhD, or even when you graduate from college. Your life as a psychologist began with your first psychology course. Undergraduate majors are already students of the science of behavior. And as Mike Rulon's own career attests, the learning never ends.

## 2005 SEPA MENTOR AWARD

As our friend, Kris Kristofferson, has observed, “there are many wrong directions in our lonely way home”, and the task of learning how to live is far larger than any of us ever imagined as we were growing up. As a consequence, all of us need a mentor.

A mentor is someone who helps you learn who you are and helps you learn how to get on with the task of living in spite of who you are. I, for one, was the privileged recipient of the mentorship of Wally Kennedy, who was able to help me get on with the business of learning who I was and learning how to live well, often in spite of myself. One of the real gifts of Wally is his ability to make a sow’s ear feel like a silk purse. I can’t imagine what Wally saw in the young and dumb 21-year-old I was starting graduate school in 1970. How could he have seen any possibility in the delinquent that I was? And yet it is one of his gifts that he could always find the very small pearl in a pile of otherwise undistinguished refuse. And because he was able to always find something in me, it gave me hope, and it is hope, of course, that sustains us all.

It is hope that is the father to belief, and his ability to teach me to believe in myself, in spite of myself, was the great gift that he gave me, and that he gave a number of other young psychologists. I don’t think it is well known that Wally Kennedy directed over ninety dissertations. That’s right — ninety. I’ve been doing this work for 33 years, have directed fifty dissertations, and claim the privilege of having directed more than anybody in my university. And I am not even in the same ballpark as Wally. And I don’t think there are many people who are.

So it is, in fact, a great and belated acknowledgement of Wally Kennedy’s gift to all of us that he is this year’s recipient of the SEPA Mentor Award. I cannot imagine a more worthy recipient. On behalf of all of your students, Wally, I thank you for the gifts you gave so graciously and generously.

Barry Burkhardt  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Psychology  
Auburn University

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## SEPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

**President-Elect:** Deborah S. Richardson

**Member-at-Large:** Keith Davis

## --REMINDERS--

### IMPORTANT DATES

**February 14, 2006 \***  
Conference Registration Deadline  
&

Conference Advance Hotel Reservations Deadline

**March 16-19, 2006**  
SEPA Conference, Atlanta Hilton Hotel  
Atlanta, GA

\* DO NOT mail registration forms after February 14th. Plan, instead, to register at the Conference. Registration after February 14th must include a late fee of \$20.00.

### GETTING THE WORD OUT: WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Do you have something you would like to have included in either the next SEPA Newsletter or the SEPA Website? Please direct any material, questions, comments to:

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University of Central Florida  
1519 Clearlake Road Cocoa, FL 32922  
(321) 433-7918  
mlavooy@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu

### NOTICE: HAVE YOU MOVED?

If you have moved within the last six months, or plan to move soon, please submit your new address to the SEPA office.

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

Send all address or name changes to [sepa@uwf.edu](mailto:sepa@uwf.edu) or mail to:

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