

American Psychological Association of Graduate Students (APAGS) 2018 Annual Report

APAGS Committee Members: Justin Karr, PhD (Chair); Ian Gutierrez, PhD (Past Chair); Roseann Fish Getchell, PsyD (Chair-Elect); Julio Brionez PhD; Mona Elgohail, MS; Jacklynn Fitzgerald, PhD; Zarina Giannone, MA; Lora Henderson, MEd; and Jerrold Yeo, PsyD (Members at Large); Renee Cloutier, MS; Mary Guerrant, PhD; Travis Loughran, MA; Sydney Morgan, MA; and Joelle Taknint, MS (Subcommittee Chairs).

Staff Liaisons: Eddy Ameen, PhD, Heather Dade and Ritu Verma

The [American Psychological Association of Graduate Students \(APAGS\)](#) Committee aspires to achieve the highest quality graduate training experience for the next generation of scientific innovators, expert practitioners, and visionary leaders in psychology. As the largest organized group of psychology graduate students worldwide, the APAGS mission is to build a better future for psychology by serving as a united voice to enrich and advocate for graduate student development.

Accomplishments

The following represents a brief overview of APAGS's work in 2018.

- *Strategic Planning*
In 2013, APAGS adopted a three-tiered strategic plan to help guide its activities. That plan expired in 2018. Early this year, APAGS began work on generating a new, updated strategic plan which was completed in early 2019. This new strategic plan will be available online in the coming months.
- *Voting Privileges for Students*
In the fall of 2017, the APAGS Committee decided to seek voting privileges for graduate student members of APA in all APA matters to better involve students in the political life of the organization, and to increase the student voice within APA. The Committee and staff researched what rights students have with other organizations regarding voting privileges, sent out surveys to individual members and to APA Boards and Committees, to gauge support for the initiative. They hosted a conference committee meeting at the 2018 Spring Consolidated Meeting and met-in person with APA Boards and Committees in the fall of 2018. APAGS anticipates moving the item forward to Council in 2019.
- *Working Group for the Student Bill of Rights*
APAGS and the Board of Educational Affairs developed a work group to define hallmarks of high-quality graduate programs in psychology, with an emphasis on student treatment. This initiative was inspired by APAGS's earlier efforts to identify graduate student rights. The goal is currently to produce a document that serves as a resource that can be used by Programs Directors, Department Chairs, and current students when addressing or developing policies regarding student treatment and serves as a resource for prospective students to help them independently evaluate program options on the basis of the identified hallmarks.

- Convention*

The APAGS Convention Committee reviews, accepts, and develops more than 20 sessions for students each year at the annual APA Convention. At the 2018 Convention in San Francisco, CA, APAGS co-sponsored a late-breaking poster session with the Science Student Council, and hosted discussion hours with diverse speakers at our Café Chats. New in 2018, APAGS and CECP created a space called “The Wave” in the Convention Center Exhibit Hall, where students and ECP’s could attend sessions and network in the lounge area.
- Business Meetings*

The 14-member APAGS Committee attended the Spring Consolidated Meeting, and held three conference call meetings in the fall, to work on committee business items. Discussion and action items included: EPPP Part 2, strategic planning, review of the APAGS operating procedures, election processes, member-at-large role reform, and graduate student voting privileges.
- Grants and Awards*

APAGS awarded twelve \$1,000 APAGS/Psi Chi Junior Scientist Fellowships (in partnership with Psi Chi), fourteen Psychological Science Research Grants, one Raymond D. Fowler Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Professional Development of Graduate Students, and one Stuart C. Tentoni Award for an outstanding professional development convention program. At the end of 2018, APAGS developed a one-time award, the Student Diversity Initiative, to support the recruitment and retention of diverse doctoral students in graduate programs in psychology. APAGS received a large number of applications from institutions and internship programs, and gave out five awards to innovative applicants, totaling \$15,000.
- Translational Issues in Psychological Science Journal*

Three issues of this APAGS-sponsored, APA-published journal, came out in 2018. Special topics were Marijuana; Psychology of Social Class and Socioeconomic Status (SES); and Positive Psychology and Well-Being.
- Advocacy and Liaisons*

APAGS had student representation at a meeting of the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB), to advocate for fairness in licensure testing processes and fees resulting from ASPPB’s announcement of developing the EPPP Part 2. APAGS also attended a meeting of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC), and two meetings of the Council of Chairs of Training Councils (CCTC), to discuss the accredited internship shortage.
- Supporting Mentorship and Underrepresented Students*

The APAGS subcommittee for the Advancement of Racial and Ethnic Diversity (CARED) hosted a Twitter Chat on #PsychDiversity - Diversity in Graduate Programs. The subcommittee also hosted a Peer Mentoring Program connecting diverse students from different universities to provide support and mentorship. The APAGS subcommittee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity (CSOGD), paired 48 advanced graduate students and psychologist mentors with graduate student mentees for a year-long structured support program.

- *Practice Leadership Conference*

APAGS's Advocacy Coordinating Team sent eight student members to attend APA's Practice Leadership Conference in March in Washington, DC.