



# THE TEXAS SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

Newsletter of the Texas Association of School Psychologists

<http://www.txasp.org>

Affiliate of the National Association of School Psychologists

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## President's Corner

*Robb Matthews, LSSP*

As I stand in the mall watching normally upstanding members of society transform into competitors even the WWF would be proud to put on pay-per-view, I still find it hard to believe the fall semester is already gone. Traditionally, the majority of LSSPs have no break from Labor Day to Thanksgiving. This long stretch of crisis intervention, group and individual therapy, assessments, ARDs, presentations, etc., tends to increase stress and lessen productivity (to put it mildly). By the time semester break arrives, most LSSPs are mentally and physically exhausted regardless of job focus. Our new fall conference schedule seemed to help with this problem and by some reports even made the semester "rush by". Not only did the new conference schedule give us a much needed break from the daily grind, but it also gave attendees new ideas and skills they could take back to their jobs and implement immediately.

*Pursuing Excellence* was a tremendous success with more than 550 in attendance and membership reaching 650+ during the conference. The TASP tradition of exceptional workshops covering a variety of topic areas continued and was well received by all. The exhibitor area was larger and busier than in previous years. We received many positive comments from the attendees and exhibitors alike. In fact, several exhibitors have already requested space for the Houston 2001 conference (October 4-6). Attendees were able to participate in the first TASP service project, "Suitcases for Kids". We were very successful in gathering new and gently used travel bags to donate to CPS for use when needed by a child. A huge "thank you" to Wende Jones and her committee for their efforts! We were also one of the few test states where NASP brought direct book sales to state conferences. By the close of our conference, Texans had purchased more NASP publications than any other test state including California and New York.

Following the resounding success of two professional development conferences in one calendar year, I wanted to take this opportunity to explain a few conference planning details. The conference committee diligently works to plan and promote

workshop topics important to the profession and to school psychological services in Texas. It takes close to a year from initial topic selection to the registration table opening. By the time you read this article, the committee will have completed the initial planning for the Houston 2001 conference and be well on the way to securing speakers, developing promotional materials, and working with the hotel contacts. As some questions have been posed regarding food and other costs, I would like to take a moment to also review a few of those here.

The Association prides itself on providing a high quality conference while keeping costs low. It is a constant struggle for the conference committee to prioritize expenses and maintain quality. A major area of expense is food. After painstaking review of the available menu items and careful projections based on past conferences, the food costs for the *Pursuing Excellence*

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AD

## Best Practices Hotline

*This column is designed to address practice issues in the field of school psychology. Questions should be sent to: Dr. Ginger E. Gates, 1936 Portsmouth, Houston, TX 77098.*

**Question:** A private pediatrician has diagnosed several students in my district with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The parents are now wanting special education services under OHI. The school professionals do not agree with the diagnosis. Do we have to accept the diagnosis and provide special education services?

**Answer:** No. IDEA '97 mandates that the IEP Team “consider” information brought to the table from the parents, but that information does not carry any more weight than the school’s data. Also remember that a **condition** (e.g., OHI) alone is not enough for eligibility, but that the child must also have a **need** for special education services. In my experience it was useful to secure a signature on a “release of information” form from the parents so that I could talk to the physician personally. It is helpful to understand what sources of data the physician used in making the diagnosis. If the outside professional sees the school as cooperative and willing to share information (e.g., observations, work samples, behavior rating scales, etc.) then the collaboration may be able to better serve the needs of the child than any one system alone. Especially with ADHD, school data are critical to the private professional in order to make a solid diagnosis.

Recently the American Academy of Pediatrics released a document entitled *Clinical Practice Guideline: Diagnosis and Evaluation of the Child with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder*. A copy of this article can be downloaded from the American Academy of Pediatrics’ website at: <[www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)>. The article provides recommendations for the assessment and diagnosis of school-aged children with ADHD. It is intended for use by primary care physicians and might be useful to share with your local pediatricians if they are not already aware of it. The guideline contains the following recommendations for diagnosis of ADHD:

1. In a child 6-12 years old who presents with inattention, hyperactivity, impulsivity, academic underachievement, or behavior problems, primary care clinicians should initiate an evaluation for ADHD;
2. The diagnosis of ADHD requires that a child meet DSM IV criteria;
3. The assessment of ADHD requires evidence directly obtained from parents or caregivers regarding the core symptoms of ADHD in various settings, the age of onset, duration of symptoms, and degree of functional impairment;
4. The assessment of ADHD requires evidence directly obtained from the classroom teacher (or other school professional) regarding the core symptoms of ADHD, duration of symptoms, degree of functional impairment, and associated condition;

5. Evaluation of the child with ADHD should include assessment for associated (coexisting) conditions; and
6. Other diagnostic tests are not routinely indicated to establish the diagnosis of ADHD but may be used for the assessment of other coexisting conditions (e.g., learning disabilities and mental retardation).

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## Web Report

*Francis Chen, LSSP Intern, Webmaster*

Greetings to you all. I hope that this holiday season finds everyone happy and healthy! As the webmaster for the TASP site, I learn lessons on a regular basis. The feedback I have received primarily addresses the difficulties some of you have had with the conference brochure. The actual brochure ended up being scanned and then uploaded to our site. The greatest difficulty was the upload time for the images. TASP will now create PDF files which appear to be the most efficient form of image files to load on the web site.

A number of times you all have sent questions and comments to the [TASPorg@aol.com](mailto:TASPorg@aol.com) address and then it was forwarded to me. To take care of the delay, please send e-mail regarding the website or anything related to the website/web pages, to [TASPWeb@wireweb.net](mailto:TASPWeb@wireweb.net). I look forward to corresponding with you all.

Finally, we are looking for people that would be interested in acting as associate webmasters for some of the pages. If you are saying to yourself, “I am not a computer science major, I studied School Psychology” or perhaps, you might be saying, “Hey, I am a liberal arts kinda person not a science major...”, you are wrong!! It does not take a technical background to work on the website. So, I encourage you that have an interest in the internet and would like to contribute to TASP to come on board. The following are the pages that need support: the job opportunities page, related links page, and the GPR page. I look forward to hearing from some eager volunteers! Come visit us at [WWW.TXASP.ORG](http://WWW.TXASP.ORG).



Suitcases collected at the TASP Conference in San Antonio

## Suitcases for Kids!

Children's Assistance For  
Living Fund Committee



## Representatives of Child Protective Services:

Mary Lou Stelzig, Pat Scrivano, Bill Whipple  
(Mary Lou & Pat operated a table on  
Prevention of Abuse and Foster Parenting  
Friday, AM & Bill Friday of Foster Adoption  
Recruitment on Friday PM.)

## Thank You To Our Area Collection Sites:

Regional KinderCare Learning Centers:  
Diana Talbott, Area Director

Northside ISD Psychological Services Dept.  
Dr. Barry Dewlen, Director,  
Accepting Award: Dr. Suzanne Gonzalez,  
Dr. Steve Arnold and Northside ISD  
Superintendent Ed Rawlinson

Seguin ISD  
Accepting Award: Seguin ISD  
Superintendent: Dee Carter and Judy  
Peschel, Media Relations,  
Director: Dr. Phipps

Northside Children's Center  
Accepting the award: Ron Somody,  
Director

O'Connor High School Latin Club  
Accepting the Award: Erin Peters, Student

Fair Park ISD  
Accepting the Award: Jo Ann Campbell

Kinetic Concepts, Inc.  
Accepting the Award: Renee Tatum,  
Human Resources KCI

Fort Bend ISD  
Accepting the Award: Kevin Kolk,  
Lisa Brown & Julie Graham

## Children's Assistance For Living Fund Committee:

Thomas A. Wood  
Francis Chen  
Laura Reagan  
JoAnn Campbell  
Wende Buchanan Jones

## Area Reps:

Michael Dixon  
Thomas A. Wood  
Carol Booth  
Francis Chen  
Jo Ann Campbell  
Wende Buchanan Jones

## Thanks Robb for forming this committee!

## Special Thanks to :

Tracee Evans of KTRH (Houston)  
CALFC, Media Consultant

KWED Radio Seguin

Sonny Melendrez of MAGIC 105 San Antonio  
Jack Riccardi of KTSA San Antonio

Clear Channel Communications Stations in  
San Antonio and Houston Regions

## Children's Assistance For Living Fund Committee

Wende L. Buchanan Jones, Chair

On a daily basis, Child Protective Services caseworkers are faced with the difficult task of providing scared, displaced children with plastic trash bags in which to pack and carry their personal belongings when they are removed from their homes and placed in protective care or foster homes. However, together we can make a difference and we have already started. During the Suitcases for Kids Project, we collected over 1000 suitcases, backpacks, and duffel bags for the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services. Caseworkers distributed the first suitcases to children the Monday following our conference. It is exciting to see the suitcases already in the children's hands.

When local school psychologists discovered that caseworkers had to give their young clients plastic bags to carry their personal belongings in, Dr. Barry Dewlen of Northside I.S.D. suggested that TASP pursue this as a service project and Suitcases for Kids began. In the Summer 2000 the Children's Assistance For Living Fund Committee was created as a TASP adhoc committee by President Robb Matthews and a five-member team was appointed to serve on this committee. Since then, this Committee has hit the road running and not looked back. The first meeting was called to order to develop the proposal for the Children's Assistance Fund and TASP's first statewide service project, Suitcases for Kids. The Children's Assistance For Living Fund Committee includes: Thomas Arch Wood, Francis Chen, Laura Reagan, Jo Ann Campbell and Wende L. Buchanan Jones. Area Representatives Michael Dixon and Carol Booth are also working closely with us on service projects in their areas and Tracee Evans of KTRH has volunteered her time as our Media consultant.

The CALF would like to recognize the top-notch efforts of our collection sites for Suitcases For Kids: Regional KinderCare Learning Centers, Northside I.S.D. Psychological Services Department, Seguin I.S.D., Fort Bend I.S.D., Fair Park I.S.D., Northside Children's Center, O'Connor High School Latin Club,



The display area at the TASP conference

Association of School Psychology Students Southwest Texas State University and Kinetic Concepts, Inc. The CALFC would also like to thank Trinity graduate student, Patty Reyes, and TASP Graduate Student Representative, Laura Reagan, for their efforts on behalf of the Suitcases for Kids project.

Pat Scrivano, Supervisor, Child Protective Services, Mary Lou Stelzig, of Child Protective Services, and Bill Whipple of Foster Parent Adoption, attended the awards luncheon and accepted the suitcases on behalf of CPS. They also volunteered their time, answered questions, and provided information to many LSSPs throughout the conference about Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention and Fosterparenting and Adoption. For more information to share with teachers and families you can download a child abuse prevention kit free of charge at <http://www.tdprs.state.tx.us>. The Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline number is 1-800-252-5400. Find out more about the ongoing Child abuse prevention *Say Yes2Kids* efforts.

The response from our members regarding the Children's Assistance For Living Fund and our first project, Suitcases For Kids, has been tremendous and the project continues statewide. The CALF would like to thank each of you for your enthusiasm, initiative and for making this drive a success. The CALF plans to revisit Suitcases For Kids in the future as we believe each donation makes a difference in a child's life and is a major self esteem issue for children in very traumatic situations. If you have an idea to suggest, a suitcase to donate, or would like to start a new drive in your area please contact your Area Representative. We would really like to hear your ideas and goals for TASP's community service project initiatives.

Other very basic items caseworkers need daily are: personal toiletry items (we had a few donated in this drive-thank you), towels, baby items, blankets, underwear of all sizes for boys and girls, children's books, school supplies, jackets, and school uniforms. (See any areas that fit LSSPs?) We are already looking toward our next conference project, local area drives, and the CALF becoming 501 C non-profit so we can accept outside donations (i.e. department stores, grocery chains and recruiting an airline...where does that unclaimed luggage go? Do any of you have contacts?) We need your help. ***Together We can Make a Difference (and are)!***

For more information about the Children's Assistance For Living Fund Committee, service projects, and volunteering please contact [wendejones@satx.rr.com](mailto:wendejones@satx.rr.com) or call (210) 637-6612. Or visit the TASP website at [www.txasp.org](http://www.txasp.org).

Visit the TASP website at:  
**<http://www.txasp.org>**

## TASP Legislative Priorities

TASP supports establishing and maintaining safe schools through:

- Recognition of the LSSP license as the appropriate credential for providing school psychological services.
- A continuum of psychological service delivery ranging from general education to special education.
- Development of partnerships between parents, families and schools.
- Promotion of tolerance and awareness of individual differences which impact school violence.
- Development and implementation of proactive, positive and preventive student disciplinary practices.
- Provision of a uniform statewide pay scale for recruitment and retention of LSSPs, recognizing the higher level of training that is evidenced by the specialist level of training.
- Monitor, evaluate and respond to all proposed rules and regulations by state agencies affecting the practice of school psychology.

### TASP Legislative or Regulatory Initiatives

- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approval of the Specialist in School Psychology Degree;
- LSSP representation on Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

*Adopted 8/27/00*

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## Nominations and Elections Report

The voting is winding down but is still technically underway. Since we wish to avoid similar ramifications of what has happened in Florida, we are not touching any ballots until the polls are closed. (That should be by December 15, 2000. The results will be posted on the TASP website by the end of December. Visit us at [www.txasp.org](http://www.txasp.org) to view the results!

## Treasurer's Report

*Phyllis Hamilton - Immediate Past-President, Acting Treasurer*

On October 25, 2000, the TASP Executive Board accepted the resignation of Treasurer, Evie Chandler, who resigned due to health concerns. The Board appointed Phyllis Hamilton, current Immediate Past-President, as Acting Treasurer. A TASP treasury summary report, completed by Evie Chandler on October 23, 2000, is reported below. More current figures are not available due to the transitioning of the office.

<b>Income:</b>	
Convention	\$63,970.00
GPR	250.00
Membership	25,485.00
Newsletter	-75.00

**Total Income** **\$89,630.00**

<b>Expense:</b>	
Awards	\$8.85
Clerical	4,421.36
Fees	12,253.47
Miscellaneous Expense	115.87
Operating Expense	5,924.92
Postage	3,355.47
Printing	6,586.15
Supplies	3,647.44
Travel	2,483.32

**Total Expenses** **\$38,796.85**

**Total Income-Expenses** **\$50,833.15**

### **Southwest Texas State University School Psychology Program**

SWT offers a specialist level, Master of Arts Program in School Psychology, accredited by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). The program endorses the scientist-practitioner training model and leads to institutional recommendation for certification as a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) by NASP and for licensure as a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP) from the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. SWT also offers a Respecialization Program for individuals who already hold a Master's degree in a related field and wish to re-specialize in the area of school psychology.

**For more information, please contact:**

Alicia Paredes Scribner, Ph.D.  
Coordinator, School Psychology Program  
Southwest Texas State University  
601 University Drive  
San Marcos, TX 78666  
(512) 245-8682  
(512) 245-8872 (Fax)  
Visit our web site at: [www.schooledu.swt.edu/](http://www.schooledu.swt.edu/)

## Awards and Honors

Mae F. Fjelsted, NCSP, LSSP - Awards and Honors Chair

It was wonderful to see so many LSSPs at our first fall conference in San Antonio. Since this was the second conference for the year, the regular awards were not given.

Elizabeth McDaniels was unable to attend the spring conference so she was awarded her Outstanding Service to the Profession Award at the luncheon. Dr. McDaniels is considered to be one of the founding mothers of master's level school psychology in Texas. She founded the School Psychology Program at Southwest Texas State University in 1969 and nurtured it until her partial retirement in 1986. She continued to supervise practicum students until this year. Many of her former students were in attendance at the conference to help honor her.

The Presidential Award was given posthumously to Albert Riester for his dedication to school psychology. Dr. Riester was the Director of the School Psychology Program at Trinity University. His wife Sally accepted the award and his daughter-in-law, Antoinette, is currently working on her doctorate in School Psychology and hopes to carry on his tradition and dedication to the field. Many of Dr. Riester's former students were at the luncheon to honor his memory.

Please begin to think about those individuals and school districts that are deserving an award for enhancing school psychology in Texas, so when August rolls around you can submit their names. If you would like nomination forms, e-mail me at [lmfjelsted@aol.com](mailto:lmfjelsted@aol.com) or snail mail me at 9707 Berryville; San Antonio, TX 78245-1903.



Ron Livingston (Sponsor), Ashley Guerrero (Outstanding Student Poster), Terri Dickson (Outstanding Student Poster), Marsha Harman (TASP Award Presenter), and Beverly Bobo (Outstanding Student Poster)

## Graduate Student Report

Laura K. Reagan, Graduate Student Representative

Hello fellow graduate Students. I enjoyed meeting those of you who attended the conference in October. I hope your fall semester wrapped up nicely and that your spring semester is successfully underway. As we look forward to ending this school year, and graduating for some of us, we need to think about our role as members of TASP.

I encourage all of you to increase your involvement in this organization. For those of you who are considering the position of Graduate Student Representative for next year, nominations will be made in the spring. When I decided to run for Graduate Student Representative, I wasn't sure if the benefits outweighed the cost of losing a few study weekends. I quickly learned how wrong I was. Aside from the obvious benefit of an excellent addition to your resume and meeting knowledgeable professionals, you see the inside workings of a professional organization, stay current on research in our field, learn the ins and outs of school psychology politics, and learn the workings of the legislation affecting our field. Holding this position has not only helped me in my classes this year, but has given me a better understanding of what it means to be a school psychologist. So what is the cost? For me, nothing.

If you are not interested in holding a position on the board, I invite you to join me in my goal to increase student membership. Speak to the first year students and other students who are not members and tell them of the benefits of joining TASP.

If you have any questions for me, please feel free to e-mail me at [LKRcat@aol.com](mailto:LKRcat@aol.com). Have a great semester and I hope to hear from you soon!

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## Minutes of the TASP Executive Board Meeting October 25, 2000

Andrea Ogonosky, Secretary

The TASP Executive Board meeting was called to order by President Robb Matthews at 7:50 p.m. on October 25, 2000. Board members present were: Phyllis Hamilton, Robb Matthews, Andrea Ogonosky, Michael Dixon, Tom Wood, Carol Booth, Jan Opella, Jo Ann Campbell, Dan Miller, Evie Chandler, Mae Fjelsted, Donna Black, Margaret Kaltman, Francis Chen, Marsha Harman, Wende Jones, and Jeralyn Barta.

Robb announced that Evie Chandler would be resigning as treasurer due to health problems. A motion was made to accept her resignation and to appoint Phyllis Hamilton as the interim treasurer. The motion was seconded and approved. Donna Black reminded everyone that the deadline for submitting newsletter articles is December 1, 2000. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

# Minutes of the TASP Executive Board Meeting

## August 25-27, 2000

Andrea Ogonosky, Secretary

The TASP Executive Board meeting was called to order by President Robb Matthews at 8:50 a.m. on August 26, 2000. Board members present were: Phyllis Hamilton, Robb Matthews, Susan Logan, Andrea Ogonosky, Michael Dixon, Tom Wood, Jan Opella, Jo Ann Campbell, Dan Miller, Evie Chandler, Laura Reagan, Mae Fjelsted, Donna Black, Margaret Kaltman, Francis Chen, Marsha Harman, and Wende Jones. President Robb Matthews appointed Art Hernandez as Parliamentarian for the 2000-2001 board. The consent agenda was presented and all items were approved. The minutes from the May executive board meeting were read, corrections were made, and the minutes were approved as corrected.

### Committee Reports

Susan Logan distributed the current membership lists with new members included. The lists were amended and approved.

Evie Chandler presented the treasurer's report for 1999-2000 and the proposed budget for 2000-2001. The overall budget will remain about the same as the previous year, since there are no nominations and elections for the current year due to the change in the organization's calendar. There was an amendment to allow for the money in the Nominations and Elections Committee budget to be moved to the Past President's budget. The motion was seconded and approved. There was another amendment to increase the GPR budget and this was seconded and approved. The budget was approved as amended.

Donna Black presented the report on the newsletter and reminded everyone that the next deadline for submitting articles is December 1, 2000. She also requested that everyone send a copy of their submitted articles to Ralph.

Graduate Student Representative, Laura Reagan, reported she is working to recruit new graduate members and suggested that we send TASP information packets to other school psychology graduate programs in Texas. Dan Miller suggested that trainers be contacted with regards to promoting TASP membership for their students.

Michael Dixon presented the Area I report. He will be actively promoting the upcoming conference in his area. Tom Wood presented the Area II report. There is very little activity going on in his area, but the West Texas Psychology conference will be held in the spring. There was no report from Area III due to Carol's absence.

Robb Matthews appointed Frances Chen to serve as the Area IV Representative since the position was vacated when Jan Opella was elected president-elect. The board unanimously approved Francis' appointment. Francis will be sending out a survey to members in his Area regarding legislative and professional issues in special education. Wende Jones presented the Area V report. She is continuing to work on service projects in her Area. Jo Ann Campbell presented the Area VI report. She is trying to update her membership records since there have been a number of personnel changes in Area VI. She also is investigating possible sites for Area meetings.

Dan Miller, NASP Delegate/TASP Historian, gave his reports and presented an historical evolution of TASP. He also reported there have been organizational changes at NASP. As Southeastern Regional Representative for NASP, he is now represented at the board meetings as a voting member. The southeastern region delegate meeting will be held in San Antonio, November 10-12. Robb and Phyllis will be presenting at this meeting. Dan reminded everyone that Texas would be the site of the 2004 NASP conference and TASP will be the host agency. Dan is serving on the Interorganizational Committee of NASP and APA to investigate the national shortage of school psychologists.

Marsha Harman gave the trainer's report. She requested that we consider developing a brochure to be used for recruiting students as members. Marsha agreed to discuss this with the other trainers at the next trainer's meeting and, hopefully, enlist their support.

Mae Fjelsted submitted her report from the Awards Committee. This was reviewed and accepted. Cindy Plotts submitted a report from the Public Relations and Information Committee. There was discussion about the policy for distributing the brochures, What is an LSSP? It was agreed that we should change the distribution policy so the brochure is available to trainers.

Dan Miller presented a detailed report from the Long-Range Planning Committee. The one, three, and five-year plans were approved.

Wende Jones submitted a proposal from the Service Project Committee that a Children's Assistance Fund Committee be established to address service projects. Robb Matthews appointed an ad-hoc committee to investigate this and Wende agreed to chair the committee. The committee was charged with the responsibility of coordinating its first project, Suitcases for Kids, to help Children's Protective Services obtain suitcases to be used when children are being removed from their homes. The suitcases will be collected at the conference and the distribution will be handled by Children's Protective Services.

Margaret Kaltman reported on the proposed Commissioner's Rules. There was a recommendation that TASP advocate for changes in the wording of the proposed rules. New wording was agreed to and an alert card will be mailed to members to encourage them to make comments during the comment period. There was a motion to move money from the carryover fund to the GPR budget to help cover the costs associated with disseminating information about the Commissioner's Rules. The motion was seconded and approved.

Jan Opella, president-elect, submitted a formal review of NASP's tolerance curriculum. Robb Matthews submitted information about the October conference. Donna Black has agreed to coordinate professional exhibitors. Carol Booth will coordinate school district exhibits and Marsha Harman will coordinate university exhibits.

Francis Chen presented a report on the website, which was reviewed and accepted. Margaret Kaltman submitted the report from the Government and Professional Relations Committee (GPR) and recommended that the board accept the proposed Legislative Priorities and Initiatives. There was a motion to accept and it was seconded and approved. Brad Shields reported on current legislative issues and these were discussed. Margaret reported on the last TSBEP board meeting. There will be two Ph.D. positions opening on the board next year, one from the private sector and one a trainer.

Phyllis Hamilton submitted a proposal to change the language in the constitution and bylaws since the calendar year has been changed. The recommendations were discussed and there was a motion to submit the proposed changes to the membership for a vote. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 on August 27, 2000.

## Government & Professional Relations Committee

*Margaret Kaltman, NCSP, LSSP, GRP Chair*

This Fall the proposed Commissioner's Rules were posted, and public comment was accepted. After a careful analysis of the impact of the proposed rules upon the students of Texas, TASP mailed out postcards to LSSPs statewide to inform them of the urgency to become involved in the comment phase. An alert was also posted on the TASP website, as well as the form necessary to submit feedback. I would like to thank all who attended hearings or provided feedback regarding the proposed Commissioner's Rules. TASP also had many inquires regarding the Rules as a result of this effort. Once the Rules are adopted and prior to becoming effective, they will be posted at the Administrative Rules website. Adopted Commissioner's Rules will then appear in the information pages of the State Board of Education agenda following the filing of the adopted rules with the Texas Register. The proposed effective date is January 1, 2001, however, don't assume that they are effective until you have checked with TEA's website at [www.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac).

As the 77<sup>th</sup> Legislative session begins on January 9, 2001, I would like to encourage all TASP members to become involved! I currently have a list of volunteers who have expressed interest in participating in the legislative process. If you have not yet received an e-mail from me, but are interested in becoming more involved, please e-mail me at [mkaltman@inetport.com](mailto:mkaltman@inetport.com) and let me know what areas you are interested in.



*Conference participants enjoying the Awards Luncheon*

## Modeling Mental Health: Do We Practice What We Preach?

Much research has been conducted on the topic of burnout among helping professionals. Christina Maslach's investigations in the 70's and 80's regarding teacher burnout described the phenomenon as characterized by emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, and reduced personal accomplishment. Several later studies focused on psychologists and how burnout could impair judgement and service delivery. Specifically, if mental health professionals failed to maintain balance between work, family, and leisure, they were vulnerable to burnout. The specific phrase employed was "when helping starts to hurt." One particular study discussed various organizational, interpersonal, and intrapersonal conditions that served to exacerbate problems of burnout among school psychologists. It seems that our own narcissistic vulnerability, family of origin dynamics recreated in the workplace, and stressors between our personal lives and our careers contribute to our desire, but failure, to please everyone.

The solution? Balance! We frequently hear, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." Yet, psychologists, especially those in the schools, tend to stay late and take work home. Exercise and leisure may be the first activities we jettison to make more time for our responsibilities at work. My concern is that we are the professionals in the schools who attempt to reduce stress for teachers, students, parents, and/or administrators. Yet we are frequently the poorest examples of mental health in the schools, which tends to make us less credible in the eyes of those we hope will benefit from our expertise.

As I interact with more LSSP's, I realize that many of us could use the term burnout to describe our present situations. Modeling balance in our lives is the best way for psychologists in the schools to teach others about mental health. Our actions either give permission to others to insist on balance in their lives, or our actions encourage unhealthy practices in others.

Marsha J. Harman, Ph.D.  
Chair, Trainers Committee

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## NASP Recognizes Sam Houston State University's School Psychology Training Program

Sam Houston State University was recently notified that NASP has conditionally approved the School Psychology Training Program for the period of January 2001, through December 2002. The expectation is that SHSU will receive unconditional approval after that period. Congratulations on your achievement!

## Area Reports

### Area I Report - Michael Dixon, Ph.D., LSSP

I hope most of you had an opportunity to attend the TASP conference in San Antonio. It was the best-attended conference thus far in our eight-year history. As a board member, I can assure you that the board is extremely interested in presenting conferences that members find to be worthwhile and which increase their skills and knowledge. Over the next four months the board will be considering topics and presenters for the next conference which will be held in Houston in early October of 2001. If you have ideas about topics or presenters that you would like to see at this conference, contact me with as much detailed information as possible and I will pass this on to the committee, which will be planning the next conference.

One of the major concerns and debates among LSSPs deals with how to be more effective in our jobs and how to convey to administrators, special education directors, and others the range of services we can offer. All too often, the majority of a LSSP's time and energy is spent in evaluation and placement activities. Their efforts are confined to special education populations. It often takes exceptional efforts and creativity to break out of this cycle and engage in other activities such as consultation, prevention, training, and counseling or crisis intervention. I urge each of us to examine our routines and our roles and look for the possible exceptions to our usual round of activities. Maybe then we can expand our roles and in turn expand our circle of influence.

I think it is helpful to think of our roles like that of leavening in bread dough. It does not take a lot to influence the whole loaf. So do not be discouraged when you feel that you are isolated and alone and it seems that no one is listening. Look for the allies that are always there and build relationships with these, and others that you can influence, and you may be surprised at the power of your influence.

### Area II Report - Tomas A. Wood, NCSP, LSSP

The Fourth Annual West Texas School Psychology Conference will be held on January 11 and 12, 2001 at the Tomas Rivera Conference Center of the University of Texas at El Paso. The conference is co-sponsored by the Region 19 Education Service Center, the Texas Association of School Psychologists, and the College of Education at UTEP. The featured speaker this year will be Dr. Andrea Ogonosky, a school psychologist who is currently in private practice. Dr. Ogonosky has also worked for Region 4 ESC and the Humble,

Texas Independent School District. She will share her expertise in the assessment and intervention of children and adolescents with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in a full day workshop format. On Friday morning three local professionals will conduct one-half day workshops. Dr. Frank Smith, a psychologist in Socorro ISD will present on school violence, Dr. Beverly Argus-Calvo will discuss issues related to assessment of culturally and linguistically diverse students and Ms. Robbie Stinnett of Region 19 ESC will talk about curriculum based measurement. The conference has gained in popularity over several years with an attendance between 75 and 100. The conference is viewed as an opportunity for school psychologists and other assessment personnel to upgrade their skills and participate in important networking activities.

**Area IV Report - Francis Chen**

Hello. I am Francis Chen, your new Area IV representative. I replaced the irreplaceable Jan Opella, who is now the president elect of TASP. I am filling some big shoes, so I hope you will excuse me for taking small steps. Working with TASP's Children's Assistance for Living Fund Committee's first service project, Suitcases for Kids, was a wonderful experience as an Area Representative. I enjoyed being a part of that committee and representing Area IV. It was my pleasure to meet some of the folks in my area.

In fact, two LSSPs from Waco, asked to consider creating a regional organization of LSSPs that would serve as a workshop oriented organization. Coming from Seguin ISD, around 60 or so miles away from our regional educational service center, I can understand some of the difficulties faced by smaller districts in getting to conferences. The general idea that we discussed consisted of an organization that would be headed by the three educational service centers in Area IV – RESC VI, RESC XII, RESC XIII. The leadership would rotate to ensure that any workshops would not end up accumulating at any one region. We want to keep costs as low as can be. Also, we are hoping to serve graduate students in Area IV, who may not have the opportunities to go to service center workshops and to TASP. There are a number of training programs in our Area IV. I ask the LSSPs, coordinators of the training programs, and the graduate students who may be interested to contact me.

Francis Chen  
Seguin ISD  
1221 E. Kingsbury  
Seguin, TX 78155  
Email: [fchen@wireweb.net](mailto:fchen@wireweb.net)

I look forward to meeting more of you next October in Houston! Have a wonderful holiday and a great new year!

**Area V - Wende Buchanan Jones, LSSP**

2000 has been a very exciting and busy year for TASP Area V. We were proud to host the Eighth Annual TASP Professional Development Conference at the Omni San Antonio this past October and the newly formed Children's Assistance For Living Fund's first annual project. Both were a huge success, thanks to all of you, and we can look forward to hosting the Conference again in four years, but let's rest up first. (As we all know the preconference groundwork will begin in less than two years.)

The New Year begins with another first! TASP Area V will have an information and organizational meeting in San Angelo, Tuesday, January 30, at 6 p.m. for members and those interested in discussing state issues, TASP, service projects and planning future meetings or workshops in San Angelo. Marsha Lindahl, LPA, Director of the Small Schools Cooperative, will be hosting the meeting at the Cooperative's Offices at 3132 Executive Drive with Dr. Joe Jeffers of West Texas Psychological Associates and TASP Area V. Dr. Jeffers and Ms. Lindahl have made this event possible by volunteering to coordinate and organize the meeting in the San Angelo area. Thank you both. We are all looking forward to meetings in San Angelo! For more information, please contact Marsha Lindahl at 915-947-0939 or Dr. Joe Jeffers at 915-942-7531.

If you have area news you would like to share, suggestions for area workshops, would like to host a workshop in your local area, or would like to participate in local service project activities please contact me at [wendejones@satx.rr.com](mailto:wendejones@satx.rr.com) or call (210) 637-6612.

**KEEP INFORMED!**  
Let TASP know your e-mail address.  
Send your e-mail to [TASPOrg@aol.com](mailto:TASPOrg@aol.com) or call TASP at  
their toll-free number:  
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**TASP's  
9th Annual Professional  
Development Conference**  
**October 4-6, 2001**  
**Adam's Mark Hotel  
Houston TX**



THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

(Federal Tax ID # 74-2673792)

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Dues are for July 1 to June 30 Annually

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Please list the county in which you reside: \_\_\_\_\_ and in which you work: \_\_\_\_\_

I am applying for membership in the following category (Circle choice): Renewal New Member

Please check the appropriate category of membership:

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1. Regular Member (voting member) ..... \$55.00 \_\_\_\_\_

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(b) Trained as a school psychologist and working as a consultant, supervisor or administrator
(c) Primarily engaged in training of school psychologists at a college or university

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- (a) One who was a regular member in good standing and has retired from the field of school psychology

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Student Advisor's signature required: \_\_\_\_\_ University: \_\_\_\_\_

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| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Convention Planning</b>                     | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Membership</b>               | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Nominations &amp; Elections</b>   |
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If you would be willing to be a candidate for an office for next year please check all that apply:

- President-Elect**    **Treasurer**    **Secretary**    **Area Representative**    **Graduate Student Representative**

Please send completed form, check, and all supportive materials as necessary to:

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**For more information contact:**

Daniel C. Miller, Ph.D.  
Director, School Psychology Graduate Programs  
Texas Woman's University  
P.O. Box 425470  
Denton, Texas 76204  
(940) 898-2303 (Department Phone)  
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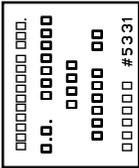


*Conference participants enjoying the Presidential Ice Cream Social*

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Texas Association Of School Psychologists (TASP)  
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