

**SPAGS Report
March 21, 2019
12:00pm-1:00pm**

2018-2019 Board Members

President: Adam Natoli
President Elect: Sharon Nelson
Past President: Crista Maracic
Secretary: William Bryant
Member-at-Large: Chloe Bliton
Member-at-Large: Sindes Dawood
Member-at-Large: Alana Harrison

Installation of 2019-2020 Board Members

President: Sharon Nelson
President Elect: Chloe Bliton
Past President: Adam Natoli
Secretary: Amber Sitz*
Member-at-Large: Margie Achee*
Member-at-Large: Jenn Boland*
Member-at-Large: Alana Harrison
*New SPAGS Board Members

SPAGS Activities for the 2018 Annual Meeting

- SPAGS Social: Friday, March 22nd, 8-10pm
 - \$1000 budget for food and beverages at off-site location – Copper Monkey Grill
 - Under budget by ~ \$100
 - Attendance: ~ 40-50

- SPAGS Educational Programming: Clinical themed panels
 - (Roundtable Discussion) SPAGS Presents – Learning Psychological Assessment: A Student Perspective... Finally
 - Friday (3/22) 8am-10am
 - Hadas Pade, Alexandra Miguel, Leticia Rodrigues Costa, Tatum Williams, Adam Natoli, and Chloe Pagano-Stalzer (A. Jordan Wright, discussant)
 - (Symposium V) Introduction to Omnibus Personality Trait Measures (2CE)
 - Saturday (3/23) 4pm-6pm
 - Chloe F. Bliton, Thomas Widiger, Les Morey
 - We will begin putting “SPAGS Presents” in titles to identify these events more clearly.

Committee Updates

- Membership/Technology Committee (Adam Natoli and William Bryant)
 - *New committee = Adam Natoli and Sharon Nelson
 - Initiative to increase awareness about SPAGS among graduate students
 - SPAGS Facebook Group
 - 72 members currently (22% increase since Spring 2018 convention)
 - Created a SPAGS ListServ (49 members)
 - Slow start, but going (continue?)
 - Will continue to increase participation
 - Updated SPAGS section of the SPA website
 - Added description of the benefits of being a SPAGS member
 - Plan to include description of different committees (page created)

- Social Committee (Adam Natoli and Alana Harrison)
 - *New committee = Amber Sitz and Alana Harrison
 - Moved SPAGS Social from Thursday to Friday.
 - SPAGS Social will be held at Copper Monkey Grill and Bar on Friday (3/08).
 - All past Presidents of SPAGS invited as special guests to celebrate ten years
 - Sellbom, Hopwood, Thomas, Marek, and Natoli attended as past Presidents
 - Final estimated cost: ~\$900.00
 - Poster and flyers to advertise event were created
 - Promoted via email and social media

- Diversity Committee (Crista Maracic and Sharon Nelson)
 - *New committee = Alana Harrison and Jenn Boland
 - SPAGS, in collaboration with the SPA Board, has created and approved the criteria and guidelines for “SPAGS Poster Diversity Awards”
 - A process for scoring submissions was also created and approved.
 - The award will include: 1) a dedicated location to display the posters, 2) a certificate and monetary award (\$100), and 3) an opportunity to publish the poster abstract in *The Exchange*.
 - SPAGS President will check the objective inclusion criteria (e.g., first author is student) and then de-identify the abstracts prior to judging. (Easier for SPA Administrative Assistant to do this?)
 - SPAGS Diversity Committee will present with SPA’s Diversity Committee at the 2019 convention
 - The impact of acculturation and intersectionality in the field of personality assessment (offered for 2 CE credits)
 - Participants:
 - Giselle Hass, PhD; Crista Maracic, MA; Sharon Nelson, MA; Louis Mora, PhD (Invited guest from Northport VAMC)
 - SPA workshop with SPA board

- A round table, C.E. credits offered, and abstracts will be due in October, 2019.
- Education Committee (Sindes Dawood and Chloe Bliton)
 - *New committee = Chloe Bliton and Margie Achee
 - More workshops, programming and panel sessions were discussed.
 - The “kids table” would be a roundtable discussion exclusively for SPAGS members or other students attending SPA to use as a discussion space and “support group”
 - An internship fair was discussed (coffee hour?)
 - See if we can get alum SPAGS members to take a survey that would allow us to see which sites SPAGS members have gone
 - Reach out to SPA members to determine who is associated with internship sites and can be invited to the internship fair
- Election Committee (Crista Maracic)
 - *New committee = Adam Natoli
 - Timeline of elections:
 - Nov 12th: Call for Nominations went out
 - Nov 22nd: Call for Nominations closed
 - Nov 30th: Personal statements due for nominees
 - Dec 6th: Elections Opened
 - Dec 12th: Elections Closed
 - Results:
 - President Elect: Chloe Bliton
 - Secretary: Amber Sitz
 - Member-at-Large: Jennifer Boland, Alana Fondren, Margie Achee
 - Nominations:
 - Two for president-elect
 - Two for secretary
 - Three nominations for member-at-large
 - Election was held in November 2018
 - Elections held after people have heard about whether their conference abstracts have been accepted and before people start making travel plans.
- Recruitment Committee (Sharon Nelson and Alan Harrison)
 - New committee = Sharon Nelson and Amber Sitz
 - Recruitment flyers and recruiting table during poster sessions
 - Useful, but should bring information and “swag” in future
 - A recruitment email blitz was sent in early September to advertise SPA to APA-accredited programs. Approximately 380 programs around the country were contacted, with only a few confirming that they will forward email to students.
 - Alternative recruitment strategies?
 - Send emails to SPA members who are also faculty asking them to send email to students in department?

- Maybe Monica can assist in getting a list of current SPA members who are faculty, and then SPAGS Board can reach out to them individually asking them to pass along a message about joining SPAGS to their respective schools.
- A goal of increasing our international student membership was discussed
 - International member at large position on the SPAGS board
 - Pending a review of the SPAGS bylaws, Adam Natoli will reach out to SPAGS EC with an official motion to amend the SPAGS bylaws by adding an “International Member-At-Large” position to the SPAGS Board.
 - According to SPAGS bylaws, “These bylaws may be amended at the SPAGS EC meeting or through email/online collaboration of SPAGS committee members. All changes will be thoroughly reviewed by the EC and approved by majority vote of EC members. Whether or not SPAGS bylaws require amendment will be considered at each SPAGS EC meeting. The president will be responsible for taking the lead in amending the bylaws or appointing a SPAGS member to do so if it is determined by the EC that amendments are desirable.”
 - However, “In some instances, the EC may vote to submit the proposal to a vote among all SPAGS members.”
 - The motion is as follows: SPAGS will change the SPAGS bylaws, which currently read “The officers shall consist of a president, president-elect, past president, secretary, and three representatives at large” to read “The officers shall consist of a president, president-elect, past president, secretary, and four representatives at large, one of which shall be designated for an international SPAGS member. Should no international SPAGS member be nominated, the EC shall consist of a president, president-elect, past president, secretary, and three representatives at large.”
 - European personality groups have a strong active student membership- we just need to connect with them
 - Jan H. Kamphuis, Ph.D. indicated his interest (and willingness) in assisting with the promotion of SPAGS internationally during SPA Board meeting.
- **MOTION made via email on 04/08/2019:** Change the SPAGS bylaws, which currently read “The officers shall consist of a president, president-elect, past president, secretary, and three representatives at large” to read “The officers shall consist of a president, president-elect, past president, secretary, and four representatives at large, one of which shall be designated for an international SPAGS member. Should no international SPAGS member be nominated, the EC shall consist of a president, president-elect, past president, secretary, and three representatives at large.”
 - **Approval unanimous (04/08/2019)**

- When SPAGS members graduate we need to work on recruiting them to full SPA members. There is a gap between when they graduate and when they apply for membership.
 - The Recruitment Committee will present ideas for doing so.

Continued Discussions and New Business

- Social Media presence
 - Celebrating current members more!
 - Member of the month
 - This would require the social media committee to reach out to current SPAGS members and ask for a testimony or current research projects to be posted about on our media outlets.
 - Keep sending pics to social media officers (Chloe Bliton – instagram & Jenn Boland – twitter)
 - Post goal – 1-3 times a day
 - Ideas for boosting post numbers
 - It was discussed to set up receiving notifications from JPA when publications come out and post immediately about new research
 - Hosting competitions
 - Have guests during the weekends
- SPAGS Student Evaluation
 - Survey sent to members on June 4, 2018.
 - Twenty students completed the SPAGS online survey (16 SPAGS members) as of February 4th.
 - All participants indicated membership in SPAGS has provided them with at least some benefit as part of their experience of SPA, with the most appreciated benefits being: receiving the journal, conference events, networking, and information received from SPAGS.
 - Several highlights from the survey:
 - Across several questions, multiple students commented on a desire to receive some internship guidance from SPAGS/SPA. Specifically, lists of assessment-friendly internship sites, or internship sites where SPA members are supervisors. In addition to a list of relevant places to apply, students noted that they would appreciate internship specific spaces at SPA (meet-and-greets, tables, booths, etc.).
 - Overall ratings for SPAGS conference programming was high, with multiple students commenting on appreciating when senior SPA members/experts spoke and facilitated discussion.
 - Students would appreciate more informative/practical workshops, led by experts. Examples given included: drafting internship materials, finding funding opportunities, finding a post doc, preparing a job talk.
 - Ten of the participants self-identified as having an identity that would be considered “non-privileged” (for example, woman, trans-gendered, non-white, disabled, etc.). Of those 10 participants, all indicated that they had had no negative issues (for example, harassment, lack of

resources, etc.) related to identity while attending SPA/SPAGS events. Though this only represents a small number of attendees, it is still encouraging to hear, and something to continue fostering within SPA/SPAGS.

- Created a SPAGS Liaison to SPA's Training and Certification Committee
 - SPAGS member will serve as a liaison to SPA's Training and Certification Committee. This liaison will represent SPAGS members, offer a student perspective on training/education matters, and assist in improving the transition from student to early career professional from a training point-of-view.
 - Adam Natoli has been serving as the first Liaison

- SPAGS Membership
 - Overall, 156 SPAGS members, 4 undergraduate students, 2 applied student affiliates. 103 student affiliates