

SWPA



southwestern psychological association

SWPA Newsletter

December 2014

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Looking Ahead

By **Dr. Jenn Bonds-Raacke** **President**

Dear colleagues,

Greetings! It is exciting to think about the start of the New Year. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Wichita, KS for our annual convention.

The theme of the convention is *Myths Meet Science* and our invited speakers will address how the scientific method has debunked myths in their areas of expertise. You can read more about the invited presenters here: http://www.swpsych.org/conv_highlights.php

You might wonder, "Why did SWPA select Wichita for the 2015 convention?" SWPA typically follows a three year rotation pattern, holding the convention every two years in Texas and the third year outside of Texas. The 2015 convention falls on the year to be outside of Texas. So, with the help of our convention planner, we searched for the best option to meet the needs of our attendees. On my way home from touring countless hotels in numerous cities, I stopped in Wichita. The downtown area and the hotel convention space were a perfect fit for our convention!

I am excited for attendees to experience the Hyatt Regency Wichita (<http://wichita.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html>). I think you will be pleasantly surprised at the modern accommodations available for a reasonable rate. The convention accommodations are also spacious, allowing us to expand programming and meet any needs of affiliate groups.

The Hyatt is within walking distance of Old Town (www.oldtownwichita.com).

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Psi Chi In The Southwest

By Dr. Evan Zucker

Vice-President for Psi Chi, Southwest Region

Psi Chi is the International Honor Society in Psychology, and currently has over 1100 chapters world-wide. Since its inception in 1929, over 600,000 members have been inducted, including approximately 6700 thus far in the 2015 fiscal year. The states in Psi Chi's Southwestern region differ slightly from those in APA's Southwestern Region. The Southwestern Region of Psi Chi includes Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas, and there are 106 Psi Chi chapters in this four-state region. We also have one international chapter, which is in Guatemala City, Guatemala. To learn more about Psi Chi and the benefits of membership, visit the Psi Chi website (www.psichi.org/).



As Vice-President of the Southwestern region, I am assisted by a 3-member Regional Steering Committee. The faculty members of the steering committee are Dr. Sean Charlton (University of Central Arkansas) and Dr. Grant Benham (University of Texas – Pan American). The student member is Danielle Umland (University of Central Arkansas). The Steering Committee assists in reviewing submissions to the program, evaluating submissions for research awards, and organizing and chairing sessions at the regional meeting.

At the upcoming SWPA meeting in April, we will again have a number of sessions of interest to Psi Chi members and other SWPA attendees. Our Distinguished Lecturer will be Dr. Pamela Keel, Professor and Director of Clinical Training in the Department of Psychology at Florida State University. Dr. Keel's research focuses on several eating disorders, and the title of her presentation is, "Purging Disorder: Evidence for a 'new' eating disorder."

We will also have a presentation by Dr. Julia Lechuga of the University of Texas at El Paso, who will speak about health care education for, and delivery to, underserved populations, as well as a session aimed at helping chapters solve problems that might arise in the course of a year (conducted with Psi Beta members and following from the very successful "Situation Room" session last year), a session about benefits for Psi Chi members, a session for chapter advisors, and sessions related to several aspects of graduate school, from getting in to getting out. We are planning to have something for everyone!

A final note – if you are at an institution that does not have a Psi Chi chapter, and are interested in starting one, please contact me (zucker@loyno.edu) or the Psi Chi membership director Lisa Norman (lisa.norman@psichi.org). We'll be happy to work with you in starting a chapter.

See you in Wichita!

Membership Report (December 10, 2014)

By Dr. Amy Bohmann **Membership Registrar**

The current membership report:

- **20** Life Members
- **40** Past Presidents
- **237** Professional Members
- **179** Graduate Student Members
- **454** Undergraduate Student Members



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Check out the number of shops, restaurants, and night life options available. Or if you just want to unwind, visit the Old Town Warren Theatre for the ultimate movie experience. The convention and visitor's bureau, GoWichita, is available to help plan activities of interest to you. GoWichita will also plan group event and tours. For more information, <http://www.gowichita.com/>

On a final note, I would like to let you know we are working with a new company this year for the convention app. Last year, we introduced a convention app, allowing attendees to view the program schedule from a smart phone or mobile device. Although it was exciting to take steps to reduce our use of paper, the app was not as user friendly as hoped. The interface and ease of use for this year's app is much improved. In addition, you will have the ability to build your own schedule by selecting and saving presentations you would like to attend. Closer to the convention, all of the presentations will be added to the app. At this time, you can see a skeleton of the program here: www.eventmobi.com/swpa2015
Paper programs are available for advance purchase for \$3 during the online registration process.

If you have any questions, please contact me. The SWPA officers enjoy hearing your feedback, as this allows us to provide the best convention experience for our attendees!

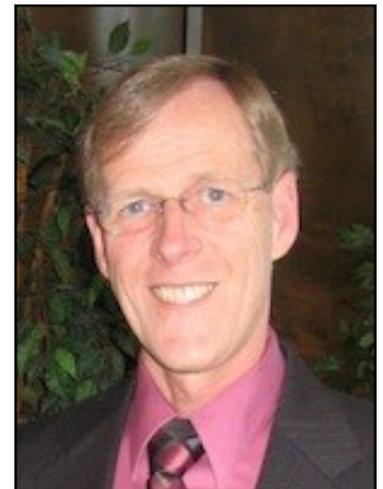
If you have any questions, please contact me. The SWPA officers enjoy hearing your feedback, as this allows us to provide the best convention experience for our attendees!

All the best,
Jenn

Finances and Wichita

By Dr. Arn Froese **Treasurer**

Our accountant submitted our tax returns for 2013 and completed our financial statement for the 2013-14 fiscal year. That financial statement gives us the best picture of our financial positions after the last convention. That statement confirmed that SWPA had again increased its assets for the sixth straight year. SWPA holds over \$60,000 in current assets and close to \$50,000 in restricted endowment funds. This strong base prepares SWPA for continued viability even with expected variations in future convention earnings.



When the Executive Council approved the recommendation to accept the hotel offer from Wichita, they did so fully aware that the location would likely produce a reduction in attendance from the growing numbers we have seen for quite a few years. The decision was based on SWPA's general

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policy of meeting outside of Texas about every third year, the financial offer provided by the Wichita Hyatt Regency Hotel, and the strength of SWPA's reserves.

SWPA's financial changes occur in regular cycles. Income is directly related to the upcoming convention. As we approach the abstract submission deadline, we move out of a very slow income period between May and September to a very busy period beginning in October and culminating in a pre-deadline rush of payments. This early intense activity allows officers to gauge annual income for the next convention.

As we approached that deadline this year, the numbers indicated a significant reduction in dues and registration payments compared with recent years. Officers expected this reduction because the convention location is more distant from the great majority of our members. As of December 2, we are running about 28% behind our rate last year. While this number indicates some future strain on SWPA's finances, the expected effects can still leave the organization in a strong financial position.

I have encouraged officers and committees to plan conservatively and promote aggressively to minimize any potential losses. I likewise encourage all members to consider how they can help increase membership and payment numbers to build income for the Wichita convention. Here are some specific suggestions:

Professional Members: Make every effort you can to include the convention in your April plans. Consider that for most years out-of-Texas members travel long distances to attend. In addition, encourage colleagues and students also to attend the convention.

Student Members: Tell your psychology friends about SWPA. If you have attended before, describe what you have experienced about the student-friendly aspects of our organization and the professional connection opportunities that the convention provides.

All Members: Take advantage of the incredible bargain that the Wichita Hyatt Regency has provided. Consider that hotel rates in Wichita begin at \$119. In the last 4 years, our lowest rates have ranged from \$129 to \$159. So the lower rate in Wichita can quickly compensate for the longer drive many will make. Choosing the convention hotel will help us meet our contractual obligations to the hotel and create for you the most efficient and pleasant convention experiences. Also, read information about the Wichita hotel and surrounding attractions. Wichita has much to offer in its downtown and old-town districts.

I look forward to the exciting program events that are being prepared for 2015, and I look forward to seeing you in Wichita in April.

Changing Seasons

By Dr. Drew Curtis **Newsletter Editor**

Greetings SWPA members,

I am excited and honored to be the new SWPA newsletter editor! I have been involved with SWPA since I was a student member in 2005, when the convention was held in Memphis and the famous Peabody ducks performed in the hotel. From 2011 through 2012 I served as the SWPA Graduate Student Representative. So, it greatly pleases me to begin this new role and serve the organization that I care for deeply.

Dr. Trey Hill has done wonderfully with running, organizing, and delivering the SWPA newsletter in succession of Dr. Arn Froese. Though the season is changing, my current plans are to not deviate too much from what Dr. Hill has already refined.

I look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming convention in Wichita! Please feel free to say hello or offer a high-five.

-Drew Curtis



Mark your calendars for **April 10-12, 2015** for **Myths Meet Science!**

