Western Psychological Association

Report of the 98th Annual Meeting

Kris Leppien-Christensen, Executive Officer

The 98th annual meeting of the Western Psychological Association (WPA) was held at the Marriott Downtown Waterfront Hotel in Portland, Oregon on April 26–29, 2018. The 23rd Annual Lewis M. Terman Teaching Conference took place on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. The host institution was Pacific University Oregon. The Program Co-Chairs were Alyson Burns-Glover, Dawn Salgado, and Heide Island (Pacific University Oregon). There were over 2,600 attendees at the convention.

WPA board. Christina Maslach (UC Berkeley) was elected President-Elect and Ethan McMahan (Western Oregon University) was elected Representative-at-Large. Other officers for 2018–2019 are Laura Freberg (California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo), President, Terry Cronan (San Diego State University), Past-President; Melinda Blackman (California State University, Fullerton), Treasurer, and Chris Warren (California State University, Long Beach), Secretary. The WPA Board also includes Kris Leppien-Christensen (Saddleback College), Lewis M. Terman Teaching Conference Coordinator; Scott C. Fraser (Applied Research Associates), Western Psychological Foundation Board Chair; Mark Costanzo (Claremont McKenna College), Fellows and Awards Program Director; Carrie M. Margolin (The Evergreen State College), Film Program Coordinator; Christopher Aberson (Humboldt State University), Statistics Workshop Coordinator; Lynette Bikos (Seattle Pacific University), Continuing Education Program Coordinator; Alison Mack (Portland State University), Student Representative, and the 2019 Program Co-Chairs, Heidi Riggio and Steven Frenda (California State University, Los Angeles).
Student research awards. The generous donations of many WPA members and fellows enabled WPA to grant awards for research excellence to the following students: Jackelyn Avila (California State University, Fresno), Daniela Ayala (San Diego State University), Jonathan Castaneda (California State University, Fullerton), Patrick Holmes, (Oregon Institute of Technology), Cecilia Melendez (California State University, San Bernardino), Seallong Sechang (California State University, Fullerton). The Robert L Solso Research Awards were presented to Marci Haines (Argosy University), Lorena P. Rosales (California Lutheran University), Mercy Tran (California State University, Fullerton). The Christina Maslach-Philip Zimbardo Social Psychology Research Awards were presented to Stephanie Byers (Humboldt State University), Hannah Liska (California State University, Long Beach). The Gottfried WPA Student Research Award in Developmental Psychology was presented to Samira Amirazizi (Chapman University). The recipient of the Dr. Steven Ungerleider WPA Graduate Research Award was Olivia Silke (California State University, Long Beach). The Barbara Tabachnick Award for Outstanding Application of Quantitative Methods was presented to Marilu Isiordia (University of California, Davis). The Multivariate Software Award provided by Multivariate Software, Inc. that includes a license for EQS was given to Gemma Wallace (Colorado State University).

WPA professional awards and fellows. Leslie Martin (La Sierra University) received the 2018 WPA Outstanding Teaching Award and P. Chris Cozby (California State University, Fullerton) received the WPA Service Award. The WPA Early Career Research Award went to Allison Vaughan (San Diego State University) and the Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Elizabeth Loftus (University of California, Irvine) and Christina Maslach (University of California, Berkeley). Dr. Stuart Donaldson (Claremont Graduate University) was recognized with the WPA Social Responsibility Award. New WPA fellows welcomed at the
convention were Dr. Melinda Blackman (California State University, Fullerton) and Dr. Alyson Burns-Glover (Pacific University Oregon).

**2018 convention highlights.** Terry Cronan (San Diego State University) delivered the presidential address, “What Does It Mean to Mentor? Gender and Generational Effects.” There were two addresses by the WPA Life Achievement Award recipients: Elizabeth Loftus, “Eavesdropping on Memory,” and Christina Maslach, “Making a Significant Difference.” The WPA Early Career Research Award address was delivered by Stacey Doan (Claremont McKenna College), “The Adaptive Functions of Negative Emotions and Behaviors.” The E. E. Jones Clinical Research Award was presented by Michael Levin (Utah State University), “Delivering Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Online: Research Findings And Future Directions.” The APA Distinguished Scientist Lecture was given by Philip Zimbardo (Stanford University), “Inside The Mind of Dr. Zimbardo: The Actor’s Studio Comes to WPA.” WPA President Terry Cronan, along with Elizabeth Loftus and Christina Maslach, hosted a luncheon event focusing on “Women Who Wonder: Speaking Truth to Science.”

The Psi Chi program, organized by Ethan A. McMahan (Western Oregon University), featured a presentation by Paul Quinn (QPR Institute), “A Career Well Spent: How I Became a Psychologist and Why I Will Never Retire.” Psi Chi also sponsored the Psi Chi Poster Session, sessions on graduate school, careers, leadership, and the Psi Chi Chapter Exchange and Awards Program.

Other presentations by distinguished speakers included: Theodore Burnes (Anticoch University) “We Are The Ones We’ve Been Waiting For: Critical Consciousness As Change Agent In The Future Of Psychology,” Sarah Bowen (Pacific University Oregon) “Mindfulness-Based Interventions For Addictive Behaviors: Integrating Ancient and
Graduate University) “Science, Policy, and Social Justice: Psychology’s Guiding Triumvirate?”

William Todd Schultz (Pacific University Oregon) “The Mind of The Artist.”

The Society for the Teaching of Psychology (STP) program was organized by Heidi Riggio (CSU Los Angeles). It included the STP Last Lecture featuring presentations by Bernard Weiner (UCLA) "Unsolved Teaching Dilemmas,” Jodie Ullman (California State University, San Bernardino) "Make It Relevant: Apply Your Learning Outside the Classroom," Kris Leppien-Christensen (Saddleback College) “The Best Job I Ever Had Was The One I Didn’t Get.”

The Psychology Teaching at Community Colleges (PT@CC) program organized by Vivian McCann (Portland Community College) included a symposium on innovative teaching entitled “Teaching Take Outs.” Presenters included Eric Kim (Lane Community College), Jaye Van Kirk (San Diego Mesa College), and Inna Kanevsky (San Diego Mesa College). A second innovated teaching symposium titled “Building Bridges to Facilitate Student Success” featured LaDonna Lewis (Glendale Community College, AZ) and Erica Dixon (South Puget Sound Community College). PT@CC also sponsored a talk by Inna Kanevsky: “Pavlov’s Discovery: History, Impact, and Controversy.”

The WPA Statistics Workshop program, coordinated by Chris Aberson, featured: Kathleen S. J. Preston (California State University, Fullerton) “IRT for the People - An Introduction to Item Response Theory,” Jonathan Helm (San Diego State University) “Using Structural Equation Modeling To Fit Analyses of Variance,” Joel S. Steele (Portland State University) “Introduction to Bayesian Modeling,” and Christopher Aberson (Humboldt State University) “Statistical Power Analysis for Regression-Based Designs.”
Carrie M. Margolin (The Evergreen State College) coordinated the WPA Film Festival in which 27 recent films on topics in psychology were screened during the convention. The audience favorites were both from Bullfrog Films: *My Love Affair with the Brain - The Life & Science of Dr. Marian Diamond* (57 mins) and *From This Day Forward* (76 mins). All film titles and audience ratings are available on the WPA website.

**2019 convention.** The 99th annual meeting will be held at the Pasadena Convention Center in Downtown Pasadena, California April 25–28. The Terman Teaching Conference will be held on April 24, 2019. Information on submissions, registration, and hotel reservations is available at [https://www.westernpsych.org](https://www.westernpsych.org).