

KAPS REVIEW

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Fall Conference Re-Cap</i>	2
<i>KY School Psychologists Honored</i>	2
<i>Legislative News and Notes</i>	3
<i>Legal Advocacy Training Report</i>	3
<i>Best Practice Regional Winners</i>	4
<i>Categorical Best Practice Winners</i>	5
<i>Public Policy Institute</i>	6
<i>State of School Psychology in KY</i>	6
<i>NASP Delegate Message</i>	7
<i>Pictures from KAPS 2009</i>	8
<i>Dr. Dunham Honored</i>	9
<i>Uploading Reports into IC</i>	

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MISTY LAY

As I rush to beat yet another deadline, the official end of summer 2009 is upon us. How did this happen? Einstein has a theory of the relativity of time. I wonder how that theory would be different if Einstein was a school psychologist. As school psychologists, we operate on a calendar that's at least a week or more ahead of the rest of the world. August was last week, September is this week, and October is next week. The following week, school psychologists everywhere will be scheduling around Halloween parties. After all of the goblins, princesses, and superheroes have become intoxicated on sugar and fantasies, we will enter the school psych time warp, where everything will be a blur until we step out in March or April. We will look around and say to our colleagues, "Wow, where did the year go? I can't believe it's March already!"

I don't know about you, but I am the constant in this theory of the relativity of time (of school psychologists). My internship supervisor advised me years ago, "Misty, school psychology is not a career where you will never be *all done*." Yes, there will always be evaluations to complete, meetings to schedule, crises to intervene, folders to review, and reports to write. But more than that, as a school psychologist, I am constantly reading, learning, and experimenting, striving to strengthen my skills. Our field continues to grow and the opportunities for us are vast. Sure, there are many barriers to work around and through; however, our focus remains the same – to have a positive impact on children, education, parents, and the community. With that focus (regardless of timeliness met), indeed, twelve years later, I'm still not finished. Yes, internship supervisor, this is my career.

Misty



FALL CONFERENCE RECAP

DIANE HERRICK
CONFERENCE CHAIR

This year's conference, held September 9-11 at the Hyatt Regency Louisville, was a great success! We had 284 registrants, which represents a 25% increase in attendance from 2008. Also, our silent auction raised just over \$1500 for the Jennie Ewald Memorial Scholarship Fund. Although there are always ways to improve in the future, the vast majority of conference feedback we've received has been positive.

Believe it or not, the conference committee is already starting to work on plans for the 2010 conference. Over the next month, we'll be reconnecting with various Visitors Bureaus across the state to obtain bids from hotels. After negotiating costs for meeting space, hotel rooms, parking, audio-visual, and food & beverages, we'll select the best possible location and dates for next year.

Once we have those details set, we'll begin scheduling presenters. Those who attended this year's conference have already suggested dozens of topics and speakers for next year. If you've attended a presentation at another conference that you think would be a good fit for KAPS, we want to know! Please email me with any ideas or recommendations.

It takes a lot of people to make the conference happen each year. In addition to the session facilitators and all those who helped in a myriad of ways, there was a core group of people who truly brought this year's conference to life. My sincerest thanks go out to Bethanie Brogli, Angie Chandler, Meredith Collins, Diana Culver, Linda French-Smith, Priscilla Grissom, Lisa Knight, Kristen Kyriacou, Misty Lay, Lauren Martin, Tiffany Martinez, Katie Matthews, Roy Mays, Amy McClain, Susan McGurk, Penny Mills, Melissa Pascua, Megan Sayler, Claudia Schindler, and Melodie Slone, for all of their hard work on the 2009 conference.

I'd like to take this opportunity to invite you to take part in the fun for 2010! Conference committee work deals with several areas, including: speakers, facilitators, registration, program, luncheon, exhibitors/vendors, tech support, publicity, charity/silent auction, and door prizes. If you have questions about committee work or think you might be interested in helping next year, please let me know!

KAPS is now on FACEBOOK! Go to <http://www.facebook.com> to learn more!

KENTUCKY SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS HONORED



Kentucky School Psychologist of the Year: Ken Epperson. He will represent Kentucky & KAPS as the 2011 Kentucky nominee for the National School Psychologist of the Year!

2009 Recipient of the Jennie Ewald Scholarship: Jessie Birdwhistell



LEGISLATIVE NEWS AND NOTES

CONNIE ADAMS
GOVERNMENT AND PROFESSIONAL
RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR

The KAPS GPR Training in Frankfort on June 6th, 2009 was a highpoint of KAPS GPR Activity since I last reported to you in April. Those who attended gained knowledge and insight into the legislative process and inspiration to expand the involvement of all KAPS members in legislative initiatives. In May we supported the NASP efforts for Student Loan Forgiveness, and in July we participated in a NASP Action Alert to help restore funding for School Mental Health Programs. KAPS also joined the KY Mental Health Coalition in June to support a strengthened and expanded Medicaid program necessary for providing health coverage to people with low incomes or special needs. Of course, we continue to work closely with NASP and KPA on the MLA, and were heartened by the strong support of Sheila Shuster at our luncheon at the convention!

The push is on for **Advocacy**. Dyslexia issues will return and we hope to be on the proactive side of this legislation. Whatever the issue, KAPS EC members are working to monitor legislation, establish ongoing communication with state and national legislators, work collaboratively with our affiliates, and forge new contacts with role groups to support expanded roles for school psychologists and to protect our profession so that we can better serve students and staff in our schools. I urge you to do the same. Visit the KAPS website for the latest information and do become involved.

KAPS recognizes Dr. Sheila Schuster for her partnership with us and presents her with a *Special Friend of KAPS* award



LEGAL ADVOCACY TRAINING

KRISTEN KYRACIOU

On Friday, June 5, 2009 a small group of dedicated KAPS members met with **NASP Governmental and Professional Relations trainer, Sally Baas**, for a 4-hour training session on grassroots advocacy issues. This training was intended to provide members with specific information and strategies to use when addressing issues which may arise in the state legislature. Recent bills, such as the dyslexia bill and the KY licensing laws for psychologists were covered. In addition, a special guest appearance by **KY Representative Carl Rollins** highlighted the training. Representative Rollins shared some “insider tips” on how to work a bill through the legislative process. He stressed how important it is for KAPS to have relationships with key people involved in the legislature. If you have any contacts with our state senators or representatives, please be sure and share this with Connie Adams, KAPS GPR Chair.



BEST PRACTICE REGIONAL AWARD WINNERS

Nominations for the regional Best Practice Awards are submitted by persons in their respective regions to the regional representatives. In cases where there's more than one nominee, the regional representative may elect to have their members vote on a winner. Nomination requests are sent to superintendents, directors of special education, co-op directors, and other role groups who work with school psychologists within each region. This award recognizes the school psychologist who has demonstrated outstanding overall performance as a school psychologist in each region.

Upper Cumberland – Julie Lake



Wilderness Trail – April Walters



Caveland – Alayna McDade



Jefferson – Diana Culver



Ohio Valley—Megan Saylor



Western Kentucky – Marty Dunham



Northern Kentucky – Kathy Alexander



Central Kentucky – Corlinda Bartlett



Kentucky Valley – Lynda Porter



River Region – no nominee

Big East – no nominee

CATEGORICAL BEST PRACTICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

The categorical Best Practice Awards recognize individuals who demonstrate excellence in a specific domain in the practice of school psychology. (Assessment, Organization Development, Counseling, Consultation, & Research/Program Evaluation) Nomination requests are sent to superintendents, directors of special education, co-op directors, and other role groups who work with school psychologists throughout Kentucky. After nominations are received, each nominee is notified and asked to submit information describing their work. Using a blind-rating system, each region representative votes on the submissions in the specific category. The winner of each specific category is then a nominee for the KAPS school psychologist of the year. The KAPS officers serve as the awards selection committee for the school psychologist of the year. This award, again, is selected from the winners of the categorical awards, and voted on using a blind rating system.



Assessment

Penny Mills, school psychologist in Jefferson County, was awarded the 2009 Best Practice Award in the area of Assessment for her work with the evaluation of students with visual impairments.



Counseling

Diann Shuffett, school psychologist in Fayette County, was awarded the 2009 Best Practice Award in the area of Counseling. Diann's work in developing counseling plans, curricula, and monitoring systems was specifically highlighted.



Organizational Development

Cristina Green, Linda Cranmer, & Barbara Teague, school psychologists with the Scott County Schools, were awarded the 2009 Best Practices Award in Organizational Development. This team developed the "Risk Assessment Procedural Handbook" for the Scott County Public Schools, which includes interventions and detailed definitions, rights, and forms associated with risk assessments.



Consultation

Ken Epperson, school psychologist in the Floyd County Schools, was awarded the 2009 Best Practice Award in Consultation. Ken was recognized for his consultation efforts with the student, family, classroom, school, county, and region. His outreach to community service providers to share resources for the students in his district was commended.

PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE

MISTY LAY & DIANE HERRICK

This past July, we traveled to Washington, D.C. to represent Kentucky at NASP's Public Policy Institute (PPI). Over the course of two days of intensive training with NASP leaders regarding the legislative system, NASP legislative priorities, and effective communication with lawmakers, the learning curve was steep. We quickly advanced past School House Rock's classic "I'm Just a Bill," and by the third morning, we found ourselves climbing the steps of Capitol Hill.

Armed with information from NASP and from the 2005 KAPS "State of School Psychology" document, we met with members of Senator Bunning and Senator McConnell's staff, and in person with our US Representative. We took the opportunity to explain who school psychologists are, what we do, and how we differ from school counselors and school social workers. We then asked for our Congressmen's support for several pieces of legislation that affect students' mental health services. We also promoted the House and Senate resolutions recognizing National School Psychology Week (November 9-13, 2009), asking for our legislators to sign on as co-sponsors.



Although our experience at the PPI was challenging and intimidating, it was also exhilarating and empowering. We were both surprised at how this training sparked an intense interest in continuing our advocacy for school psychology and children's mental health services. We've shared our thoughts with the KAPS Executive Council, and now we'd like to share them with you. Our plan is to develop our own PPI for Kentucky's school psychologists. You'll be hearing more in the coming months, so please keep an eye out for further developments. We'd love for you to be actively involved in our advocacy efforts!

STATE OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY IN KENTUCKY

DAN FLORELL

Over the years I have had many school psychologists and graduate students contact me needing information about the field. Some requests are regarding scope of practice while others want to know about job availability. Fortunately there has been a document posted on the KAPS website for the past four years that has gone a long way towards answering these questions. The document is the *State of School Psychology in Kentucky - 2005* (SSPK-05).

The SSPK-05 has basic information regarding the universities that train school psychologists in the state. It provides clarification on scope of practice and what type of degrees are required for independent practice. It gives a breakdown of student to school psychologist ratio for every county in the state. It even notes that almost a third of all Kentucky school districts have no school psychologist on staff. The document also provides salary information and job demands of school psychologists in Kentucky and how that compares nationally. Misty Lay, KAPS President, commented recently on how helpful SSPK-05 has been in advocacy efforts both at the state and national levels.

Though the SSPK-05 has been very useful over the past four years, it is becoming dated. The document was compiled based on surveys completed by KAPS members during the 2005 annual convention. It is coming time to update this document for 2010. As part of that effort, KAPS needs everyone's input on what to ask in the next survey of members. Certain questions will be asked again to see how things have changed over the past five years. Other areas will need to be addressed for the first time such as the implementation of RTI. If you would like to help out in the creation of the survey or offer some suggestions on what to include, please e-mail Dan Florell at dan.florell@eku.edu. If you want to see SSPK-05, go to the bottom of the www.kapsonline.org website for more information.

NASP DELEGATE MESSAGE

MARTY DUNHAM

Hello from Murray. I hope your fall semester is going well and that you had a chance to attend the KAPS conference this year. Indeed, it was a strong conference with great continuing education opportunities. It was nice to meet a number of NASP and KAPS members and to talk with current and former students. Strengthening and deepening ties with colleagues is always rewarding and worth the price of admission.

I want to take this opportunity to give you an update on some of NASP's initiatives and activities over the past several months. This summer the NASP delegate assembly met in Bethesda, Maryland. Misty and Diane attended the state leadership aspect of the summer meeting just before and after visiting our congressmen on Capitol Hill. NASP leaders, including our government/public relations committee members, were very impressed with the efforts of KAPS leaders during the MLA public comment period.

Although NASP membership is up, advertising revenue is down considerably. This necessitated a cut in the budget to some programs, reimbursements, and initiatives but absolutely no cuts to member services. Aside from adopting the budget, we discussed proposed changes to the NASP ethics code, the credentialing of school psychologists, our position on integrated school psychology services, and graduate training standards. These changes will likely be voted on at the delegate assembly meeting March 2010 in Chicago. NASP ended its 2008-2009 fiscal year with well over 25,000 members—Kentucky ended with 279 members. Currently, our Kentucky membership is up 8% over this time last year. I very much appreciate those who joined or rejoined and encourage those who haven't joined to do so.

Regarding the Model Licensure Act, APA continues to consider the wealth of feedback they received during the public comment phase (which ended June 2009) and to revise the Act which will be presented to APA's Board of Directors in December 2009. APA's adoption (or failure) of the Act changes will occur tentatively February 2010. Two NASP position statements were recently adopted—"Recruitment of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse School Psychologists" and "School Psychologists' Involvement in Assessment." These can be viewed on the NASP website under position papers. NASP has also established an Adoption and Foster Care Interest Group. This can be accessed via NASP at www.nasponline.org/about_nasp/ig-adoption.aspx. Additionally, the Multicultural Affairs Committee has a new subgroup, "Children in Transition" designed to advocate and develop services for students in foster care, who may be homeless, or who recently immigrated to the U.S. You can access this subgroup via www.nasponline.org/resources/culturalcompetence/mac.aspx. Four other noteworthy pieces of information—the Communiqué has an online version, there is a new monthly podcast ("In the Know with NASP"), there is a new graduate student blog, and Best Practices V is on sale for \$100 off through October 7, 2009.

As always, NASP has a number of free CPD credits available online. These range from 1 to 2.5 hours and cover topics such as suicide prevention, ethical decision making, and child psychopharmacology. Don't forget about these CPD opportunities when you start collecting your hours to renew your certification. Lastly, the next three conventions are in Chicago (March 2-6, 2010), San Francisco (February 22-26, 2011), and Philadelphia (February 21-25, 2012). The Chicago convention will be here before we know it so make plans now to badger and cajole your administrator for funding (or at least release time).

As always, please keep in touch and let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Marty Dunham

PICTURES FROM THE 2009 KAPS CONFERENCE



Networking between sessions. In the hallway and in the refreshment areas!



Dr. Naglieri



Dr. Ablon



Dr. Metz



KAPS Family Feud was a huge success. Congratulations to the Wechsler Family for their win!



WEST KENTUCKY REGIONAL BEST PRACTICE AWARD RECIPIENT: DR. MARTY DUNHAM

The following was submitted for consideration for the regional best practice award, but was not read at the conference luncheon. It was submitted by Randy Potts.

Marty Dunham is a leader and strong advocate for kids. He has been instrumental in coordinating training for school psychologists and guidance counselors in Western Kentucky and gave guidance to assist them in revising their specific learning disability classification procedures within their own districts as needed. He discussed the pros and cons of using the 22-point discrepancy method between aptitude and achievement (utilized in the DSM-4), as well as an alternate method of SLD identification that hinged upon professional analysis of a student's cognitive score profile to find strengths and weaknesses that would reasonably correlate to explain the student's failure to achieve at an adequate level. He trained on options to measure achievement consisting of traditional achievement testing and/or curriculum based assessment probes.

In addition to educating school psychologists and guidance counselors about changes in federal education law and RTI systems, Dr. Dunham also collaborated and guided educational professionals (such as Directors of Special Education) within the West Kentucky Educational Cooperative about public schools using RTI systems and how it directly impacted SKD eligibility.

The Western Kentucky Educational Cooperative respected Dr. Dunham's input and appreciated the time and effort he had spent discussing these significant changes facing Western Kentucky educators. Educators coming from diverse roles within their school district were pleased that someone was able to put the jargon tied to RTI and eligibility in understandable terms.

UPLOADING PSYCHOLOGICAL REPORTS INTO INFINITE CAMPUS

LEIGHANN PARKER

Thanks to a helpful colleague at KAPS, I have successfully uploaded my first psychological report into Infinite Campus (IC). Last year, I attempted to manually enter the information into IC, but it was somewhat slow and painful. Now, all you have to do is upload your reports, and if a child transfers to another school the report is instantly available to the receiving school. To upload your report:

Log into IC

Click on the Search tab: Enter the student's name (last name, first name)

Click on the Index tab

Click on Student Information

Click on Special Ed.

Click on Documents

Under the drop down menu titled Create New Form **click on the option "Upload Document"**

Enter the name of the document: I entered "Psychoeducational Report; student's name" then **Browse** to find the file on your computer and select it. Once the file name is in the "Browse" window, **click Save**. You may have to repeat this process more than once, but it will work.

This should help speed up the process in getting information to the case managers. Let me know if you find any issues or glitches with this system.

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Visit us on the web!
<http://kapsonline.org>

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES MARY MARGARET MCNEMAR
EDITOR

- All members are encouraged to submit articles or “funnies” for publication in the KAPS Review.
- The most efficient way of submitting a document is to send it via email as an attachment. This method makes editing much easier.
- Hard copies of submissions require retyping which is not feasible. Hard copies that can be scanned and therefore edited and formatted for publication are acceptable.
- I am not able to accept general requests to “put in a blurb” in the newsletter regarding a certain topic or announcement. Please compose the document and forward it for submission in the format in which you would like it to be published.
- It is important that all submission are received by the newsletter deadline. Late submissions delay publication. Due to the time sensitive nature of some submissions, delays can result in “old” news.
- All KAPS members are encouraged to submit articles for the Review. We want to hear what you are doing for the students of Kentucky.
- In upcoming issues, I want to highlight how your district is moving toward RTI, reviews of new books in school psychology, and how you are addressing the increasing mental health needs of school-aged children and youth. Please consider writing an article for the KAPS Review and forwarding that information to the newsletter editor at the address above.

It has been an honor to serve as editor for the past several years. Congratulations to Stacie McCune, the new editor of the *KAPS Review*.