Southwestern Psychological Association: Report of the 64th Annual Meeting

Adena Young-Jones, Secretary, Missouri State University

The 64th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Psychological Association (SWPA) was held April 13 – April 15, 2018 at Hilton Americas in Houston, Texas. President W. Trey Hill (Fort Hays State University) presided at the meeting for which the presidential theme was Tomorrow’s Challenges. Psychology’s Solutions. He was assisted by the Past-President Kelly Henry (Missouri Western State University) and President-Elect Cindy Turk (Washburn University).

The 2017-2018 Executive Council members helped organize the conference. The following are Professional Representatives: Christine Ziemer (Missouri Western State University), Drew Curtis (Angelo State University), Darshon Anderson (University of Central Arkansas), Dena Matzenbacher (McNeese State University), and Martha Zlovich (Executive Director of Psi Chi). Student members included Graduate Representative Kelli Wierzbicki (University of Central Arkansas) and Undergraduate Representative Kristen Bowman (Tarleton State University). The non-voting members involved Membership Registrar Amy Dicke-Bohmann (Texas A&M University-San Antonio), Treasurer Thomas Faulkenberry (Tarleton State University), Secretary Adena Young-Jones (Missouri State University), Executive Officer Jennifer Bonds-Raacke (Fort Hays State University), Newsletter Coordinator Drew Curtis (Angelo State University), Program Chair Angela M. Sikorski (Texas A&M University), Election Commissioner Charlie Burdsal (Wichita State University), Finance Chair Linda Hynan (UT Southwestern Medical Center), and Awards Chair Kelly Henry (Missouri Western State University).
Approximately 1205 member and nonmember participants registered for the conference. Abstracts accepted by SWPA for presentations resulted in 88 talks divided among 29 sessions, 349 posters in 12 poster sessions, 16 symposia, and 18 workshops (nine SWPA and nine affiliate programs). One professional representative prepared a symposium. In addition, there were eight invited speakers; three of those addresses were given by SWPA-sponsored speakers. Affiliate organizations invited five speakers and hosted two talk sessions, two paper sessions, four poster sessions (Psi Chi and SWPA poster showcase, SAMR and SWPA, SWToP and SWPA, SCBNA and SWPA), one leadership development, two round-tables, one teaching demonstration, and five symposia.

**Invited Addresses**

The presidential theme linked the content of invited addresses. Conor Seyle (University of Texas) presented an overview of research with One Earth Future using models to forecast political coups in various parts of the world. Edward Maibach (George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication) presented interdisciplinary work on communicating the seriousness of climate change. Chris Crandall (University of Kansas, Department of Psychology) discussed ongoing work in the realm of the psychology of politics.

**Professional Representatives’ Invited Speaker Symposia**

Professional Representative Dena Matzenbacher (McNeese University) chaired the symposium with Linda Brannon (McNeese University), Bianca Augustine (McNeese University), and Kane Vest on “Perceptions of Academic Dishonesty.”

**APA-Sponsored Events**

During the pre-conference, the American Psychological Association (APA) presented a event on “Surviving Academia.” The structure of tenure was addressed along with teaching and
course design as well as mentoring students. Funding and financing research was also discussed. Guest speakers included Grey Neimeyer (University of Florida), Jim Diaz-Granados (APA), and Garth Fowler (APA).

**Presidential Address**

Trey Hill (Fort Hays State University) delivered the SWPA Presidential Address “Applying Psychological Research to Solve the Challenges of Tomorrow.” Hill outlined his personal journey to becoming a psychologist and detailed how psychologists are capable of dealing with the current problems of today. Then, he thanked the Executive Council and staff. He 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. Simine Vazire (UC Davis) presented the SAMR invited address, “Safer science: The credibility revolution in psychological science.” SCBNA invited Patrick Dougherty (University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center) to discuss “How do dorsal root ganglion neurons impact psychology?” SWToP hosted Loreto Prieto (Iowa State University) whose address was “Intersections of diversity in the psychology classroom.” The Psi Chi Distinguished Speaker was Jon Grahe (Pacific Lutheran University) who presented “Open science initiatives promote diverse, just and sustainable research practices.” Additionally, Psi Chi invited Anthony Biglan (The Oregon Research Institute) whose talk was “The nurture effect: How the science of human behavior can improve our lives and our world.”
**Business Meeting, Election Results, and Announcements**

SWPA members gathered for the Awards and Annual Members’ Meeting on April 15, 2018. President Trey Hill (Fort Hays State University) presented a summary of significant organizational developments. Specifically, he recognized Roger Kirk as the first SWPA Fellow (2016) and identified Arn Froese as the second SWPA Fellow (2017). Then, he recognized Don Lucas as the third SWPA Fellow (2018) and presented him with a plaque. He informed members that Cindy Turk (Washburn University) is the new President and will begin her term after the convention; Perry Fuchs (University of Texas-Arlington) is the President-Elect.

The Executive Council for 2018-2019 consists of four professional membership representatives. The Professional Representatives include Darshon Anderson (University of Central Arkansas), Drew Curtis (Angelo State University), Whitney Jeter (Fort Hays State University), and Krista Nelson (Southern Arkansas University). Sydney Skaggs (University of Central Arkansas) is the Graduate Representative, and Rosalia Orozco (Sam Houston State University) is the Undergraduate Representative. For the appointed positions, Jennifer Bonds-Raacke (Fort Hays State University) is the Executive Officer, Amy 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.

**Future Meeting**
President Cindy Turk invited members to the 65th Annual Meeting, April 5 – 7, 2019 in Albuquerque, New Mexico at Hotel Albuquerque, Hotel Chaco, and Best Western-Rio Grande Inn. The theme for the upcoming conference is Psychology: From the Lab to the Labyrinth. President Turk then adjourned the meeting. Additional information can be found at the SWPA website, www.swpsych.org.