Southwestern Psychological Association: Report of the 63rd Annual Meeting

Adena Young-Jones, Secretary, Missouri State University

The 63rd Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Psychological Association (SWPA) was held March 31 – April 2, 2017 at Hyatt Regency on the Riverwalk in San Antonio, Texas. President Kelly Henry (Missouri Western State University) presided at the meeting for which the presidential theme was Fitting In/Standing Out: The Psychology of Groups. She was assisted by the Past-President Christian L. Hart (Texas Woman’s University) and President-Elect W. Trey Hill (Fort Hays State University).

The 2016-2017 Executive Council members helped organize the conference. They included Arkansas Representative Darshon Anderson (University of Central Arkansas), Kansas Representative Cindy Turk (Washburn University), Missouri Representative Christine Ziemer (Missouri Western State University), New Mexico State Representative Po Sen (Mark Chu (Western New Mexico University), Oklahoma Representative Sharon Roberts (Northeastern State University-Tahlequah), Tennessee Representative Martha S. Zlokovich (Executive Director of Psi Chi), Texas Representative Thomas Faulkenberry (Tarleton State University), Louisiana Representative Dena Matzenbacher (McNeese State University), Graduate Representative Kevin Kenny (Kansas State University), Undergraduate Representative Chelsea Marcotte (Fort Hays State University), Membership Registrar Amy Dicke-Bohmann (Texas A&M University-San Antonio), Treasurer Arn Froese (Sterling College), Secretary Adena Young-Jones (Missouri State University), Newsletter Coordinator Drew Curtis (Angelo State University), Program Chair Angela M. Sikorski (Texas A&M University), Election Commissioner Charles Burdsal (Wichita State University), Finance Chair Linda Hynan (UT Southwestern Medical Center), and Awards Chair Scott Bailey (Texas Lutheran University).
Approximately 1256 member and nonmember participants registered for the conference. Abstracts accepted by SWPA for presentations resulted in 89 talks divided among 33 sessions, 409 posters in thirteen poster sessions, nine symposia, and ten workshops (two SWPA and eight affiliate programs). Four state representatives prepared symposia. In addition, there were eight invited speakers; six of those addresses were given by SWPA-sponsored speakers. Affiliate organizations invited four speakers and hosted 16 sessions.

**Invited Addresses**

The presidential theme linked the content of invited addresses. Holly Arrow (University of Oregon) presented a keynote address titled “Valuing and devaluing lives in peace and war.” Paul Piff (University of California, Irvine) presented “What is social class?” Kip Williams (Purdue University) discussed “Ostracism: Consequences and coping.” Kathi Miner (Texas A&M University) presented “Was that an insult? How subtle interpersonal discrimination affects women’s persistence in STEM.” Joel Shenker presented “Broken social brains.” Robert Morgan discussed “Beyond pop culture: The application of science in forensic psychology.”

**State Representatives’ Invited Speaker Symposia**

Texas State Representative Tom Faulkenberry (Tarleton State University) chaired the second symposium with Michael Hout (New Mexico State University) and Amrita Puri (Illinois State University) on “Processes in perception, cognition, and action.” Arkansas State Representative Darshon Anderson chaired the symposium with John Faucett (University of Arkansas at Little Rock), Brittany Daulton (University of Central Arkansas), and Kathleen Fuegen (Northern Kentucky University) on the topic of “Goals and groups: How group/organizational goals impact the individual.” Kansas State Representative Cynthia Turk (Washburn University) participated in the third symposium with Donald A. Saucier (Kansas
State University) and Megan L. Strain (University of Nebraska at Kearney) on “Not just a joke: Disparagement, confrontation, and subversion in group humor.” Oklahoma State Representative Sharon Roberts (Northeastern State University) chaired the symposium with Ryan P. Brown (Rice University) and Kevin Green (The University of Oklahoma) on “The cultural ideology of honor: Characteristics, persistence, and risks.”

**APA-Sponsored Events**

The American Psychological Association (APA) co-hosted with SWPA to present an Academic Career Workshop. APA selected representatives from various types of colleges and universities to discuss preparation for and participation in academic careers. Donald Lucas (Northwest Vista College) chaired the session, and Renee A. Countryman (Austin College), Cherisse Flanagan (Abilene Christian University), Don Saucier (Kansas State University), and Ken Sobel (University of Central Arkansas) were the panelists.

**Presidential Remarks**

Kelly Henry (Missouri Western State University) delivered the SWPA Presidential remarks “Fitting in/standing out: The psychology of groups.” She thanked the Executive Council and staff. She also introduced the newly elected individuals.

**Affiliates’ Events**

Organizations meeting with SWPA and contributing additional talks, posters, and special events to the program were the Society for Applied Multivariate Research (SAMR), the Southwestern Comparative and Behavioral Neuroscience Association (SCBNA), the Southwestern Teachers of Psychology (SWToP), and the Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology. William Revelle (Northwestern University) presented the SAMR invited address, “Personality research: An open and shared science”. SWToP hosted Regan A. R. Gurung
(University of Wisconsin, Green Bay) whose address was “Developing healthy study habits: Teachers as fitness trainers of the learning world”. The Psi Chi Distinguished Speaker was Robert Emmons (University of California – Davis) whose talk was “The science of gratitude: Lessons learned.” Additionally, the Psi Chi Diversity Speaker was Kecia Thomas (University of Georgia).

**Business Meeting, Election Results, Student Research Competition Awards, and Announcements**

SWPA members gathered for the Awards and Annual Members’ Meeting on April 1, 2017. President Kelly Henry (Missouri Western State University) presented a summary of significant organizational developments. Specifically, she recognized Roger Kirk as the first SWPA Fellow (2016). Then, she identified Arn Froese as the second SWPA Fellow (2017) and presented him with a plaque; she also acknowledged his retirement from the treasurer position along with all of his work and accomplishments with SWPA. Trey Hill (Fort Hays State University) is the new President and will begin his term after the convention. Cindy Turk (Washburn University) was voted to the President-Elect position.

The Executive Council for 2017-2018 consists of five professional membership representatives. The professional representatives include Drew Curtis (Angelo State University), Darshon Anderson (University of Central Arkansas), Dena Matzenbacher (McNeese State University), Martha Zlokovich (University of Florida), Christine Ziemer (Missouri Western State University). Kelli Wierzbicki (University of Central Arkansas) is the graduate representative, and Kristen Bowman (Tarleton State University) is the undergraduate representative. For the appointed positions, Amy Dicke-Bohmann (Texas A&M University-San Antonio) is the Membership Registrar, Thomas Faulkenberry (Tarleton State University) is the Treasurer, Adena
Young-Jones (Missouri State University) is the Secretary, Drew Curtis (Angelo State University) is the Newsletter Coordinator, Angela Sikorski (Texas A&M University-Texarkana) is the Program Chair, Charles Burdsal (Wichita State University) is the Elections Commissioner, Linda Hynan (UT Southwestern Medical Center) is the Finance Chair, and Kelly Henry (Missouri Western State University) is the Awards Chair.

Announcement of the Student Research Competition Awards followed. Former SWPA President, Scott Bailey, presented the research recipients. First place was given to Arianne Fisher (Fort Hays State University). The finalists were Erin Wood (Oklahoma State University), Tiffany Marie Wierzbicki (University of Central Arkansas), Cory Lamoine Cobb (University of Central Arkansas), and Rebecca Arlene Thomas (The University of Texas at San Antonio).

For the Undergraduate Student Competition, first place was awarded to Sydney Keller and Alexandria Grace Parrish (University of St. Thomas). Finalists were Allison Cheri DeJong and Skylar M. Brannon (The University of Texas at Austin), Savannah Cavender (University of Central Arkansas), Hannah N. Hagler (Texas Woman’s University), Stephanie Marie Perez (University of St. Thomas), Tori Nicole Francis (University of Central Arkansas), Raneem Hamdan (University of St. Thomas), and Amy Kathleen Jordan (Fort Hays State University).

**Future Meeting**

President Trey Hill invited members to the 64th Annual Meeting, April 13-15, 2018 at the Hilton Americas-Houston in Houston, Texas. The theme for the upcoming conference is Applying Psychological Research to Solve the Challenges of Tomorrow. President Hill then adjourned the meeting. Additional information can be found at the SWPA website, www.swpsych.org.