



Maryland Psychological Association for Graduate Students

Newsletter



MPAGS Family

Back (L): Crystal Kannankeril, Linda Herbert, Patrick McMunn, Katie Kane, Jessica Rothstein **Seated (L):** Kate Morris, Nina Azhdam, Katy Frisch, Caryn Seebach (not pictured)

In This Issue:

- Introductions
- Become Involved
- Save the Date
- In Our Own Words
- Join Us!

Save the Date

MPAGS ANNUAL INTERNSHIP FAIR/CONVENTION

When:

Saturday April 5th, 2008

Where:

Loyola College in
Maryland Graduate
Center
8890 McGraw Road
Columbia, MD 21045

Events:

- Internship Fair
- Q & A with Internship Training Directors
- Mock Interview Workshop
- Internship Workshop

Afternoon Speaker

Topics:

- Immediacy
- Working with Trauma Survivors
- Non-Verbal Learning Disability in Children
- ...and more!

Registration Coming Soon
at:
www.marylandpsychology.org/MPAGS

Introductions

Who We Are and What We Do

MPAGS Officers and Board Members:

Chair serves a one-year term and is the chief officer of MPAGS. He/she is a voting member of the MPA Board of Directors and the Executive Graduate Council. This person coordinates the efforts of the board members, as well as MPAGS members.

- **Jessica Rothstein** is a fourth year student in the Psy.D. program at Loyola College in Maryland. Her clinical interests include child maltreatment, emotion regulation, aggressive behavior in children, and adults with personality disorders. Her dissertation investigates the therapeutic decision making process of treatment providers who work with maltreated children. Her future goals include working in an inpatient setting with children providing individual, family, and group psychotherapy.

Chair Elect serves one year as Chair Elect and the following year as Chair. He/she shares in the duties of the Chair and assists in overseeing the affairs and activities of MPAGS.

- **Kate Morris** graduated from Vassar College in 2004 and is now in the second year of the Psy.D. program at Loyola College in Maryland. Her clinical interests include corrections, adults with personality disorders and adolescents. Her in-process dissertation focuses on burnout in the correctional psychologist.

Membership Chair is responsible for recruiting members and will work towards creating a diverse membership base. He/she is the liaison between the campus representatives and the MPAGS Executive Council.

- **Katie Kane** is a fourth year graduate student at The American School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University, Washington, DC. After completing the MA clinical psychology program, she is now in the Psy.D. program, working towards a concentration in child & family studies. Her interests include premature infants and attachment, pediatric neuropsychology, trauma, and crisis.

Diversity Chair coordinates the MPAGS Diversity initiative and the Undergrad Mentoring Program.

- **Crystal Kannankeril** is in her second year of the Psy.D. program at Loyola College in Maryland. She graduated from The George Washington University in Washington, DC with a B.A. in Psychology. Her clinical interests include psychotherapy and assessment with adolescents and adults. Her dissertation is focused on music and its use as a coping mechanism for adolescents.

Introductions Continued

Become Involved As A Mentor!

Are you interested in sharing your love of psychology with an undergrad?

The MPAGS mentoring program pairs undergrad and graduate students from schools across the state, and allows undergrads the opportunity to ask questions about graduate school and career options.

For graduate students, it is a low-time commitment and a great way to give back to the field. Communication can occur over the phone, email, or in person.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please email Crystal Kannankeril at Crystal.Kannankeril@gmail.com

Communications Co-Chairs are responsible for keeping and distributing minutes of all MPAGS meetings. She/he is also responsible for coordinating graduate student submissions to the MPA newsletter and maintaining MPAGS web page resources.

- **Patrick McMunn** is a second year student at Walden University, Minnesota. He is currently finishing his MS in General Psychology and plans to apply for Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. His undergraduate degree was in Computer Science. As the Communications Co-Chair, he plans on using his technical background to improve MPAGS information as it appears on the MPA website to better promote MPAGS events and activities.
- **Caryn Seebach** is a third year student in the Psy.D. program at Loyola College in Maryland. She has her Masters of Science in clinical health psychology and her clinical interests include counseling medical patients with chronic and terminal illness. Her dissertation focuses on overcoming barriers to collaboration between psychologists and physicians.

Advocacy Chair coordinates state and federal legislative advocacy efforts and is the liaison between the MPA Legislative Committee and MPAGS.

- **Linda Herbert** is a third year student in the Human Services Psychology Ph.D. Program at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. She is currently working on research projects regarding the impact of food allergy on children and families in the pediatric psychology lab at UMBC. As the current Advocacy Chair, she wishes to increase graduate student awareness of current professional issues. Outside of psychology, Linda is interested in politics and current events, history, and tennis.

Convention Co-Chairs oversee all aspects of convention planning, advertising, and management. He/she may appoint a committee to assist him/her with these duties.

- **Nina Azhdam** is a third year Psy.D. student at Loyola College in Maryland. Her clinical interests include childhood anxiety and depression, family stressors and disruptive behavior in children. Her dissertation focuses on the prevalence of anxiety and depressive symptoms in a disabled and nondisabled college freshmen population.
- **Katy Frisch** is a third year student in the Psy.D. program at Loyola College in Maryland. Her clinical interests include adult psychotherapy and assessment. Her dissertation explores the ecological validity of neuropsychological tests.

In Our Own Words

Join Us!

Become an MPAGS Member

If you are a student member of MPA, then you are a member of MPAGS!!

If you are not, then joining MPAGS is easy, and costs \$25 - a one-time only fee! With yearly e-mail renewal the membership brings benefits lasting your entire graduate student career, which for doctoral students can include the post-doc supervision year.

Benefits:

- Discounts to MPA/MPAGS events including the annual MPAGS Convention & Internship Fair
- Publication opportunities
- Leadership role opportunities
- Networking with other professionals
- Involvement in legislative initiatives
- Membership on the MPAGS and MPA listserv

The Next Wave

By Jessica R. Rothstein, M.S., MPAGS Chair

This article was reprinted with permission from the Maryland Psychological Association. The original article appears in their publication, *The Maryland Psychologist*, Volume 53, Number 2, 2007. Special thanks to Jessica Rothstein.

In light of the current theme, marketing your practice, the Maryland Psychological Association for Graduate Students (MPAGS) felt it was a good time to do a little bit of its own self-promotion. We realize that many MPA members may not be aware of the MPA graduate student constituency and we would like to provide you with the history and current activities of our organization. Prior to 1996, graduate students were informally involved in MPA. However, under the tutelage of Dr. Jeffrey Barnett, in 1996 an ad hoc committee of graduate students was formed under the MPA umbrella. Under this committee the first annual pre-doctoral internship fair was held, students began to author and co-author brief articles in *The Maryland Psychologist*, and more students began to attend MPA events, often serving as monitors for continuing education events. As a result of the increase in student involvement, in 2002, the MPA Board of Directors unanimously approved the creation of MPAGS, a freestanding committee that serves as a voting section of MPA.

So what is MPAGS? Its mission is to (1) Continue the professional development of graduate psychology students by providing a formal structure for communicating and networking with students in the state, (2) Provide a platform for students to discuss training issues, and (3) Maintain a flow of information about the many important resources and services for aspiring psychologists offered by MPA. To serve these functions, MPAGS has its own Board of Directors, which includes the positions of Chair, Chair-Elect, Membership Chair, Convention Chair, Advocacy Chair, Communications Chair, and Diversity Chair. MPAGS has student members from graduate programs statewide and from individuals who are residents of Maryland but attend programs in other states. In order to serve this wide community, MPAGS elicits the help of Campus Representatives in order to publicize events and increase membership at individual schools. The MPAGS Chair serves as a voting representative on the MPA Board of Directors and MPAGS members attend several MPA committees providing valuable feedback as to the needs and interests of graduate students.

MPAGS activities include organizing our annual Internship Fair/Convention. During the first half of the day, students meet and greet with local internship training directors and current interns, as well as gain advice on the pre-doctoral internship process. In the convention portion, students attend workshops with topics that interest them such as resume building and psychoanalytic theory. MPAGS is also involved in advocacy initiatives such as licensure at the receipt of the doctorate and sends representatives each year to Annapolis Watch.

In the past several years, MPAGS has also become involved in several mentoring related activities. In 2005, MPAGS began an undergraduate mentoring program in which MPAGS members provide guidance and support to undergraduates who are interested in psychology. In 2006, MPAGS awarded its first Mentoring Award to Dr. Matthew Kirkhart of Loyola College in acknowledgement of his commitment to the professional development and training of graduate students.

Currently MPAGS is taking on another initiative in which support from MPA members is greatly needed. MPAGS members, both our leadership positions and campus representatives, often change from year to year, as students finish their graduate school education. This poses a challenge for MPAGS in that each new board must re-establish ties with local graduate programs. In light of this difficulty, MPAGS has begun to recruit MPA members to serve as faculty liaisons for the Maryland and Northern Virginia area graduate programs. As a faculty liaison, MPAGS hopes that these MPA members will encourage students to be involved in MPAGS and can help identify a student at their school that could serve as a campus representative. Although the duties of an MPAGS faculty liaison would be minimal, we believe this support from MPA members is vital in order for MPAGS to continue to succeed. History has shown that schools in which a faculty member promotes MPAGS have a higher percentage of student members. If you are interested in becoming a faculty liaison for a school with which you are affiliated or want to learn more about MPAGS, please feel to contact me at jrrothstein@loyola.edu. MPAGS appreciates the support of MPA and is looking forward to producing the next wave of psychologists, researchers, and therapists in Maryland.

Visit Us:

www.marylandpsychology.org/MPAGS

To Join:

www.marylandpsychology.org/join

For more info contact our Membership Chair, Katie Kane at KaneKatie@gmail.com