

# Psychology in Oklahoma

## **Seventy Fifth Anniversary History of the Oklahoma Psychological Association**

Written and Edited by  
Charles Whipple, Ph.D., Ed.D., Litt.D.  
OPA Historian, 1973-2021

75th Anniversary 2021

Commencing with the year 1972, a narrative history of the Association has been preserved through summaries of yearly activities abstracted from monthly secretarial minutes. By action of the Board of Directors, summaries for the years 1997 through 2021 have been derived from the annual reports of OPA presidents, as well as quotes from periodic comments taken from *Oklahoma Psychologist* newsletters. These summaries were required to be as exhaustive as possible. Details in these more in-depth communications are recorded in the Association's 800-page history *Oklahoma Psychology in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*, which is permanently housed among OPA's archival papers held at the University of Central Oklahoma. Those desiring to review this data, as to specific dates and personnel, should consult the above. A second archived book *An Illustrated History of Oklahoma Psychology* can be consulted as well. In contrast, this present work is a "brief" history of the first 75 years abstracted to maintain the necessity of limited length as stated in the Foreword to this book. As such, it is intended to be awarded to new incoming members of the Board of Directors, and sold to all else at a minimal cost.

Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Oklahoma Psychological Association. Originally published in 1996 as the Fiftieth Anniversary.  
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## FOREWORD

The minutes of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Psychological Association indicate that on 17 March 1983 Dr. Eugene Walker, president, made the motion, subsequently unanimously approved, that Dr. Charles Whipple, immediate past president, write a brief history of OPA. The first edition of that history was published later that year. This was followed by a second in 1991. The 1983 edition was eight pages in length plus the 1977 Constitution and Bylaws. The later edition documented an additional eight years of history and added lists of division presidents, award recipients, and the 1989 Bylaws.

The fiftieth and seventy-fifth anniversary editions, like their predecessors, maintain a two-fold purpose. They seek to provide a summary of official OPA history taken from Association minutes and from the words of those pioneers who actually experienced history in the making. The second purpose is to share with members and supporters a succinct glimpse of psychology's heritage as a science and profession in the state of Oklahoma; to allow a look at those pioneers who gave their time, energy, and talent so that present and future psychologists might profit from the fruits of those efforts.

E.G. Boring began his 1950 edition of *A History of Experimental Psychology*, with a quote from Hermann Ebbinghaus to the effect that psychology had a long past, but only a short history. What was meant was that although philosophers for many centuries had been developing formal theories to aid understanding of human behavior and value systems, psychology as an academic discipline was not established until the end of the nineteenth century. Ebbinghaus' simple generalization neatly summarized the formal organizational history of psychology at the international level as well as in this state.

Psychology as an organized profession in Oklahoma has both a short past, and until 1983 no organized written history—save in the secretarial minutes of the Association. But, short need not mean dull or less than dynamic. Indeed, the men and women who founded the Oklahoma State Psychological Association, OSPA (changed to OPA in 1973) immediately following World War II, were expressing the long-felt concern of professors at the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, Tulsa University, and two or three regional colleges, as well as a few psychologists employed in non-university settings in Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

The past is all too often lost in time and we are left with re-inventing instead of advancing on the shoulders of those who have gone before. The realization of the above, by multiple OPA Boards, spurred the creation of this latest history. Individuals who made this possible are many and varied. The consistent leadership of OPA management is noted, particularly that of the 1996 and 2015 executive directors, Richard Hess and Danna Fowble, and their respective Central Office staffs. The editorial acumen of Nicole Willard, UCO archival librarian, added much to the design and experience with the most recent publication standards. We must particularly remain mindful of the contribution of the many who brought forth the fiftieth anniversary history that constitutes the first half of the present work. Those so mentioned have long since moved on, yet their dedication will not soon be forgotten.

The over 200 OPA Board members who voted to retain me as the Association’s archivist and historian over the past five decades or so are to be recognized. Their support, encouragement, and forceful “nudging” from time to time provided the inspiration for the completion of this task. As a token of appreciation, the Board voted that I be permitted free admission, in perpetuity, to all annual conferences; as far as I know the only such award ever granted by the Association. These are the friends and dedicated colleagues

who mutually observed and participated in the development of psychology from a marginally relevant, often feared, abstruse academic field to the socially relevant, pervasive profession and science that it has become. Indeed, they were there to witness Oklahoma psychology's long, sometimes difficult, yet valiantly successful metamorphoses.

The Association maintains an in-depth history of over 800 pages entitled *Oklahoma Psychology in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*, authored by Dr. Charles Whipple, which is housed in the Association's archival repository at the University of Central Oklahoma. This present work is a briefer history—deliberately so. It is intended to be given to new Board members, and sold to all else at a minimal cost. It is my hope that this endeavor, however brief, has captured the essence and spirit of our first seventy-five years. Through this experience, I have learned that the OPA Board, Central Office, Divisions, and Committees are peopled by concerned, aware individuals who have taken the lead in determining Oklahoma psychology's destiny. The truth is that there really is room for all—and plenty at the top.

A Greek philosopher wrote “the only thing constant is change.” Yet what can be more pleasing than to find colleagues, who were welcome at one age, still welcome, and remembered, at another. As once taught in Egyptian and Hebrew ideology—as long as one is remembered, so is eternity bestowed. “To speak the names of the dead is to make them live again” is an ancient Egyptian aphorism. The many distant colleagues who graced this Association so long ago, and we who survive today, humbly ask those of you in future generations who perchance read this book—to please speak our names.

Dr. Charles Whipple  
OPA Historian

## Preface

For several decades, Dr. Charles Whipple has served as historian for psychology in the state of Oklahoma. A major accomplishment was his five-volume work, *Oklahoma Psychology in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*, which included a history of the Oklahoma Psychological Association as well as separate volumes on the history of the major departments of psychology in the colleges and universities in the state as well as in selected state agencies. The current volume is intended to update this work for the first part of the twenty-first century. Writing these manuscripts has required an untold number of hours and strong dedication to the task. The psychologists of Oklahoma and the rest of the country are indebted to Charles for his efforts. Few other states have had such service. It was fitting that the OPA Board turned to Dr. Whipple when an update covering the recent history of the Oklahoma Psychological Association was desired. Even though he was officially retired and pursuing other interests, including tracing his family history (which he was able to trace back to 1530 C.E.), Charles graciously accepted the charge and the current manuscript is the result. In this document, we have an excellent record of OPA's history for posterity and a rich source of information of all psychologists in Oklahoma who might want to know more about the history and current status of psychology in our state. I stand in awe of his accomplishment and applaud his dedication to the task.

Dr. C. Eugene Walker  
Professor Emeritus  
University of Oklahoma

# The Early Years

1946-1996



*We must ever be vigilant in  
protecting professional standards. To that end,  
younger members must never forget pioneer  
Oklahoma psychologists*

*Dr. Harry Brobst  
Charter Member*

The individuals who founded the Oklahoma State Psychological Association (OSPA) could not have known the terminus of their endeavor that early December day in 1946. Fortuitous circumstances were not inconsiderable on that momentous occasion. World War II did much to establish psychology as a valued and serious discipline, both in research and clinical practice. It, like most professions, suffered a serious manpower shortage during that conflagration. Men and women were hurriedly trained as health service providers to fill crucial personnel needs. Thus, in the immediate post-war years psychology was indeed on the threshold of new dynamic beginnings.

Furthermore, relatively early in the history of organized psychology, applied psychologists, who believed themselves less than completely accepted by the American Psychological Association's dominant group of basic experimentalists, fashioned their own organization, the American Association of Applied Psychology. Late in 1947, just about the time OSPA held its first annual convention, the two groups re-merged. The architects of this merger, as well as OSPA's founders and supporters, could not

readily have foreseen the phenomenal growth in numbers of health service providers or how these newcomers would soon swamp organized psychology at both the national and state levels.

However, this was not the case at first. Certainly, in Oklahoma, academicians, in the nascent years, held practically all responsible Association positions of leadership. In fact, it was not until the years 1953-54 that full-time clinicians from the Veterans Hospital and Central State Hospital were given Association committee assignments and elected to the Executive Board. And not until OSPA was a full dozen years of age did a non-university-based psychologist serve as president. However, by sheer force of numbers, the Association was gradually being transformed into an organized group whose actions were more and more controlled by the needs of the health service practitioner.

The number of graduate degrees granted in academic research specialties peaked about 1973 (the year the organization's name was changed to the Oklahoma Psychological Association) and has steadily decreased since then. Health service provider doctorates, in contradistinction, have continued to increase. Despite the fact that the clinical psychology program at the University of Oklahoma was precipitously dropped in the late 1960s, the annual production of clinical and counseling psychology doctorates, both at the national and state levels, has increasingly outstripped doctoral awards in all other specialties, at present by a ratio of three to one.

Indeed, by the end of the sixth decade of the twentieth century, private practice issues fully dominated ninety percent of Association business, as recorded in the minutes, as they continue to do. Since the momentous victory of licensure in 1965, official Association minutes record an unbroken litany of concerns such as third-party reimbursement, hospital privileges and office management issues. Not to be overlooked, have been years of

monthly meeting attention given to the opposition of licensure for "counselors," "family therapists," and master's degree level psychologists. With the exception of the latter, these efforts were in vain. As predicted, the number of licensed professional counselors and marriage and family therapists now exceeds that of practicing clinical and counseling psychologists by over one thousand in number.

The years of the fourth and fifth decades of the twentieth century were golden ones for psychology. The classic texts, the basic techniques, and the noble theories were all refined during this period. Psychology as a mental health provider system and as a behavioral science became so firmly established and respectable that even the antics of a few reckless and more colorful practitioners during the "decade of the absurd" could hardly negate its accomplishments.

In reality, Oklahoma was spared the worst turmoil of the sixties, the decade when society seemed dominated by absurdity and ruled by chaos. Unfortunately, many American psychologists not only participated as cheerleaders in this temporary charade, they actually captained this solipsistic, me-oriented rebellious epoch. Perhaps because of "Midwestern values," or more dedication to psychology's scientific base, Oklahoma psychology was not so completely swallowed up along with the rest, and its history awash with LSD therapy, nude marathons and the crude profundity of such.

The metamorphosis of psychology during the 1970s and 1980s led to further divisiveness, as reflected in Gregory Kimble's article "Psychology's Two Cultures." The author found that these two "cultures," one of science, and one of humanism, were incongruous. As some clinicians essentially abandoned serious efforts to anchor practice to psychology's scientific base, academicians reacted with predictable antipathy. Thus, the

pronounced tilt in the Association membership begun in the 1950s was exacerbated by the early 1960s and onward by the ever increasing attrition rate of academicians who had dropped out or never joined, some eighty percent of those eligible, according to Association figures.

It has been observed that a group's image is crucial—often more influential than the actual services provided to its members. It appears unlikely at this juncture that anything organized psychology can do, either at the national or state level, will transform that image into one which long disenchanted academicians will perceive as representing their needs and values.

It must be noted that serious efforts were made to restructure OPA into semi-autonomous units so that a research-academic presence could be maintained, the most recent being the creation of divisions by the 1977 Constitution and Bylaws. By and large, these efforts have proven to be only marginally successful. Even at its peak membership years in the early 1980s, the Division of Academic and Research Psychologists enrolled less than one-tenth of those eligible to participate, despite the fact that one could join the division at a modest cost and not be required to join the Association as a full member.

The 1956 convention program below further illustrates the Association's historic concern for, and consistent efforts to include, both clinical and experimental aspects of the profession. Interestingly, this is the only verbatim annual convention program saved for posterity in Association minutes during the first twenty-five years of its existence.

1956 PROGRAM  
ANNUAL CONVENTION  
of the  
OKLAHOMA STATE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
(In Joint Meeting with the Oklahoma Academy of Sciences)  
Oklahoma A & M College, Stillwater

MORNING SESSION

Friday, November 30, 10:00 A.M. Pioneer Room, Student Union  
Roy Gladstone, Presiding

1. Insight Vs. Conditioning.  
Irene Mackintosh and Basil Johnson, Norman. 10 Minutes
2. Authoritarianism in a Fundamentalist Religious Sect.  
KL. Shewmaker and M.O. Wilson, Norman. 12 Minutes
3. The Effect of Oral Administration of Reserpine on the  
Incidence of Audio-Fits, Activity, and Variability of Behavior  
in Rats. William J. Griffiths, Stillwater. 12 Minutes
4. The Effect of Praise Administered as Verbal Reinforcement.  
Nelda Cauthon, Norman. 12 Minutes
5. Substitute Responses During Extinction.  
Irene Mackintosh, Norman. 10 Minutes
6. Variable Behavior in Anxious and Non-Anxious Subjects.  
T.P. Caffey, Jr., Stillwater. 10 Minutes
7. Comparative Performance of Friends-Non Friends Groups  
Under Stress. Robert Scofield, Stillwater. 12 Minutes
8. The Regional Background of Oklahoma People.  
James Tarver, Stillwater. 10 Minutes

Luncheon, 12:00-1:00 P.M., Mural Room, Student Union Cafeteria.  
Executive Meeting, 12:30-1:00 P.M., Pioneer Room

Business Meeting, 1:00-1:30 P.M., Pioneer Room

AFTERNOON SESSION

Friday, November 30, 1:30 P.M., Pioneer Room, Student Union  
Roy Gladstone, Presiding

A. PAPERS

1. A Preliminary Report on "Set" as a Variable Affecting the Perception of the Phi-Phenomenon. Daniel Taub and Louis B. Hoisington, Norman. 12 Minutes
2. Spontaneous Recovery. Irene Mackintosh, Kendall Davis, Phillip Edwards, and Billy Locko, Norman. 10 minutes
3. Sex Differences in the Self-Concept and Related Variables. Harl H. Young, Norman. 12 Minutes
4. Reminiscence and Generalized Postural Adjustment. L.M. Gustafson, Stillwater. 10 Minutes

B. SYMPOSIUM

Problems of the Psychologist in Professional Practice.  
1 Hour  
Chairman: W.B. Lemmon, Psychological Clinic,  
University of Oklahoma.

1. Problems Confronting Psychologists in Professional Practice. Harry Wheeler Jr., Tulsa Guidance Clinic.
2. Resume of Efforts of Psychologists in the U.S. to Come to Terms With These Problems. Harl H. Young, Department of Psychology, University of Oklahoma.
3. What, If Anything, Should Psychologists in Oklahoma Do About These Problems? W.B. Lemmon, Department of Psychology, University of Oklahoma.

Following these years when Oklahoma psychologists labored mightily to keep at least a nucleus of an inclusive organization intact, similar centrifugal forces became regnant within scientific psychology itself. When professors within a university owed allegiance to the same department and were officed in propinquity to one another, a sense of common identity was more readily attainable. In this environment, ruling metaphors and reigning theoretical paradigms served as a unifying force.

Soon however, this utopia was fractionated by the advent and ascendancy of cognitive science. Psychologists identifying with neuroscience and cognition tended to turn outward toward other disciplines as intellectual home base, instead of inward toward psychology. In fact, faculties in some psychology departments literally packed up and moved en masse to departments or institutes of cognitive-neuroscience.

Perhaps this rupture was inevitable. Sigmund Koch, writing in the decade of the eighties, promulgated the contention that psychology had become in fact but a heterogeneous assortment of quasi-independent disciplines and that a unified autonomous science of psychology was no longer possible.

With but a modest amount of catastrophizing, it is possible to create a doomsday scenario in which these centrifugal pressures coalesce into the very decimation of formalized psychology. Biopsychologists disappear into institutes of cognitive science. All too many experimental psychopathologists vanish into medicine and medical schools. Industrial psychologists continue to find much cushier accommodations in business schools. As is already true to a substantial degree, colleges of education take over the education and employment of all school psychologists. In such a scenario, graduate schools of academic-research psychology, should they survive at all, become but listless shadows of former glory, outnumbered and outclassed by both the natural sciences

and humanities. The inevitable consequence—perhaps the total balkanization of academic psychologists and, especially in Oklahoma, the abandonment of the very professional Association they themselves founded fifty years ago.

All of this could not have been foretold by OSPA founders as they intrepidly gave their creation its first official breath on 6 December 1946. In point of fact, this was not their first meeting.

Dr. Harry Brobst, one of twenty-two charter members recalled that, "Right after I arrived on the A&M campus in the late summer of 1946, an 'exploratory' meeting was held in Stillwater to investigate the possibility of starting an organization. There were no minutes kept, but I believe, besides myself, the following were in attendance: Drs. Hoisington, Wilson, and Lemmon from the University of Oklahoma; Dr. McLeod from the University of Tulsa; and Drs. Reed and Rigg from Oklahoma A&M; and two ladies. I think one lady was a Miss Mitchell, who later married Dr. Lemmon. I may be wrong, but I don't think Dr. Taylor from the Oklahoma College for Women was there. I'm sorry if I've left anyone out, my memory is not as good as it used to be.

"At that meeting, it was decided to meet in Oklahoma City later that year or early the next. The reason my name is not listed in the minutes of the December meeting is that I was off on college business somewhere out in western Oklahoma.

"I believe I'm right on this, there were three basic reasons we wanted to organize. We wanted to achieve a clear identity and recognition as a profession separate from psychiatry. We wanted to protect the public by standardizing and upgrading educational standards. And we felt an urgent need for some kind of certification."

A handful of sixteen men and women did, indeed, subsequently meet in December at the YWCA building in downtown Oklahoma City. The intent of the original draftsmen



was to originate an organization of psychologists by: (1) drafting a constitution and bylaws, (2) incorporating the Association as the representative of Oklahoma psychology, (3) electing officers, and (4) preparing a proposal for legislative action which would provide for a licensing act in order to safeguard the maturing profession and the public it served through provisions for maintaining competence and professional standards. Charter members present at that first official meeting were:

#### CHARTER MEMBERS

Clinton Allen	John Gittinger	L.S. McLeod	Melvin Rigg
Corrine Bell	Amanda Herring	Carl Oldroyd	John Rohrer
Leo Cain	L.B. Hoisington	Robert Penn	Raymond Stone
Vera Gatch	W.B. Lemmon	S.L. Reed	M.O. Wilson

#### OKLAHOMA STATE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 6 DECEMBER 1946

WILSON—Made a motion to establish a state organization of psychologists. HOISINGTON—Suggested the appointment of J. Seemans as the temporary secretary to take notes on the first meeting. LEMMON—Suggested officers to constitute an Executive Committee consisting of a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. These officers were empowered to have the responsibility to take action within the organization during their suggested one-year term.

The discussion of the motion was as follows: GITTINGER—Preferred to have an informal group to start with. CAIN—Suggested selecting a chairman as the head of an Executive Committee, which in turn would serve as a Nominating Committee. Cain also recommended the selection of officers by mail ballot. ALLEN—Mentioned that in order to incorporate, the

organization would need a Board of Directors and stressed the present need of a Psychological Association. OLDROYD—Seconded the motion, and thus the motion was carried.

WILSON—Suggested the representation of various institutions. HOISINGTON—Discussed the need for setting up a Nominating Committee, the consideration of officer qualifications, and voting by mail. ALLEN—Questioned how many members of the APA were included among the available psychologists. WILSON—Responded that there were 20 to 25. LEMMON—Felt it was best to proceed with the election of temporary officers. PENN—Suggested that the members of the temporary committee should be centralized so that they could work together to expedite matters. REED—Decided that they should first elect a president, so that he could select other members in harmony with the previous suggestion. WILSON—Preferred widespread selection of officers so that input of opinions could derive from more than one group. PENN—Stated that they should focus on laying the groundwork and hold another meeting to iron out difficulties. ROHRER—Thought that the committee could work over a sample constitution and then send copies to all the members. LEMMON—Wished to amend the motion above so that the temporary officers' tenure should depend upon adoption of a constitution, rather than have them serve for one year. WILSON—Stated the motion that they should elect a committee to serve the organization until the constitution was prepared and incorporation was completed, after which time, permanent officers could be selected. The motion was seconded and carried.

LEMMON—Suggested that they select a president, empower him to appoint three other members for a committee. The officers were to carry out executive duties and serve only until: the articles of incorporation were set up, a constitution was drafted, and affiliation was achieved with APA. This motion was also seconded

and carried. NOMINATIONS OPENED: Penn nominated Lemmon; Lemmon nominated Wilson; Oldroyd nominated Rohrer; and Allen nominated Hoisington. At which time, Oldroyd motioned that nominations be closed and Reed seconded the motion. Penn then suggested the reopening of nominations, with Gatch in agreement. The motion was carried. Rohrer nominated Cain and Cain nominated Rohrer. The motion was made, seconded, and passed to close nominations. The final list of nominations was: Lemmon, Hoisington, Cain, Rohrer, and Wilson. Rohrer was elected by majority vote.

GITTINGER—Asked-if the constitution would call for a Nominating Committee. ROHRER—Responded positively, but the Council would meet in March, so mail ballots were in order. GITTINGER—Suggested that the president have the power to appoint other committees. CAIN—Motioned for the empowerment of the temporary president to select a Nominating Committee, keeping in mind representation of the whole state. GATCH—Seconded the motion, and the motion was carried. PENN—Suggested that since some incidental expenses would need to be defrayed, everyone should be assessed \$1 to cover the cost of mailing, ballots, etc. ROHRER—Stated that the University of Oklahoma could meet the expenses of mailing and mimeographing, but was unsure about the costs of incorporation. ALLEN—The cost of incorporation was \$20. ROHRER—Felt that a \$1 assessment would suffice. STONE—Suggested mail contributions since other members were involved. ROHRER—Agreed with Stone.

WILSON—Called for a discussion of the feasibility of certification of psychologists, the objectives gained, to what extent the organization could control the practice of charlatans, and finally which procedures could be used to effect such control. ROHRER—Stated that such would require an act of legislature.

GITTINGER—Mentioned that it would not be a problem. LEMMON—Agreed that it would not be a problem, but much planning was needed prior to going before the Legislature. ALLEN to GITTINGER—Asked if Legislature would favor setting up a board of certification. GITTINGER—Stated that the group would not be given authority, but it would be relatively simple to get the Legislature to pass a law calling for the certification of psychologists. GATCH—Suggested creating a committee to work on the "law" to be presented to the Legislature. WILSON—Remarked that they should authorize the president to appoint a committee to go before the Legislature.

LEMMON—Suggested that the committee could study certification, occupational opportunities, and present recommendations to the group. WILSON—Motioned that a committee of three be appointed to study the problem of certification procedures and make recommendations for steps the organization should take in the near future. ALLEN—Seconded the motion, and it was carried. ROHRER—Appointed the following to study the problem of state certification of psychologists: Allen, Lemmon, Herring, and Gittinger.

ROHRER—Communicated that they should allow majors in psychology a membership. LEMMON—Thought that they should apply the APA structure and add undergraduates. WILSON—Felt that the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws should decide about membership qualifications.

Other discussions included meeting times, places, and the number per year, as well as affiliation with regional associations. No decisive action was taken on either of the above. The general opinion was to keep the identity of OSPa separate from the Academy of Sciences, yet meeting at the same time and place as the O.A. of S. was a desirable idea.

ROHRER—Appointed the following as members of the Nominating Committee: Cain, Bell, Rigg, McLeod, and Gittinger. Executive Committee member appointees were: vice-president, Wilson; secretary, Stone; treasurer, Cain. After which they motioned to adjourn and the OSPA was born.

An enabling act was passed at the 14 February 1947 meeting which provided that a period of five weeks in the spring of 1947 be designated as "Charter Membership" period. Consequent to this, six additional persons were added as charter members: Drs. Taylor, Brobst, Sisney, Denny, McCallister, and Ruggles. The employment affiliations of these members were The University of Oklahoma: Denny, Gatch, Hoisington, Oldroyd, Rohrer, Stone, and Wilson. Oklahoma A&M College: Brobst, Reed, Rigg, and Ruggles. Oklahoma City University: Allen. Oklahoma College for Women: Bell and Taylor. University of Tulsa: McLeod. Tulsa public schools: Herring. VA Hospital: Sisney. Central State Hospital: Gittinger. The affiliations of Cain, McCallister, and Penn are unknown. It may be that these three could have been students, in that, as Dr. Vera Gatch remembers it, "There were other students besides me included. I really don't know why we were listed in that we were only graduate students at the time."

From the above, it is apparent that OSPA was grounded on the solid base of academia. Nine out of ten members in the first three years or so were professors. The organization, from its inception, made a conscientious effort to recruit members from all higher education institutions. By 1953, in addition to the five institutions represented by charter members, professors from Central State College, East Central College, and Southwestern College had served on various Association committees.

Most professors were new to the state, having just been released from active military duty. However, those most influential in founding and incorporating the Association (Incorporated 29

October 1947) were long-time residents of Oklahoma. Indeed, Drs. Hoisington and Wilson, for instance, had been at Oklahoma University since the 1920s, as had Drs. Rigg and Reed at Oklahoma A&M, and Dr. McLeod at Tulsa University. Dr. Vernon Sisney, charter member, speaks highly of his former professors. "I remember that Drs. Wilson and Hoisington were grand gentlemen of the old school. But I want to emphasize that Bill Lemmon was the real force behind OSPA. He came to OU to head up the clinical psychology program and immediately started pressing others to get busy. After I returned from getting my doctorate at the University of Texas in 1952, Dr. Lemmon and others met at my house on numerous occasions to plan for certification or licensing. Bill liked to work behind the scene. He never became president of OSPA, but worked on literally every committee of the organization at one time or another."

Dr. Brobst adds his recollections: "I recall that Bill Lemmon was a forceful individual. He was hard to get along with at times, but he got things done. I think he took his doctorate at Ohio State under Carl Rogers. His motivation was to establish private practice opportunities for OU students. Mine was more along the lines of academic research, as were Drs. Reed and Rigg. Dr. Reed took his degree from Yale University sometime before World War I and came to A&M around 1922. Dr. Rigg had a doctorate in philosophy from Pennsylvania University and another in psychology under Toops at Ohio State University. As I recall, Drs. McLeod and McCord at Tulsa University were quite prominent in national psychological politics during the 1940s and 1950s. They retired in the 1960s, and I lost track of them."

Even the most perfunctory reading of the minutes of the first five years reveals an intense preoccupation with professional identity. The primary and perhaps only non-organizational concern was that of regulatory state laws for the practice of psychology.

This is reflected in the minutes of 6 December 1946, 14 February 1947, 23 September 1947, 5 December 1947, 3 December 1948, 2 December 1949, 1 December 1950, and 7 December 1951, all of which point to the words of Dr. Gatch: "A committee must be established to work on a proposed law to be presented to the Oklahoma Legislature." Rare exceptions were found in relations with psychiatrists, affiliation with the Oklahoma Academy of Sciences, and the American Psychological Association. At the first meeting of OSPA, a motion was made by Dr. Lemmon to establish a Certification Committee; subsequently, Acting President John Rohrer appointed Drs. Allen, Gittinger, Herring, and Lemmon to serve on that committee.

In the first report of this committee, John Gittinger described charlantry practices in Oklahoma City as evidenced by the listing of phony psychologists in the city telephone book. He reported: (1) that the county attorney and State Medical Association were willing to take action; and (2) that a local psychiatric clinic would not employ psychologists until the air was cleared as to the definition of what a psychologist actually was. Subsequent to this report, the following resolution was drawn up and passed on 14 February 1947.

#### FIRST RESOLUTION OF OSPA

Whereas the American Psychological Association has published and maintained standards of recognition for professional psychologists, and, whereas it is understood that certain local so-called psychological practitioners violate these standards for recognized approval: We, the undersigned Oklahoma psychologists affiliated with the American Psychological Association resolve to support (1) a public statement of censure and professional disavowal with the regard to the aforementioned

practitioners, and (2) whatever investigatory actions are taken by John Gittinger, acting as our representative.

At the end of three years of study and implementation, the committee was able to report on December 2, 1949, "Oklahoma statutes define a qualified psychologist as an individual with at least a master's degree from a graduate school approved by APA." Oklahoma's representative to APA, Dr. Joseph Latimer, announced that there was a general feeling at APA that Oklahoma, particularly with its statute definition of a qualified psychologist, was considerably ahead of most states. He also believed that national action was to be first towards certification, and later towards licensure. All agreed that it was better to proceed with caution. Little did these individuals know that sixteen years would have to pass before Oklahoma psychologists would realize the dream of legal protection through licensure.

Dr. Brobst's insight is helpful here: "I noticed a short section in the December 1953 minutes you sent me. I was president at the time and the minutes indicate in a rather perfunctory, matter-of-fact manner, something that was of tremendous importance. Dr. Lattimer, who was secretary-treasurer at that time, announced that there had been several encouraging developments in the state, and that's putting it mildly. A psychiatrist was affiliated with OSPA, in other words, we were getting some recognition. Then, there were some clinic internships recently made available in state hospitals. And, what made us very happy was that Dr. Wilson was asked to speak at the State Psychiatric Association meeting, and this was unheard of at the time.

"The truth of the matter was, Dr. McLeod from the University of Tulsa, who was our representative to the Conference of State



Psychological Associations, reported back that there was not all that much apparent urgency among state representatives to have certification, and only two states, California and New York, had such. So, there were some in OSPA who believed that this committee, called the Legislative and Standards Committee, should be disbanded. But the majority replied that the battle had only begun. So, you can see that year before psychology was finally licensed, the battle had been joined."

On 28 June, 1965, then Governor Henry Bellmon signed into law the Psychologists Licensing Act which established the statutory recognition of psychology as a profession in the State of Oklahoma. With this new law, the Board of Examiners of Psychologists was established to examine applicants for the practice of psychology in Oklahoma, as well as ensure compliance with the law. At that time twenty-five state boards were older, the oldest being Connecticut (1945). Oklahoma was one of three states to enact licensing laws in 1965.

FIRST REPORT OF THE OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD  
OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS  
15 March 1966

Following the appointment of Board Members by Governor Henry Bellman in late August, 1965, an initial organizational meeting was held on September 12, 1965 in Room 300, Sequoyah Memorial Office Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Dr. Oscar Parsons, Oklahoma City, was elected Chairman of the Board, Dr. Harry K. Brobst, Stillwater, was elected Vice-Chairman of the Board, and Dr. Theodore S. Baumberger, Oklahoma City, was appointed Secretary of the Board. Subsequent meetings of the Oklahoma State Board of Examiners of Psychologists have been held in the Sequoyah Memorial Office Building, Oklahoma City;

Plaza Tower, Oklahoma City; and Howard Johnson's Half-Way House, Stroud, Oklahoma. The Board has met for a total of eleven meetings.

In the first several meetings, the Board worked closely with resource committees, appointed by the Oklahoma State Psychological Association, on a number of matters relevant to the implementation of the act. An open meeting of the Board was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Oklahoma State Psychological Association on October 16, 1965. Reports of progress were made by the various resource committees on topics such as fees, equivalent standards, survey of membership, code of ethics, reciprocity and endorsement, and application forms, licenses and seal. The written reports and records of the sub-committees of the Oklahoma State Psychological Association are on file with the Oklahoma State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. Dr. Leonard Haber, Secretary of the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists for the State of New York, served as a consultant and guest speaker. The Board found Dr. Haber's comments and discussion on problems faced by the New York Board of Examiners of Psychologists to be most helpful.

In late October, 1965, final versions of the initial application form were completed and sent to all psychologists who had indicated an intention to apply for licensure. Thus far, as of March 10, 1966, 73 applications have been received by the Board, 35 applications for licensure without examination have been approved and applications sent. The licenses will be forwarded to these persons as soon as they are received from the printer.

In accordance with the law, an annual report was submitted to the Governor by the chairman on November 15, 1965.

In consultation with Mr. Harry Johnson, Attorney, rules governing the procedures of the Board have been drafted and filed with the Secretary of State and the State Librarian and Archivist, in

accord with state statutes. The rules and regulations of the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists have been published in the *Oklahoma Gazette*, dated February 15, 1966, following the adoption of these rules and regulations by the Board in the Board's first announced public meeting held in compliance with the state statutes on February 13, 1966.

As set out by the provisions of the Psychologists Licensing Act, a Psychologist's Licensing Fund has been established with the State Treasurer and the State Budget Office. The Secretary-Treasurer of the Board, Dr. Baumberger, was bonded for \$3,000.00 for a period of one year with the Western Surety Company, effective September 13, 1965. The bond has been filed, in accordance with statutes, with the Governor's Office by the Attorney General's Office.

An official mailing address for the Board at the State Capitol Station Post Office, Box 53392, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, has been secured, and the records and files of the Board are currently being maintained in the Secretary's Office, Room 210, Sequoyah Memorial Office Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The Board is keenly aware of the magnitude of the work which lies ahead and full implementation of the licensing procedures. However, it is apparent from the degree of cooperation and effective working relationships, both within the Board and with the Oklahoma State Psychological Association, that the intent of the Psychologists Licensing Act can be fulfilled.

Licensure without examination, ("grandfathers") will cease according to the Licensing Act on June 27, 1966. Persons with a master's degree and five years of supervised experience, who wish to apply for a license as a psychologist in Oklahoma, must be examined on or before June 27, 1966 in accordance with Section 12, Paragraph B of House Bill 939.

This much-hoped-for Board, requiring endless hours of labor by many OSPA members over a period of nineteen years, was charged with the responsibility of doing for the public what they could not easily do for themselves; that is, to check the credentials and knowledge of those who would seek to offer autonomous professional psychological services to the public for reimbursement. The first year of Board operation was designated as the "year of the grandfather" with well over one hundred applications processed.

An October, 1972 summary of activities revealed that: The Board has issued 150 licenses to date, 144 of which remain active. Of these 150 licenses, 96 were issued under the "grandfather" provisions of the law. Psychologists with the doctorate and five years' experience were issued 73 of the "grandfather" licenses, those with master's degrees and eight years' experience were issued 15 licenses, and four master's level psychologists with five years' experience were licensed by examination (after the grandfather period, the law specifically excluded master's degree candidates from being accepted for candidacy for licensure). Five licenses have been granted under reciprocity, and one was granted a Diplomate of the ABPP. The remaining 52 licenses were all obtained through examination. Nine "grandfather" applications who also were not eligible for licensure by examination were denied licensure, as were all individuals who were denied by reason of failure of the examination. A total of six applications to take the examinations have been rejected.

By the spring of 1996, 763 licenses had been granted with 465 of these still on active status. Of the nineteen licenses awarded to master's level psychologists during the "grandfather" period, only four remain active.

## MEMBERS OF THE LICENSING BOARD 1965-1996

Harry E. Wheeler	1965-66	Mary J. Keatley	1978-81
Oscar A. Parsons	1965-66	William J. Shaw	1979-82
Harry K. Brobst	1965-67	Robert S. Schlottmann	1979-82
Robert R. Phillips	1965-67	Joanna Jones Ellis	1980-83
Theodore S. Baumberger	1965-68	Vernon V. Sisney	1980-83
William B. Lemmon	1966-68	William E. Collins	1981-84
Richard M. Bryant	1966-69	Russell L. Adams	1982-85
Martin L. Krimsky	1967-70	William E. Jayners	1982-85
Kit C. Farwell	1967-70	Martha P Miller	1983-86
Richard E. Sternlof	1968-71	Kenneth D. Sandvold	1983-86
James A. Moore	1968-71	Albert D. Smouse	1984-87
Sarah G. Allison	1969-72	Roberts S. Schlottmann	1985-88
Orlando Elsea	1970-72	Mary H. Heath	1985-88
Maurice K. Temerlin	1970-73	Jenny L. Boyer	1986-89
Ronald O. McAfee	1972-73	Douglas A. Brady	1987-90
William E. Jaynes	1971-74	Thomas J. Vaughn	1988-93
Roger C. Smith	1971-74	Barbara Jean Masters	1983-93
Joanne E. Callan	1972-75	Joseph B. Couch	1989-93
Diane J. Willis	1974-75	Diana E. Bost	1989-93
Donald J. Bertoch	1973-76	Ronald S. Krug	1993
Kenneth D. Sandvold	1973-76	B. Todd Graybill	1990-94
John Louis Boland, Jr.	1974-77	Leslie B. Bond	1992-95
Vernon V. Sisney	1975-77	Bruce Cook	1992-95
George A. Letchworth	1975-78	Arlene Schaefer	1992-96
Melvyn G. Price	1976-79	William Gentry	1992-96
H. Steven Caldwell	1976-79	Ray Hand	1993-97
Ellen R. Oaks	1977-80	Bruce Hodson	1995-99
Robert E. Ragland	1977-80	Larry McCauley	1995-99

Dr. Harry Wheeler describes what it was like in the beginning. "Immediately after the Licensing Law went into effect, five of us were appointed to the first Board of Examiners. I would like to create the myth that psychological acumen is the reason I have License Number One; however, the time for truth is at hand. When one is contributing one's bit to an official account of history, one must be as truthful as memory allows.

"The Board held its first meeting in Oklahoma City at the Capitol Building on a Sunday. The first thing needed was for the five of us to issue licenses to ourselves! Further action was dependent upon our being licensed psychologists. This may have

been a bootstrap operation, but we didn't question the philosophy of it too much—we simply set about issuing our own licenses. We had to decide who was to be numbers one, two, three, four, and five. In the time-honored tradition of all games of chance, we decided to draw straws. No one could offer a better idea at the time so that's how I became Number One—simply luck of the draw!

“The next step was a little more difficult. We all had to sign the nicely engraved licenses, but no one had a pen. Normally, I carry a pen wherever I go. We searched the halls, but because it was Sunday, the offices in the capitol were closed. We repaired to the nearest five-and-ten cent store to find something that would write. One of us may have been thinking of framing the pen afterwards. When we reached the store, it was out of pens. Never before had I seen a variety store without a pen. For everything, there is a time! Another brilliant idea came from the group. Someone said, ‘What about a laundry marker?’ Well, that is what the store had in stock, that is what the licenses were signed with, and that is why Ossie Parsons, Ted Baumberger, Bob Phillips, Harry Brobst, and myself are licensed psychologists to this day. But I am Number One!”

The minutes of the Annual Convention of 1 December 1950 held at the Oklahoma College for Women, in Chickasha, shows a healthy "bouncing-baby" of some 52 members, including 13 new members. This compares to a 1995 membership of 298, including associates. By 1995, only one of these fifty-two, Dr. Vernon Sisney, remains as a full member; with Drs. Brobst, Gatch, Gittinger, Gladstone, and Jorden serving as emeritus members.

## MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCES AT FIVE-YEAR INTERVALS

Year	Members	Associates	Finances (excluding conventions)
1947	22	13	\$51.50
1950	52	25	\$90.17
1955	97	9	\$171.43
1960	105	10	\$744.40
1965	117	12	\$1,043.00
1970	140	30	\$1,253.00
1975	176	58	\$6,423.19
1980	253	86	\$6,870.91
1985	254	82	\$27,200.00
1990	226	55	\$45,912.00
1995	270	28	\$61,733.75

In 1949, enthusiasm and expectations were so high that an additional twenty-five-dollar payment was approved for the APA Representative. It should be noted that the entire budget for OPSA's first year of operation was only \$51.50. Compare this with its 1995 budget of over \$61,000. In the space of fifty years, annual dues increased from \$1 to \$150 and expenditures increased almost one thousand times over.

The report below is the first recorded Annual Financial Statement of the Association.

FINANCIAL REPORT  
OKLAHOMA STATE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

December 5, 1947

	Credit		Debit
22 Charter Members	\$22.00	Incorporation	\$3.50
13 Affiliates	\$6.50	Bank Draft, 1 <sup>st</sup> Nat. Bank Norman	\$1.10
11 Applicant-Members	\$11.00	Receipt Book, OU Bookstore	<u>\$.30</u>
24 Applicant-Affiliates	<u>\$12.00</u>		\$3.90
	\$51.50		
		Credits	\$51.50
		Debits	<u>-\$3.90</u>
		1 <sup>st</sup> Nat. Bank Norman Balance	\$47.60

Approved 12/8/47 by action of the Executive Committee  
Signed: John H. Rohrer, Secretary Treasurer

A further demonstration of Association growth can be seen in the area of publications. Secretary-Treasurer Dr. G. Raymond Stone, at the 31 October 1949 meeting of the Executive Committee, presented the budget for 1949-50 which included an item for the expense of a proposed newsletter, "although the personnel responsible for such have not been assigned." Dr. Stone suggested one issue per year in the beginning, with an expenditure of \$5 annually. Subsequently, the expenditure increased to \$10 per year at the 1949 annual meeting.

Association minutes became silent relative to the newsletter until 30 November 1956 when Dr. Dean Harris was called upon to present suggestions related to the beginning of an OSPA newsletter. Various institutions represented in OSPA were to take turns absorbing the work and cost in mimeographing materials for the newsletter, "with Dr. Harris responsible as editor." The



1957-58 budget allowed four issues at the total cost of \$80, with the first issue appearing in the fall of 1957. The new editor, Dr. J.R. Morris, reported on 20 September 1958, that the second issue was planned for October 1958. The total newsletter expense in 1960 was \$51.44; 1965, \$120; and in 1970, \$220. In 1972, under the editorship of the late Dr. Roger Smith, the name was changed to *Psychology in Oklahoma*, and then to the *Oklahoma Psychologist* in 1974. In 1995, the expenses incurred to publish the *Oklahoma Psychologist* exceeded \$3500.

#### NEWSLETTER EDITORS

1957	Dean Harris	1973-79	Charles Whipple
1958-59	J.R. Morris	1980	Rich Wantz
1960-61	Dick Grant	1981	Steve Caldwell
1962	Wayne Ashley	1982	Ray Hand
1963-64	Harry Boyd	1983	Roberta Olson
1965-66	Dick Sternlof	1984-85	Eric Nelson
1967	Dorothy Foster	1986-95	Larry McCauley
1968-69	Logan Wright	1995-96	Alice Wellington
1970	Ellen Oakes	1996-	Jill Scott
1971-72	Roger Smith		

The original Enabling Act and Constitution of 1947, a brief document of some four pages, was amended, enlarged, and revised on several occasions. In May of 1952, Article III Membership was extensively changed by vote of the membership to mirror the more stringent nationwide standards of the profession. Also, in 1955 the requirement was amended so that the OSPA Convention would no longer be held in conjunction with the regular annual meeting of the Oklahoma Academy of Sciences.

Only three negative votes out of 67 were cast on four of six amendments in the proposed constitutional changes of 1958. Two proposed changes, one increasing dues from \$5 to \$10 per year and the other dealing with membership status were defeated. Later that

same year a new Public Information Committee was approved.

The Constitution and Bylaws were extensively rewritten and approved by membership vote in 1963. Notable amendments included increasing the membership categories from two to five and changing the secretary-treasurer position from ex-officio status to full voting member of the Executive Committee. It also increased committees from five to eight, including committees on Directory, Education and Training, and Insurance. This document of twelve pages discussed at length procedures for reprimand, suspension, or expulsion of members. There were no substantive changes in the constitution for the next thirteen years.

Oklahoma psychology took time out to examine itself in a systematic, objective manner in 1974. The Executive Committee instituted a committee to begin such self-scrutiny, and if necessary, create a new constitution for the organization. Recognizing the undeniably facilitative role of the State Association, the resulting report criticized apparent overemphasis on professional issues.

Encouraged by this report, the Executive Committee appointed an ad hoc committee of four individuals, Drs. Ken Sandvold, Mel Price, Roger Smith, and Charles Whipple to rewrite the Association's constitution and bylaws. Such an instrument was written and subsequently approved by the membership in 1977.

During the ensuing years, actions were taken to implement the direction mandated by the new constitution. That is, three divisions were established and the number of standing committees increased to twelve. The new divisions of OPA were: Health Service Providers, Academic and Research, and Educational and School (now defunct).

At the 12 February 1978 Board meeting held at Central State University, Dr. Charles Whipple made the motion that the

Divisions of Health Service Providers (HSP), Academic and Research (DARP), and the Student Society be officially recognized. As part of the duties as chair of the Constitution Revision Committee, he had been required to initiate separate petitions to be signed by a minimum of twenty-five full members who desired to join one or both of these divisions. This task was completed at the 1978 annual conference, and the divisions held initial meetings at that time. The Division of Educational and School (DESP) was begun two years later in a similar manner.

## DIVISION PRESIDENTS

1979-1996

Academic and Research	Health Service Providers
1979 Mike Knight	1979 Dick Sternlof
1980 Frank Holloway	1980 Joanna Ellis
1981 Larry Brown	1981 Fred Pound
1982 Ray Roussin	1982 Phillip Hyde
1983 Reubin Wigdor	1983 John Atwood
1984 Joan Holloway	1984 Vernon Enlow
1985 David Schroeder	1985 Jane Epperly
1986 Pam Dorsett	1986 Don Bertoch
1987 Dorothy Stasser	1987 Ben Jones
1988 Charles Whipple	1988 Alan Schlessman
1989 John Braggio	1989 Allen Sweet
1990 George Letchworth	1990 Bruce Hodson
1991 C. Eugene Walker	1991 Gene Hawkins
1992 Dan McNeal	1992 Carolyn Goodrich
1993 Larry Mullins	1993 Ann Taylor
1994 George Letchworth	1994 Max Price
1995 Vicki Green	1995 Larry McCauley
1996 Terry Pace	1996 Richard Walton
Educational and School	
1981 Paul Warden	1985 Val McClanahan
1982 Kay Bull	1986 Steven Crane
1983 Ruth Taylor	1987 Steve Ramsey
1984 Cecelia Franke	1988 Bruce Cook

The minutes of 3 March 1980 note that a petition was being circulated to form a Division of Educational and School Psychology. It was pointed out that OPA, for many years, had been derelict in meeting the needs of school psychologists, which had resulted in them forming their own organization. This new division was formally approved on 22 November 1980.

The Division of Educational and School Psychology, though in existence but eight years, served a necessary function at the time. According to Dr. Peggy Kerr, "As I recall, there had been considerable controversy in an older organization, The Oklahoma School Psychological Association, which, I think, was founded in 1974. Several of its members dropped out and approached OPA to join its newly approved, but not yet functioning Division. Drs. Paul Warden and Kay Bull from Oklahoma State University were instrumental in pulling enough people together to get it started. Later, when the older group's problems smoothed out, the existence of two school psychology organizations was felt to be redundant. I know that most did not want to pay dues to two separate state associations. Most members were master's level professionals only and apparently felt more accepted in the older group, and because it was affiliated with the American School Psychological Association. Membership in the OPA Division at the height of its most productive years in 1984-1986 was around only fifty or so, including maybe five or six doctoral psychologists. This was compared to the older organization's several hundred members."

Despite the fact that a formal division no longer exists, many school psychologists maintain OPA membership. Their contributions to the Association continue to be substantial.

With the creation of the Division of Academic and Research Psychologists, the Association initiated an attempt to

accommodate the continuing demands from academicians and researchers to better serve their needs and those of their students for a professional organization whose primary emphasis was to provide a research conference at an equitable financial cost. The division began to organize with the election of officers and regional representatives in the fall of 1978, under the leadership of Drs. Mike Knight and Frank Holloway.

Dr. Knight explains, "One of our goals was to create a voting block which would be able to influence the future of OPA, and for a time, academicians rallied around this cause. But with an ever-increasing dues structure and political disillusionment, membership dwindled. Whether true or not, the prevailing sentiment of those first members was that we were being marginalized by an increasingly guild-oriented organization.

"Obviously, other state associations were undergoing a similar internal struggle, which led to the founding of the American Psychological Society (APS) in the mid-1980's. In quick order, several DARP members established the Oklahoma Chapter of APS. Although dual organizations now exist to serve the academic community; nevertheless, we have harmoniously worked together in a spirit of collegiality. An annual research convention is co-sponsored by DARP-OPS, and several individuals hold membership in both organizations.

"I believe both organizations hold fast to psychology's 'first principle'—enthusiasm for research and accessibility, whether for student, for faculty, or for the scientist practitioner. Scholarship, identity, and friendship; these were the reasons for the first conferences. And to us, this remains the single most important function of a professional organization."

By January 1980, President Frank Holloway was able to announce to the Board of Directors that DARP had 75 members and planned to increase to 150. Concern was again expressed that

OPA dues were too high. To respond to this criticism the Board made a good faith effort to base dues on a salary-graduated basis. Drs. Steve Caldwell and Bill Shaw were requested to prepare an annual budget based on both \$15 and \$25 membership dues. Plus, allocation of money from general funds was contributed to help defray division expenses. In addition, several hundred dollars were budgeted for the newsletter to help the division recruit new members.

In response to concerns raised by some OPA Board Members and others, Dr. John Braggio, DARP president, responded in the June 1989 newsletter that his “Division and OPS did not compete for the same members, that the two groups had cooperated well in putting on that year's conference and that conflicts were not anticipated in the foreseeable future.”

Yet how do these two organizations differ? Dr. Terry Pace speaks to this. “As the current president of DARP, I have found good cooperation between OPA-DARP and OPS and the Annual Spring Research Conference continues to be the major activity of both organizations. Consisting of psychologists affiliated with academic research institutions, both share deep commitments to the scientific and educational concerns within the discipline of psychology.

“However, I believe in contrast to the majority of OPS members, most DARP members also share deep concerns with the OPA Division of Health Service Providers (HSP). Many DARP members are also affiliated with the applied specialties within psychology and have strong interests in health and human services and the professional practice of psychology. Thus, DARP seems to take more of an integrative view toward the discipline of psychology and often holds a middle ground between the more polarized aspects of the scientist-academics and the professional practitioners.

“I believe that most DARP members seek to understand, respect, and contribute to the full academic, scientific, and professional aspects of the discipline of psychology. A central question among current DARP members is whether or not the more polarized members of the discipline will find ways to develop cooperative understanding and reintegration or will continue to fragment into segregated and closed professional cultures. At this point in our history, DARP is concerned with fostering interaction, healthy debate, understanding, respect, and hopefully increased cooperation and integration among all members of the discipline of psychology.”

At the OPA Board meeting of 30 November 1979, President Dick Sternlof reported on HSP activities. Among other notable accomplishments, HSP had sponsored three workshops on depression, sex therapy, and third-party payments. Also, members recommended appointing some of their own to serve as liaisons with psychiatrists and social workers. This group was composed of Drs. John Watkins, Maury Temerlin, Kay Goebel, and Joanna Ellis. It was likewise recommended that the OPA Insurance Committee chair be appointed to serve for a period of several consecutive years (rather than annually) in order to create increased continuity. It should be noted that membership in HSP has consistently remained around 175 through the years.

"In 1996, the Health Service Provider Division of the Oklahoma Psychological Association continues to represent the efforts of those providing direct services," concludes Dr. Richard Walton, current president of HSP. "The Division provides an arena in which practitioners can address the many challenges faced in efforts to practice our profession.

“In the last several years, members of HSP have provided significant support to the Legislative Committee in bringing about passage of legislation designed to allow psychologists to practice

within the scope of licensing as full members of a hospital medical staff. The considerable efforts of Dr. Larry McCauley have resulted in the development of a 'Broadcast Fax Network' in Oklahoma City and Tulsa which has allowed psychologists to respond in a timely manner to proposed legislation at both the state and national level. Being able to keep psychologists continuously informed of events in the state Legislature proved to be critical in the defeat of legislation designed to allow individuals with master's level training the same practice privileges as those with doctoral level training.

"Issues of current concern to HSP include the possibility of limited prescriptive privileges for psychologists. The Division is very interested in providing its membership with opportunities to develop informed positions as to the possible advantages or disadvantages of pursuing such privileges for all even though individual psychologists might choose not to exercise them.

"There is the growing awareness that effort to provide more specific representation through divisions has unfortunately widened the rift between academic psychologists and practitioners. However, bridges are being designed through such efforts as practitioner workshops utilizing the significant-resources found within our state colleges and universities as presenters. It is time to realize that one doesn't have to leave the state to be an expert and that as practitioners we can benefit from that homegrown expertise.

"It would be historically incomplete to discuss the current concerns of HSP without mentioning managed care. The success of managed care is a sore reminder of the failure of psychological science to address the concerns of consumers, rather than just the providers, of our services. Psychologists have failed to provide basic research, which validates the efficiency and effectiveness of psychological services in a manner which can be understood by



employers and third-party payers. Our failure to do so has allowed others with a vested interest to identify us as the source of escalating costs and therefore need to be managed.

“Our efforts to deal with managed care would be familiar to Kubler-Ross. We have often denied the impact on our practices, gotten angry as we watched them take away clients or significantly reduce our income; we have tried to bargain to allow membership on their ‘exclusive’ provider panels. However, rather than moving on to acceptance of managed care as an inevitable and terminal stage in professional development, it appears that many are exploring ways of structuring their practices so as to be prepared to work around the managed care organization rather than through them. The opportunity to develop more effective and efficient structures for providing services is proving very exciting and energizing for many in this Division as we prepare for practice in the twenty-first century.”

Meeting on 21 January 1988, the Board of Directors unanimously voted to amend the 1977 Constitution. The Board noted that the task of running the Association had grown to the point where even such mundane tasks as record keeping had become excessive. It insisted that the time had arrived for the Association to become more professionally managed by a Central Office. At the same time, it was emphasized that members needed to become more politically astute and active, in that the profession was being forced to respond in its own defense to powerful, well-financed, competing cognate groups. To accomplish this, it was felt necessary to employ a lobbyist who would hopefully be able to educate, guide in legislative matters, represent Association interests, and the social causes to which Oklahoma psychology was dedicated. An ad hoc Constitution and Bylaws Revision Committee was appointed consisting of Drs. Bill Shaw, Ruth Taylor, and Charles Whipple. The new constitution and bylaws

were subsequently approved by the membership in December 1988 to take effect on 1 January 1989.

## OFFICERS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS

1946-1996

### PRESIDENT

1996	Roberta Olson	1970	Richard Sternlof
1995	Douglas Brady	1969	Robert Phillips
1994	Ronald Krug	1968	Vera Gatch
1993	Catherine Shaw	1967	William Mummery
1992	Dave Schroeder	1966	Oscar Parsons/Vernon Sisney
1991	Gale Hobson	1965	Harry Allison
1990	Roy Isenberg	1964	John R. Morris
1989	Arlis Wood	1963	Ted Baumberger
1988	Bill Shaw	1962	Kit Farwell
1987	Stewart Beasley	1961	Levarl Gustafson
1986	Bob Helm	1960	Maurice Temerlin
1985	John Watkins	1959	Vernon Sisney
1984	Fred Pound	1958	Carl Oldroyd
1983	C. Eugene Walker	1957	Roy Gladstone
1982	Joanna Ellis	1956	Joseph Latimer
1981	Charles Whipple	1955	Fletcher McCord
1980	Steve Caldwell	1954	Austin Cleveland
1979	George Letchworth	1953	Harry Brobst
1978	Roger Smith	1952	Howard Taylor
1977	Melvin Price	1951	M.O. Wilson
1976	Ellen Oakes	1950	Clinton Allen
1975	Ken Sandvold	1949	S.L. Reed
1974	Ron McAfee	1948	L.S. McLeod
1973	Richard Bryant	1947	L.B. Hoisington
1972	Bill Jaynes	1946	John Rohrer (Provisional)
1971	Martin Krimsky		

### SECRETARY / TREASURER

1996	Charlotte Rosko / Kay Taber	1970	Richard Bryant
1995	Patrick Mason / Dana Foley	1969	Martin Krimsky
1994	Barbara Hewitt / Bruce Hodson	1968	Martin Krimsky
1993	Barbara Hewitt / E. Lottinville	1967	Robert Phillips
1992	Larry Mullins / E. Lottinville	1966	William Mummery
1991	Larry Mullins / Cheryl Kilpatrick	1965	William Mummery

1990	Alan Schlessman / Cheryl Kilpatrick	1964	Vera Gatch
1989	Alan Schlessman / Barbara Bonner	1963	Vera Gatch
1988	Janice Boon / Barbara Bonner	1962	Vera Gatch
1987	Janice Boon / Gale Hobson	1961	Alice Anderson
1986	Mary Heath / Kay Goebel	1960	John R. Morris
1985	Mary Heath / Frank Holloway	1959	John R. Morris
1984	Steve Caldwell / Bob Helm	1958	R. Cannicott
1983	Mary Atwood / Martha Miller	1957	R. Cannicott
1982	Fredrick Pound / Martha Miller	1956	R. Cannicott
1981	Fredrick Pound / Bill Shaw	1955	Alfred Glixman
1980	Joanna Ellis / Bill Shaw	1954	Joseph Lattimer
1979	Joanna Ellis / Bill Scott	1953	Joseph Lattimer
1978	Kay Goebel / Bill Scott	1952	Joseph Lattimer
1977	Ron Cruse	1951	Joseph Lattimer
1976	Ron Cruse	1950	Raymond Stone
1975	Melvin Price	1949	Raymond Stone
1974	Melvin Price	1948	Raymond Stone
1973	Ellen Oakes	1947	John Rohrer
1972	Ellen Oakes		(Early part of the year)
1971	Richard Bryant	1946	Raymond Stone
			(Provisional)

#### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

1996	Linda Burks, Dana Foley, Sandra Allen, Max Price	1982	Bob Helm, Dick Sternlof, Bob Schlottman, Maurice Temerlin
1995	Larry Mullins, John Call, Sandra Allen, Max Price	1981	Frank Holloway, Dick Sternlof, Maurice Temerlin, Eugene Walker
1994	Larry Mullins, John Call, Katrina Bright, Larry McCauley	1980	Stewart Beasley, Kerry Booth, Frank Holloway, Eugene Walker
1993	Katrina Bright, Ruth Mertens, Bruce Hodson, Larry McCauley	1979	Kerry Booth, John Watkins, Bill Shaw, Charles Whipple
1992	Mary Heath, Ruth Mertens, Bruce Hodson, Roberta Olson	1978	Steve Caldwell, Bill Shaw, Dorothy Foster, John Watkins
1991	Barbara Bonner, Roberta Olson, Bruce Hodson, Mary Heath	1977	George Letchworth, Lucien Rose, Bernice Swanson, Steve Caldwell

1990  
 Barbara Bonner, Janice Boon,  
 Todd Graybill, Larry Mullins  
 1989  
 Janice Boon, Larry Mullins,  
 Cheryl Kilpatrick, Dave Schroeder  
 1988  
 Cheryl Kilpatrick, Save Schroeder,  
 Mark Ketterer, George Letchworth  
 1987  
 Mark Ketterer, George Letchworth  
 Cathy Shaw, Arlis Wood  
 1986  
 Cathy Shaw, Arlis Wood,  
 Max Price, Charles Elliott  
 1985  
 Max Price, Charles Elliott,  
 Ray Hand, Roy Isenberg  
 1984  
 Ray Hand, Roy Isenberg,  
 Phillip Hyde, Bob Ragland

1976  
 Kay Boebel, Dianne Willis,  
 George Letchworth, Lucien Rose  
 1975  
 Kay Goebel, Dianne Willis,  
 Roger Smith, Don Bertoch  
 1974  
 Roger Smith, Don Bertoch,  
 David Vore, John Hampton  
 1973  
 Steve Caldwell, John Hampton,  
 Larry Fulgenzi, Melvin Price  
 1972  
 Steve Caldwell, Paul Jacobs,  
 Larry Fulgenzi, William VanOsdol  
 1971  
 Paul Jacobs, Joe Garms,  
 William VanOsdol, Anthony Schuham  
 1970  
 Joe Garms, Elmer Davidson,  
 Bill Jaynes, Logan Wright

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

1969  
 Elmer Davidson, Logan Wright,  
 Ken Sandoval, Cullen Mancuso  
 1968  
 Ken Sandvold, Richard Sternlof,  
 Cullen Mancuso, Ken Shewmaker  
 1967  
 Richard Sternlof, Ken Shewmaker,  
 Harry Parker, Martin Krimsky  
 1966  
 Martin Krimsky, Harry Parker,  
 Harry Brobst, Vernon Sisney  
 1965  
 Vernon Sisney, Harry Brobst,  
 Cullen Mancuso, Tom Ray  
 1964  
 Cullen Mancuso, Tom Ray,  
 Clell Warriner, Robert Schofield

1957  
 Lavarl Gustafson, Edward Jorden,  
 Robert Hobson, Austin Cleveland  
 1956  
 Robert Hobson, Austin Cleveland,  
 Carl Oldroyd, Leonard Ostlund  
 1955  
 Newell Berry, Solis Kates,  
 R. Cannicott, Henry Angelino  
 1954  
 Solis Kates, Henry Angelino,  
 Percy Teska, F. McCord  
 1953  
 Percy Teska, F. McCord, Solis  
 Kates, Henry Angelino  
 1952  
 Solis Kates, Henry Angelino,  
 Joseph Lattimer, Harry Brobst

1963	1951
Clell Warriner, Robert Schofield, Harry Allison, Robert Hobson	Harry Brobst, Joseph Lattimer, A.F. Zellner, Henry Angelino
1962	1950
John R. Morris, Robert Hobson, Oscar Parsons, Bill Saunders	Harry Brobst, E.H. Nelson, Joseph Lattimer, E. Starkweather
1961	1949
Oscar Parsons, Bill Saunders, Harry Wheeler, Ted Baumberger	Melvin Rigg, John Gittinger, F. McCord, E. Starkweather
1960	1948
Harry Wheeler, Ted Baumberger, 1959	John Gittinger, F. McCord 1947
Levarl Gustafson, Robert Hobson, R. Cannicott, Kit Farwell	S.L. Reed, John Gittinger (early part of the year)
1958	1946
Kit Farwell, Maurice Temerlin, Edward Jorden, Levarl Gustafson	Leo Cain (Provisional)

On 21 July 1962, Dr. Tom Ray, chair of the Public Information Committee, presented a resolution to the Executive Committee regarding four annual awards. His resolution was adopted with the understanding that the full membership would have to approve the granting of any such awards.

The next definite discussion of the advisability of granting annual awards or citations occurred in the minutes of 18 October 1963. It was insisted that the Association award only those citations which appeared to be overwhelmingly appropriate for any given year. Those assembled decided that no awards would be given to OSPA members because, "It is exceedingly difficult to differentiate any single member from the many who have performed notably well."

The Board of Directors has been guided by the realization that continuing growth and vitality of OPA has been provided not by individuals who can be easily singled out, but from the proverbial "they." They, the many members over the years who committed innumerable hours and inexhaustible effort to their Association. They, the steadily growing membership, whose concerns, input,

and support give the only reason for the Association's existence. However, the Board has not been without awareness of those special persons within and without the profession whose services have been proven of particular merit. To those individuals OPA has provided a series of awards and citations.

## AWARD RECIPIENTS

1962

Distinguished Professional Service Citation—L. Mack Powell  
Distinguished Administrative Service Citation—Robert R. Raines  
Distinguished Public Service Citation—Hayden H. Donahue  
Distinguished Public Information Citation—Donald Hayden

1963

Distinguished Public Service Citation—Representative J.D. McCarty  
Distinguished Public Information Citation—Frosty Troy  
Distinguished Administrative Service Citation—Lloyd Rader

1969

Distinguished Administrative Service Citation—James Boren  
Distinguished Professional Service Citation—Marvin Edmonson  
Distinguished Public Service Citation—John Shackelford, M.D.  
Distinguished Professional Service Citation—L.J. West, M.D.

1970

Distinguished Professional Service Citation—Paul Toussing, M.D.  
Distinguished Administrative Service Citation—Joseph Deacon  
Distinguished Citizenship Award—Mrs. T. Renshaw

1971

Distinguished Professional Service Citation—Edwin Fair, M.D.  
Distinguished Professional Service Citation—Bill Lemmon, Ph.D.

1982

Distinguished Professional Service Citation—Gordon Deckert, M.D.  
Distinguished Psychologist Citation—Vernon D. Sisney, Ph.D.

1983

Distinguished Professional Service Citation—Ann F. Hardy, ACSW

Distinguished Psychologist Citation—Oscar Parsons, Ph.D.

Distinguished Service Award—Charles Whipple, Ph.D., Ed.D.

1984

Distinguished Psychologist Citation—William Collins, Ph.D.

Distinguished Service to Psychology Citation—Richard Sternlof, Ph.D.

Distinguished Administrative Service Citation—Jack Kanak, Ph.D.

Distinguished Public Information Citation—Jack Bowen

Distinguished Public Service Citation—Rep. E.C. "Sandy" Sanders

1985

Distinguished Psychologist Citation—Logan Wright, Ph.D.

1986

Distinguished Psychologist Citation—Val Pishkin, Ph.D.

Distinguished Citizen Citation—Eva Carter

Distinguished Public Service Citation—Rep. Linda Larason

Special Legislative Award—Rep. Cal Hobson

Distinguished Contribution to Psychology Citation—C.E. Walker, Ph.D.

1987

Distinguished Psychologist Citation—Harold Williams, Ph.D.

Special Legislative Award—Cal Hobson

Distinguished Public Service Citation—Sen. Robert Cullison

1988

Distinguished Public Service Citation—Rep. Jim Baker

Special Legislative Award—Larry Warden

Distinguished Public Service Citation—Terre Cooke

1989

Distinguished Professional Service Citation—Povl Toussieng, M.D.

Distinguished Public Information Citation—Fran Morris

Distinguished Psychologist Citation—Diane Willis, Ph.D.

Distinguished Contribution to Psychology Citation—Stew Beasley, Ph.D.

Pioneer Psychologist Award—Sarah Allison, Ph.D.

Special Legislative Award—Sen. Ben Brown

1990

Distinguished Administrative Service Citation—T.M. Gallmeier, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Contribution to Psychology Citation—Vernon Enlow, Ph.D.  
Special Legislative Award—Rep. Mike Synar

1991

Distinguished Administrative Service Citation—Pat Kuekes, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Psychologist Citation—Ron Krug, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Contribution to Psychology—Ken Sandvold, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Public Service Citation—Pete Riley, M.D.

1992

Distinguished Contribution to Psychology—Charles Whipple, Ph.D., Ed.D.  
Distinguished Public Service Citation—Joe Elam, Ph.D.  
Pioneer Psychologist Award—John Boland, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Public Service Award—Elizabeth Holmes

1993

Distinguished Psychologist Citation—Barbara Bonner, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Contribution to Psychology Citation—Tom Vaughn, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Professional Service Citation—John Stuemky, MD.  
Distinguished Public Service Citation—Rep. Jeff Hamilton

1994

Distinguished Contribution to Psychology Citation—Larry McCauley, Ed.D.  
Distinguished Professional Service Citation—Wanda Draper, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Public Service Citation—E. Dlugokinski, Ph.D.  
Special Legislative Award—Rep. Laura Boyd

1995

Distinguished Contribution to Psychology Citation—Russell Adams, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Public Service Citation—John Tassej, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Psychologist Citation—Jean Masters, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Professional Service Citation—Sharon Boehler, R.N.



## PIONEERS OF OKLAHOMA PSYCHOLOGY

By action of the Board, those who participated in the on-going life of the Association, by serving in an elected or appointed position during the first twenty years (1946-65), have been designated as "Pioneer Psychologist." Dates indicate the year in which each name first appeared in the Association minutes. (Necrology Excluded)

- 1946 Vera Gatch, John Gittinger
- 1947 Harry Brobst, Vernon Sisney
- 1949 Roy Gladstone
- 1950 Ed Jorden
- 1952 Harry Allison
- 1953 Thurman Coburn
- 1954 John Boland, Kit Farwell
- 1955 Ted Baumberger, Mildred Jacobs, Ken Shewmaker,  
Harry Wheeler
- 1956 O.C. Elsea, Mary J. Keatley, Martin Krimsky, Forrest  
Ladd, J.R. Morris
- 1959 Cullen Mancuso, Julia McHale
- 1960 Oscar Parsons, Dick Sternlof
- 1961 William Collins, Lawrence Fulgenzi
- 1962 Dorothy Foster, Val Pishkin
- 1963 Sarah Allison, Harry Boyd
- 1964 Don Bertoch, Charles Whipple
- 1965 Diane Willis, O.J. Rupiper,

## PIONEER MEMOIRS

What were the first twenty-five years like? OSPA was not yet OPA, and the Licensure Law had just been approved by the state legislature. After a slow start, psychology in Oklahoma was finally on the move. How did it get to be the way it is? Thirty-two pioneer psychologists who lived through those years were asked

to share their memories and unique perspectives, and most have graciously consented to do so.

John Gittinger: I actually grew up living around Drs. Wilson and Hoisington. My dad, Roy Gittinger, was for many years Dean of Administration at OU, and has a building named after him, Gittinger Hall. Hoisington and Wilson and another man made up the department until after the war when Drs. Lemmon, Stone, and Rohrer were hired.

Dr. Stone took his doctorate under B.F. Skinner and was a dyed-in-the-wool Skinnerian. Hoisington was one of Titchener's last students at Cornell. Wilson received his doctorate under John Watson at Chicago. Dr. Rohrer was the Association's first president. I don't know where his degree was from. He left Norman in the late 1940's and took a job at Tulane University in New Orleans. Those were indeed exciting times to be a student at OU.

In the late 1930s I taught psychology at Classen High School in Oklahoma City and became the first guidance counselor in the system. Then I served for five years in the military as a Navy psychologist, where I worked with Carl Rogers and others of similar reputation.

After the War, I became the first psychologist ever employed by the Oklahoma State Mental Health Department, being chief psychologist at Central State Hospital in Norman, and this was the position I held during the time OSPA was being formed.

I left the state in 1950 to go to work for the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington D.C. and eventually became chief psychologist for the Clandestine Operations. In that position, I recruited spies for the government.

I retired in 1976 and returned to Norman. Because of problems with my eyes I've pretty much taken it easy since then, but I did work briefly as a counselor at the University Counseling Center,

working with Dr. Dorothy Foster, who is also a pioneer Oklahoma psychologist. I believe she is retired now also.

Harry Brobst: Right after I arrived on the A&M campus in the late summer of 1946, an exploratory meeting was held in Stillwater to investigate the possibility of starting an organization. There were no minutes kept but I believe, besides myself, the following persons were in attendance: Drs. Hosington, Wilson, and Lemmon from the University of Oklahoma; Dr. McLeod from the University of Tulsa; and Drs. Reed and Rigg from Oklahoma A&M; and two ladies. I think one lady was a Miss Mitchell, who later married Dr. Lemmon. I may be wrong, but I don't think Dr. Taylor from the Oklahoma College for Women was there. I'm sorry if I've left anyone out, but my memory is not as good as it used to be.

At the meeting, it was decided to meet in Oklahoma City later that year or early the next. The reason my name is not listed in the minutes of the December meeting is that I was off on college business somewhere out in Western Oklahoma.

I believe I'm right on this, there were three basic reasons we wanted to organize. We wanted to achieve a clearer identity and recognition as a profession separate from psychiatry. We wanted to protect the public by standardizing and upgrading educational standards. And we felt an urgent need for some kind of certification.

I noticed a short section in the December 1953 minutes you sent me. I was president at the time and the minutes indicate in a rather perfunctory, matter-of-fact manner, something that was of tremendous importance. Dr. Lattimer, who was secretary-treasurer at that time, announced that there had been several encouraging developments in the state, and that's putting it mildly. A psychiatrist was affiliated with OSPA, in other words, we were getting some recognition. Then, there were some clinic internships

recently made available in state hospitals. And, what made us very happy was that Dr. Wilson was asked to speak at the Oklahoma State Psychiatric Association meeting, and this was unheard of at the time.

The truth of the matter was Dr. McLeod from the University of Tulsa, who was our representative to the Conference of State Psychological Associations, reported that there was not all that much apparent urgency among state representatives to have certification, and only two states, California and New York, had such. So there were some in OSPA who believed that this committee, called the Legislative and Professional Standards Committee, should be disbanded. But the majority replied that the battle had only begun. So, you can see, that years before psychology was finally licensed, the battle had been joined.

I retired from Oklahoma State University in 1974 and promptly returned to school. I received a divinity degree from seminary and served as a Unitarian Universalist minister for several years. I now live quietly, enjoying my retirement years. Occasionally I run into Drs. Roy Gladstone and Julia McHale here in Stillwater. They are also long-time emeritus members of OPA.

Vernon Sisney: I graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1937 and went to work for the Department of Public Safety, and then the war started. I was a Navy psychologist until discharged in 1946.

When OSPA was getting started, I was actually chief psychologist at the Veterans Administration Hospital in New Orleans. But because I was planning to move back to Oklahoma City, they allowed me to become a charter member. Hardly before I knew it, I'd completed the doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of Texas and took over as director of Psychological Services at the VA Hospital in Oklahoma City. After seventeen years there as chief psychologist and professor at the Medical School I went into full-time private practice.

To the best of my memory, OSPA was primarily an academic group centered around the University of Oklahoma until clinical psychologists began to get involved around 1953. From that point on it evidenced a sudden up-shoot in membership and concern for the community. In as much as the Association was so heavily laden with academicians, it wrestled only slowly with practitioner issues. The need for licensure was obvious, but I suppose because their livelihood didn't depend on it, they were not as concerned.

It should be pointed out that by this time the State Medical Association had become aware that we were making noises about legislation, and they were not at all amused. In 1957, the Professional Standards Committee drew up a certification bill. Needless to say, this attempt barely got off the ground.

In 1958, I became the first non-university-based psychologist to serve as president. We quickly tried to set up the machinery for voluntary certification. This too ran aground of most OSPA members and a negative general atmosphere at the Legislature. Added to this was the fact that APA was handling the national licensure situation like a hot-potato. It was interested, but would not take a stand or any official action.

Dr. Bill Lemmon, director of the Clinical Program at OU, was ever active and pushed for upgrading through licensing. It was he, in 1962, who reported that a new climate had emerged in that regard. Only eight states were without some form of legislative recognition; thus, Oklahoma was now in the minority. This was not true in the mid 1950's when we first attempted legislation. I believe it was in January of 1963 that we undertook serious efforts to put a licensing bill together. J.D. McCarty, Speaker of the House, was approached as a possible sponsor of our bill. I'm sure I must have spent at least two to four hours a day for almost two years at the State Capitol, talking to various members of the House

and Senate Education Committees and others. I am empathetic when I say that this was the first time in the history of the Association that we truly functioned as a cohesive group.

Of course, psychiatrists made a strong bid to keep our bill from being legislated. It wasn't that they necessarily wanted to be rid of psychologists; power and control over us was more their intent.

By virtue of this accomplishment and other legislative victories relative to third-party payments, freedom of choice, Sun setting, and others, psychology has continued to grow. In the 1950s I'd invite colleagues to my house for a fish fry. This usually consisted of thirty psychologists or so, plus their spouses. Actually, this was my way to get rid of the fish I had caught during the summer. But now I couldn't invite just those from the VA without over-running my house. Yes, psychology in Oklahoma has grown, and thankfully, will continue to do so.

I believe that I am the only one who has been president of OPA twice and member of the Licensing Board twice. Actually, after the Licensure Board was legally installed, mine was one of the first licenses it granted, Number Six. However, perhaps the greatest honor I've received from my Oklahoma colleagues was being recipient of the OPA Distinguished Psychologist Citation. It is my hope that I can serve the profession for many more years. I would like to leave this truism to younger psychologists—"if you want to leave footprints in the sands of time, don't drag your feet!"

Roy Gladstone: The concerns of the members of the OSPA during my presidential years, 1956-1957, were very similar to those of the present. The scale of operations was different. Most of our concerns were reflected in the names of the Standing Committees: Membership, Professional Standards, Nominating, and Program.

Among the topics of interest, which cannot be inferred easily, are the following. The topic of certification arose many times.

Related to that topic was the reorganization of the Council of State Psychological Associations (CSPA). The OSPA membership approved of the reorganization in principle, but was concerned that information about the activities of the CSPA be available and that the APA retain some control over those activities. Other concerns revolved around informing the public concerning the psychological profession and informing the membership about matters of concern to those members.

As for scale, there were 80 members of the OSPA with dues being \$1.50 per year (later to be raised to \$2.00). Twenty-five dollars was allotted for attendance at the meeting of the CSPA (later raised to \$50.00). Travel by car was reimbursed at four cents per mile and Executive Committee members were urged to carpool.

The 1956 annual convention lasted one day. About three hours were devoted to papers with one hour devoted to a symposium entitled “Problems of the Psychologist in Professional Practice.” The papers and symposium were given under the auspices of Section D of the Oklahoma Academy of Sciences. It was proposed that the time allotted to papers and symposium be increased to one day and one night or two days. It was also suggested that the number of clinical papers be increased “by requesting certain members to present papers on predetermined topics.”

In addition to events, feelings are important. I believe most of the members nestled comfortably in the fold of OSPA, but there was concealed discontent on the part of some clinicians who believed the Association should be doing more for clinicians and clinical psychology.

I appreciate the opportunity to say a few words about the nature of the profession of psychology itself. Most psychologists are vividly conscious of our discipline being subject to the constraints and goals of science. Standing in awe of the more

mature sciences, we mimic the prestige hierarchy of those sciences and rank ourselves as theorists at the highest level with successfully lower levels being represented by those who test theories experimentally, those who offer kinds of experimentation, and the practitioners lowest.

I suggest that this interpretation of the mature sciences is slightly wanting. The hard sciences have a mature, well-organized, proud reputation as a mediator between the sciences and the problems of society. That mediator is called engineering.

I suggest that both society and psychologists would be better off if psychology had an analogous organization. If that is to happen, psychologists must offer institutional support and, perhaps more important, help the members of that organization feel proud of what they do.

One thing such people might do is to replicate important experiments without destroying the value of those experiments by being creative. Creativity is no more important than the outcome of that creativity. Replication has no place for it.

Another task to which such psychological engineers can make a contribution is to look for solutions without being compulsive about grounding such solutions in theory. Among the more important outcomes of psychology, arguably the most important, are classical and operant conditioning. Certainly, we should not derogate theory, but theories are harmful if the prestige granted to them prevents inventive, non-theoretical work.

Kit Farwell: It was my good fortune to have a course in “History and Systems” with Dr. L.B. Hoisington. When he talked about the famous figures in American psychology, they were people he knew or had known. He had studied with Titchener, and it was a delight to have that period brought to life with his memories of graduate school in the first part of this century. He told us of his own graduate training, which was really an



apprenticeship with Professor Titchener. Titchener took a small number of graduate students who assisted him with his undergraduate classes, participated in his ongoing research, and began their own research. Then one day, usually out of the blue, he would point a finger at one of them and say, “Do your dissertation.” When this was completed, the degree was conferred.

When I entered graduate school, at the University of Oklahoma, things were still rather informal and decisions about academic matters were made with one's major professor. Then one day there was a meeting of the faculty and graduate students of the Department of Psychology and our world changed. The university, after some hesitation, had granted the department the privilege of conferring the Ph.D. This meeting was to inform us of the requirements, courses, examinations, and other such matters that would be required of us. As you can imagine, the faculty had given considerable thought to this program, and it was presented to us in endless obsessive detail. We students suffered instant anxiety attacks and were asked endless obsessive questions. The proceedings went on and on.

I was seated next to Professor Hoisington and after endless discussion, he leaned over, poked me in the ribs, and said in a stage whisper, “Kit, in graduate school I had six hours of formal classes.”

His preference for “Camelot” was obvious, and I shrugged him off as an old man lusting for his youth. Much later, it dawned on me that the style of training he preferred had produced Titchener, Watson, and Jones, and I was hard pressed to match them with the products of the kind of academic training given my generation. Perhaps there was something to his Camelot. On the other hand, I'm older now than Hoisington was then.

Ted Baumberger: As I look back, I see myself as very fortunate in my career in that I've studied under some of the

students of honest-to-goodness, real pioneers in psychology. For instance, upon my return from overseas, I took my bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Louisville from early-on students of Carl Rogers when he was teaching at Ohio State University or the University of Chicago. George Muench (whom I believe to have been the first Ph.D. in psychology under Rogers), Carl Bowman, Neville, and Ginny and Ray Bixler. It was Ray Bixler who suggested I come to the University of Oklahoma in 1952 and study clinical psychology under Bill Lemmon, since both he and Lemmon were at Ohio State University together under Rogers. At the University, M. Sherif, Hoisington, Oldroyd, M.O. Wilson, and Percy Teska were all holding classes when I enrolled in 1952.

I had worked for two years in Kentucky, serving as the youngest executive secretary of a statewide committee on children and youth in preparation for the nationally held Mid-Century White House Conference on Children and Youth. Following my generals, and the approval of a dissertation research design, instead of returning home to Kentucky to complete my doctorate in 1954, I was “recruited” by L.E. Rader to establish a statewide Psychological Unit within the growing Oklahoma Department of Institutions, Social and Rehabilitative Services.

Here too, I consider myself to be very fortunate since, in joining Rader's staff, I had the opportunity to work with and/or serve with some of Oklahoma's most outstanding, larger-than-life, legendary state leaders, i.e., E.T. Dunlap in Education, Voyle Scurlock in Rehabilitation Services, Travis Harris of the Oklahoma Society for the Blind, Grady Matthews in Public Health, Hayden Donahue longtime commissioner of Mental Health, and Justice Martin Opala of the Oklahoma State Supreme Court. As an aide to Rader, I also had a special opportunity to meet with many of the legislative and gubernatorial leaders during the past 35 years, even

accompanying my boss in monthly visitations with former Governor “Alfalfa Bill” Murray, then living out his life in the Huckins Hotel in Oklahoma City.

As I look back at state services available to children and youth in our field in Oklahoma during the early 1950s, the only statewide service to 77 counties, to my knowledge, was the Child Welfare Services of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. There were no children’s services in the Department of Mental Health, no guidance services had been started in the Department of Health, no state correctional agency for prison services, and only the larger public school boards had psychologists available for guidance service units. Inpatient treatment services to juvenile delinquents were almost non-existent, excepting Tulsa County.

With the help of O.C. “Buck” Elsea, we initiated statewide psychological evaluations for children, youth, and adults upon referral from county offices throughout the state; consequently, I believe we established the first truly statewide coverage of at least psychological evaluations and consultations in Oklahoma during 1954-1955. In addition, by letter of agreement with the Oklahoma State Board of Public Affairs, Buck and I began to provide psychological consultations and evaluations to the state training schools and state homes on a regular visitation basis. (All these institutions were later transferred by legislative action to OHS in order to receive adequate funding and treatment services.)

The establishment of the State Merit System and the inclusion of a psychologists' series followed the starting of the Psychological Unit in 1954. As I recall, I was asked to select, from the existing “Merit System” exams, a test battery that approximated an evaluation of psychologists. During my oral exam before the “Merit Board” (which preceded Oklahoma's Statewide Board), I was informed that I was considered to be the first Merit-System qualified psychologist in Oklahoma.

In 1963, I was fortunate enough to be serving as president of the Oklahoma State Psychological Association when we passed the resolution calling for the licensure of psychologists by legislative action. Actually, a special “business session” in the Eighty-Niner Inn had to be called in order for the Association's membership to debate and finally pass the licensure resolution.

Much further debate concerning psychologist state licensure occurred in legislative hearings following the introduction of the Psychologists' Licensure Bill. Many Association members spent lots of time in the effort to pass this legislation. With the support of Rader, I regularly lobbied on the Senate side, and Frank Moore, a Ph.D. student at OU, lobbied on the House side (Frank Moore personally knew Speaker J.D. McCarty). Following the passage of our “Psychologists’ Licensure Bill,” I sought the opportunity to visit with Governor Henry Bellmon prior to pocket veto time and was granted an audience. Later that day, the president of the Oklahoma Dental Association appeared at my office and told me that he had just left the Governor's office as he signed our psychologists' bill. He went on to state that Governor Bellman had told him (as he had also informed me) that it was the most controversial piece of legislation during the session of the Legislature.

With the passage of state licensure came the appointment of the Oklahoma State Board of Examiners of Psychologists by the Governor. I served as the secretary of that first Board, and my OHS office became the Board's office, with my secretary serving as the “administrative secretary” of the Board for a number of years. The first several years of Board action were very time consuming. Every weekend was spent fulfilling the requirements of the Act, i.e., publish rules and regulations (including our Code of Ethics), complete the licensure application process, review all

grandfather applicants, conduct the required hearings, design, print, and issue the licenses, and defend ourselves against lawsuits.

After 38 years, I retired from state service in 1990 as chief psychologist of the Department of Human Services. I can now look back at participating in the establishment of a statewide youth services system, which includes emergency shelters for children and youth, statewide intake, probation, and parole services in the field of juvenile corrections for Oklahoma's court system, along with the great increase in community mental health services for children and youth in Oklahoma. I now spend part time in consultation and some supervision services in rural day-treatment and outpatient centers. I recognize what the saying "what goes around comes around" means. Services in Oklahoma today approximate the level of services I observed in the early 1950s. I find an increasing lack of programs for community-based services in mental health, public health, and prevention services. It looks like those services, particularly for children and youth, are going to have to be started all over again, as this century turns.

J.R. Morris: During 1963, while I was serving as the assistant dean of University College at the University of Oklahoma, I was program chairman for OSPA. Discussions had already started concerning the possibility of some kind of legislation to set legal standards for psychologists. I recall visiting, along with a few other OSPA members, with Jane Hildreth at the APA Headquarters in Washington D.C. to discuss generally the state of legislation in the United States at that time. This was at the time of the National APA Convention. Since APA was strongly supporting legislative moves within the states, she agreed to come to Oklahoma to discuss our effort with the leadership of OSPA. Jane was a strong proponent of licensure laws as opposed to certification laws, which had been the most pervasive form of legislation up to that time. As I recall, only two states had successfully passed licensure laws,

New Mexico and Oregon. Licensure laws, which were directed at professional activities as opposed to restricting the use of a title (psychologist), appeared to be the direction of the future so we elected to go that way. Jane Hildreth made the trip to Oklahoma during the year, paid for by APA, and as I recall, she was the guest of Dr. William B. Lemmon in Norman while she was in the state.

We knew that we would encounter a lot of political opposition when our bill got to the Legislature. Not many gave us much of a chance. We had a republican governor, strongly supported by the State Medical Association, and we knew we would have the opposition of the medical and psychiatric establishment in the state, some leaders already having gone on record saying that psychologists should not practice psychotherapy—which was really practicing medicine without a license. Even the former director of Mental Health for the state, Hayden Donahue, swore his opposition to any bill that came out of OSPA. So, we began to work on the political strategy for getting a bill through the Legislature, even before we had a bill drafted. Through the efforts of Ted Baumberger, the president before me, we had enlisted and received the support of Lloyd Rader, a powerful political figure who headed the then-named Welfare Department. His help would prove to be enormous. Also, a young psychologist named Frank Moore was working with the Legislative Council at the State Capitol, and he pledged his support when our bill arrived there.

For the 1963 Annual Conference we had instituted two awards for outstanding contributions to mental health, which we felt would give OSPA more public visibility and draw attention to the needs of the mental health area. As it turned out it also served our political purposes well. We presented the two awards to J.D. McCarty, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to Frosty Troy, then reporter for the Tulsa Tribune. The awards were presented at our annual meeting, and the leadership of OSPA

became well acquainted with Speaker McCarty, who told us he would support our effort to get a licensure bill through. He was strongly dedicated to our cause, not because we had political clout (we had very little) but because he thought the law would be good for the state and he had been a strong supporter of mental health causes. McCarty would go to prison on some felony charge several years later, but I never ceased being a fan of his. Incidentally, most of the fifty dollars which had been given to me for expenses by the Executive Committee purchased bourbon and 7UP for long discussions with Speaker McCarty and on one occasion Senator Gene Stipe, who supported us in the senate.

We also knew that we would have some opposition from outside OSPA. Some of our members in private practice had only master's degrees, and the bill we were discussing would require the doctorate. Also, many academic psychologists, particularly the experimental/learning types, were opposed to psychologists doing private practice, and would also oppose the legislative effort. We decided it was necessary to “grandfather” the master's people to get their support, and the other opposition would not be that substantial. At that time, there was more private practice being done in Tulsa than in the rest of the state, and it was significant in the vote of the membership that the meeting was in Tulsa, with a strong clinical group present at the meeting. Some wanted a voluntary certification bill, which we saw as being useless for the regulatory controls that we were interested in.

When I became president of OSPA at the beginning of 1964, the Executive Committee was ready to move on developing a proposed bill. We were studying laws of the various states, with particular attention to the two licensure laws from New Mexico and Oregon. I actually drafted the bill, with the guidance of the Executive Committee, as a variation of these two laws. We decided on a generic law—not licensing by specialty but setting

general standards for licensing and creating a board to carry out the function of licensing. We believed that since we had an uphill battle anyway, to try to define what specialists did at that point would involve us in internal conflicts, which would bog us down endlessly. So, we went with the generic bill.

We never spent a cent on legal advice, had no lawyer or paid consultant involved at any step along the way. We had only \$300 in the treasury of OSPA, so there was not much that we could afford. With the support of the Executive Committee, I presented the draft bill at the annual meeting in 1964 in Tulsa, and after a long day of debating details and making adjustments, the draft bill with minor modifications received the overwhelming support of the membership. When it reached the House of Representatives, it was J.D. McCarty himself who authored the bill, and it went flying through, even though medical opposition to it had become very visible. McCarty worked with the Senate side, as did Lloyd Rader and Ted Baumerger. Frank Moore was also of great value in explaining the bill to various members of the House and Senate. I cannot recall who the Senate Majority Leader was, but there was no trouble in getting it through the Senate and on to the governor, Henry Bellmon, over the opposition of medical interests, who really pressured him to veto the bill. Bellmon made an independent judgment that it represented a positive move for the state and signed it into law.

I was thirty-three years old when I became president of OSPA, and I now find it strange that I am a pioneer. All this seems to have happened day before yesterday. In the intervening years, I have not been active in psychology (my license has been on inactive status for twenty-five years) since I became involved in university administration. From 1962 to 1986, I was a dean, a vice-president, provost, and interim president. After 1986, and until my retirement in 1993, I did once again teach



undergraduate psychology courses (after a six-month cramming sabbatical) but I taught lower-division courses only, not feeling au courant enough to teach graduate students. Well, it finally reminded me that I was a psychologist. Nonetheless, I suppose my self-concept is such that I think of myself more as an educator than a psychologist. In 1994, I went back to work as interim president of the university for six months until David Boren arrived on the scene. Now I am happily retired for good.

Harry Allison: The year of my presidency was in 1965, which was a time of extreme stress for all, yet a time of remarkable change and growth as well. It was during this year and specifically on June 28, 1965 that the “Psychologists Licensing Act” House Bill No. 939, was enacted into law. With the passage of this legislation, a remarkable achievement by young men and women who knew nothing about the ways of House and Senate, psychology as a profession in Oklahoma grew into adulthood quite suddenly and has continued to mature since then. To be sure, those early days were instrumental in shaping our present identity.

Those were the days when psychologists as individuals and psychology as a profession were greatly lacking in identity. And how does one feel under such conditions? In doubt and unsure much of the time. Easily threatened by real and imagined challenges. Very alert to any possible danger. Prone to band together with others in similar straits with feelings in common. Yet, at the same time, greatly motivated to overcome internal problems such as our own introversion and fearfulness along with external problems such as lack of support in order to achieve something greater than one's self-interest alone.

We were all intensely goal oriented. Psychologists gave of their time and efforts generously with repeated trips to the State Capitol in order to talk with legislators. There were many planning meetings prior to each State Capitol visit. All these were at the

expense of the individual psychologists themselves both in terms of their time, money, and adrenaline. For the most part, talk had to do with speculations about which legislators might support us and which were likely to oppose, and who were non-committed one way or another? I can tell you that many psychologists were ingenious in their efforts to influence legislators to vote on our behalf. The most crucial and stressful days of all were those when we were invited to appear and present our case before some powerful committee in the House or Senate. I personally recall a stress-induced nausea which was relieved in the Senate men's room prior to an appearance before a final Senate Committee. And in a lighter vein, I recall a visit to a more prominent member of the House which was preceded by a "gift" of several bottles of fine liquor said to improve his listening ability.

Psychologists were unified then, seemingly a rare phenomenon in our field, until there is a crisis. When a crisis arises, we set aside our introverted natures and band together to tackle what we must. In Tulsa, the Tulsa Psychological Association was formed from kindred souls who were worried about our future. We sought out friends in allied professions and later we asked them to support our legislation. On the other hand, we made note of those who were not friendly to our cause. I recall one psychiatrist who declared, "I personally will see to it that your bill does not pass!" At a later date, it pleased me immensely to greet him at an eatery and inform him that his wish had not come true.

Verification of the crisis-producing-unity-hypothesis was seen once again last year with the disastrous bombing of the Murrah Federal Building which shook the nation. Oklahoma psychologists left home and office to unite at the Red Cross Headquarters where they were given the sad task of informing relatives of the victims that their loved one(s) had been killed. Psychologists were the logical choice for such difficult work, and theirs was a real

contribution, without doubt. But it was like a reunion of those old comrades who had worked to pass House Bill 939 so long ago. Yes, there they were, much older now, along with many younger ones, doing their best to alleviate the worst. One could not but be proud of them and their magnificent efforts. In fact, we can all wear the professional label psychologist with considerable but uninflated pride. We have matured greatly from those early days in June 1965 when our profession was recognized by the statute. There will arise other crises in the future, and you can be sure that psychologists will unite once again to do what we must. Each time we seem to do so with more proficiency than before. Clearly, the legislators in the House and Senate did a good thing for the State of Oklahoma, as well as for psychology, when they passed House Bill 939 back in 1965.

Thank you for sending me the minutes of our Executive Committee meetings at the Halfway House on the Turner Turnpike. Reading those minutes has stirred a number of memories of those men and women who were so valuable to our field. And it pains me that a number of them are now deceased. Yet it is comforting to feel that they are not working on legislation in their next incarnation! Enough already!

Oscar Parsons: My family and I arrived in Oklahoma in October of 1959. In the previous spring, while a member of the Duke University Medical School's Department of Psychiatry, I had been recruited by Louis Jolyon West, M.D. to head up the Division of Behavioral Sciences of the OU College of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. I first attended a meeting of OSPA in either 1959 or 1960, it was held at Lake Murray. I remember being favorably impressed with my new fellow professionals, especially with their desire to make OSPA a successful and professionally responsible organization.

I was elected president in 1965 to serve in that capacity in

1966. I served almost two-thirds of the term but left in August of 1966 to be a Fulbright Professor at Copenhagen University, Denmark, for a year. Fortunately, my good friend and colleague Vernon Sisney (a former president himself) was able to replace me for the remaining four months.

My term followed the successful passage of the Psychologist Licensing Bill by the state Legislature. One aspect of the act required that the OSPA submit the names of fifteen members to the governor each year to replace members who had completed their term. This requirement emphasized the need for careful screening of applicants. We spent considerable time discussing the criteria for membership in OSPA and how the educational and training requirements could be evaluated and verified. The result was a tightening of procedures. A related and important event was the changing of the status of the “Legislative Communication Committee” from an ad hoc status (for the purposes of the licensing bill) to that of a standing committee. Dr. Thomas Ray, a psychologist at Central State Hospital in Norman, was the first chair of that committee. We also discussed at length a problem that had come up several times in our state, namely, the teaching of courses in psychology or of psychological content by individuals who never had training in psychology. A letter expressing our concerns was to be sent to colleges and universities in the state.

I was fortunate during my term to have a number of very productive committee chairs: in addition to Dr. Ray, there was Dr. Harry Parker (Directory Committee), Dr. Ken Shewmaker (Insurance and Related Social Issues), Dr. Harry Boyd (Public Information), Dr. J.R. Morris (Professional Standards), Dr. Richard Sternlof (Newsletter editor), Dr. William Trousdale (Membership), and I chaired the Education and Training Committee.

My sense of the accomplishments of the year was that OSPA

was moving at an increasing rate toward the professionalization of psychology and that there were a number of competent persons in our organization who were actively working to that goal. I left our presidency in good hands.

**Richard Sternlof:** I was president of the Oklahoma Psychological Association from 1969-1970. Dr. Bob Phillips was the president before me, and Martin Krinsky succeeded me. During my tenure in office, Dr. Richard Bryant of Tulsa was the secretary-treasurer and the members-at-large included Joe Garms from Tulsa, Bill Jaynes from OSU, Elmer Davidson from OCU, and Logan Wright from the Medical Center.

In those days we tried to alternate Board meetings between Oklahoma City and Stroud to accommodate the people who were coming from Tulsa. The major issues during my tenure included apprising then Governor Bartlett regarding psychologists and how they might be of service to various state committees and functions. Another issue which we dealt with was providing information to the state legislators regarding the Psychology Licensing Board and how it functioned. Several people who had failed the examination for licensing had been petitioning various state legislators that the Board was capricious in not granting them licensure. A committee composed of Dr. Davidson and Dr. Shewmaker was formed to talk to the Legislature about professional issues. It was around this time, also, that I talked to a State Senate Committee about the psychology licensing examination. They were largely supportive of our efforts at examination, but felt that the oral examination was too subjective, and suggested that we no longer use this as part of the evaluation process. As time went on, nothing was done in regard to this issue. I felt myself that the oral examination was an important part of the process of evaluation.

During my tenure, Division 31 of the American Psychological Association was gaining strength and was concerned about the

APA tax status. They wanted it changed so that more legislative, professional, and social activities could be engaged in by this organization. The tax status of APA at the time prohibited any serious legislative efforts in this regard. There was considerable debate and controversy about changing APA's tax status.

Another major issue during my presidency was the topic of reimbursements to psychologists from insurance companies. At that time, clients seeing psychologists were not able to file medical insurance. Some insurance companies allowed psychologists to bill them, but only if they were supervised by a psychiatrist. This led to a situation in which clients would have to see a psychiatrist on a monthly basis to have their insurance acknowledged by the insurance company. As I recall, OPA as an organization did very little in a formal way to get this changed. However, a group of psychologists led by myself, Dr. Sisney, Dr. Shewmaker, and a variety of other people joined forces and were able to get a Freedom of Choice Bill passed through the Legislature whereby psychologists could be reimbursed for their services on par with psychiatrists. Much of the legislative effort during this period of time was accomplished by informal groups of psychologists standing together, garnering their own resources and going to the capitol as a group to lobby for such activities, which affected the practice of psychology. The Freedom of Choice legislation was passed and signed by then Governor Boren with Dr. Sisney and myself being present for the signing. This legislation opened the doors for psychologists in many ways and was the beginning of an increased private practice for many. OPA was only secondarily involved in these kinds of activities, again because individuals worried about OPA's tax status. Vis a vis lobbying types of efforts. Some psychologists actively fought our efforts in this regard.

It was in this general time frame that we also got legislation passed to list psychology as a profession. During the OPA

convention in 1970, we entertained the American Association of State Psychology Boards for their sessions. The Association of State Psychology Boards was, of course, at that time, in its infancy. At the convention, we honored Povl Toussieng, M.D. with the Distinguished Professional Service Award, with the Distinguished Citizenship Award going to Mrs. Renshaw, and the Distinguished Administrative Service Award going to Joseph Deacon.

Besides being president of OPA, I was also the elected representative from Oklahoma to the APA Council of Representatives, a post I served for some three years. Dr. Logan Wright represented Division 31, as well as Dr. Oscar Parsons. This was the first time Oklahoma had representation on the Council of Representatives. Issues dealt with at APA concerned the rights of black people in psychology and later gay and lesbian rights as well. It was an exciting time. In one of the meetings, black protesters came forward and took over the microphone and the meeting to assert their grievances. The following year the gay and lesbian group used a similar tactic. Later on, almost all of their grievances were handled by the Council of Representatives and the American Psychological Association. I likewise served on the Board of Examiners of Psychologists at the same time I was president of OPA. Needless to say, a considerable amount of my time was involved in these varied activities. With my total involvement in these three organizations, it gave me a unique perspective on what was taking place in American psychology, and I endeavored to impart this to the membership of OPA

OPA was also active during my tenure as president in support of a Science Fair Exhibit in Psychology, and it took a stand to support psychology at the high school level. It took added interest in the issue of high school teachers of psychology and as to what a good curriculum in psychology might entail.

Psychologists who were active during my presidency of OPA, besides the ones already mentioned, were: Ted Baumburger, Kit Farwell, Sarah Allison, Jim Moore, Ethan Pollack, Julia McHale, Robert Ragland, Mel Price, Ed Kuekes, Ken Sandvold, Gladys Hiner, John Boland, Joe Trimble, Robert Bassham, W.G. Black, Earl Sizemore, and Ellen Oakes.

During my tenure in office, OPA had one hundred forty members, thirty associates, twenty affiliates, and twenty-one student affiliates. The late 1960s and early 1970s saw a marked growth in OPA's membership and increased focusing of private practice and legislation which enabled citizens of the state to acquire services from psychologists.

Members of the Board of Examiners of Psychologists were learning the responsibilities of being a Board within the state government. The first Board members were given staggered terms. The replacements for a full three-year term made by Governor Bartlett were Jim Moore of Ponca City and myself. The Board met almost every Sunday as we had a tremendous number of applications from people who wished to be licensed. We also spent considerable time trying to set up examination schedules and to have a systemized manner of dealing with issues which were newly presented to the Board at each meeting. Numbers of people who felt they were qualified did not meet the criteria and standards of what was required to be a psychologist. As a result of these problems, we wrote a letter to the directors of the various schools in the state providing them with the course of study students needed to take to be recognized by the Board and thus eligible to sit for the licensing examination.

Harry Wheeler: I would like to create the myth that psychological acumen is the reason I have License Number One; however, the time for truth is at hand. When one is contributing one's bit to an official account of history, one must be as truthful as



memory allows.

In the months before the passage of the Oklahoma Licensing Bill, I and other Tulsa members of OSPA such as Sara and Harry Allison, Bill Saunders, Cullen Mancuso, and Owen Fonkalsrud spent many hours on the turnpike between the two cities. Eighty-eight trips are what I remember, although I can't remember why I would ever count them. Remnants of a compulsive childhood, perhaps. We had almost religious conviction that we were on a crusade of some sort, and like every rational, calm, mature psychologist, we were shot through with religious fervor for the good of mankind and our patients.

I knew very few, if any, politicians at the time, but in the ensuing months, I learned the name of virtually everyone in the State Capitol, as well as their secretaries. I should say “especially their secretaries” since they were the ones who knew what was going on in those hallowed halls. My memory for names and faces during that time improved one hundred percent, and I became living testimony to the effects of motivation on the phenomenon of memory. I especially remember being impressed by the kaleidoscopic variety of politicians representing the people of Oklahoma. I realize now that I was, indeed, a lobbyist. There were politicians of every grade and honor, much like the population from whence they came. One of them was a virtual non-reader; another must have had an I.Q. of 175. While we felt certain of success, we still worked hard and talked to everyone who would stand still for a moment. As expected, the bill passed, and five of us were appointed to the first Board of Examiners.

The Board held its first meeting in Oklahoma City at the Capitol Building on a Sunday. The first thing needed was for the five of us to issue licenses to ourselves! Further action was dependent upon our being licensed psychologists. This may have been a bootstrap operation, but we didn't question the philosophy

of it too much—we simply set about issuing our own licenses. We had to decide who was to be numbers one, two, three, four, and five. In the time-honored tradition of all games of chance, we decided to draw straws. No one could offer a better idea at the time so that's how I became Number One—simply luck of the draw!

The next step was a little more difficult. We all had to sign the nicely engraved licenses, but no one had a pen. Normally, I carry a pen wherever I go. We searched the halls, but because it was Sunday, the offices in the capitol were closed. We repaired to the nearest five-and-ten cent store to find something that would write. One of us may have been thinking of framing the pen afterwards. When we reached the store, it was out of pens. Never before had I seen a variety store without a pen. For everything, there is a time! Another brilliant idea came from the group. Someone said, “What about a laundry marker?” Well, that is what the store had in stock, that is what the licenses were signed with, and that is why Ossie Parsons, Ted Baumberger, Bob Phillips, Harry Brobst, and myself are licensed psychologists to this day. But I am Number One!

Kenneth Shewmaker: During my professional life in Oklahoma I witnessed the following major events: (1) the emergence of a state association of psychologists in tandem with our national professional association, (2) the licensing of professional psychologists, (3) the overcoming of any sunset danger to our licensing act, (4) the establishment of the right of our patients/clients to reimbursement for our services through insurance companies, equal to that of any other professional provider.

It is astonishing that all of these events have occurred within the professional experience of one person, and I am only one of many. Sometimes we may take all of these milestones for granted, although none of them would have come our way on their own without countless hours of hard work and devotion on the part of

all of us. That is, I believe, the essence of what is to be learned and appreciated as we approach what will be the future of psychology in this state.

My first experiences with organized psychology in Oklahoma involved the Psychology Section of the Oklahoma Academy of Sciences. At that time, the early 1950s, this was about the only state-wide forum for psychologists, certainly for graduate students. It was only later that I even heard of the Oklahoma State Psychological Association, which, as I understood it, had been a slightly moribund network of Ph.D.'s, who seemed to have considered their organization rather peripheral to their professional affairs. A more accurate description would be that the State Association we know now was yet nascent, still in gestation. How else could it have been at that time? The truism that psychology has a long past but a short history applies.

In my judgment, it was not until the late 1950s that the active organization we now know as OPA was really getting off the ground. That was about the time when the sentiment of the Association led to the election of Vernon Sisney as its president.

My own work with the Association took two forms. The first was the informal small grouping of whoever wanted to undertake one project or another. There were lots of things that needed to be done, and before long, friendships strengthened through the hours spent together. Being a statewide venture, there were lots of trips by twos and threes and more, sometimes in caravan, trips to Tulsa, Stillwater, Stroud, etc. Then there were jaunts to the state Legislature, lobbying, and interviews with the State Insurance Commissioner. There were evenings out, wining and dining legislators. Those experiences have supplied me with an ample reserve of valued memories and life-long friendships. What a bonus for simply getting a worthwhile job accomplished!

What have I gleaned from these memories? Sharing a common

goal brings people together. Internal conflicts between us are, of course, to be expected. There is a major difference, however, between disagreements on principle as opposed to disagreements regarding persons. It is of no importance who does the job as long as the job gets done. We can run the risk of defeating our common goals if we confuse those goals with individual or sub-group striving for power. Personal or in-group ambition only eventually will lead to getting in one another's way. We have come this far only when we have been willing to forego personal power or advantage for the superordinate goal, which is well expressed as: We psychologists are scientists applying our science for the welfare of all human beings.

John Boland: I don't remember much specifically about the passing of the licensing bill. Oscar Parsons had given psychology a good name at the Medical Center and that was an asset. I remember that Vernon Sisney and Dick Sternlof spent a great deal of time and energy lobbying the Legislature. I did some lobbying and undoubtedly several others did also. Ted Bamberger was close to L.E. Rader and was a potent influence. Harry Wheeler, Harry Brobst, Bob Phillips, and Bill Lemmon were early members of the Board and undoubtedly were influential in lobbying the Legislature. I remember much more about the Barkouras episode of our history, if you ever want to write about that.

Forrest Ladd: I entered the master's program in psychology at the University of Oklahoma in the fall of 1949. There I studied under such instructors as Muzafer Sherif, John Rohrer, Bill Lemmon, and Carl Oldroyd, each of whom made lasting impressions on me. Oldroyd was a personable and dedicated instructor. Muzafer Sherif was an exciting person to work with, although he had become a controversial figure with some of the clinicians in the department at that time. I was in class with such students as John Morris, who went on to become an administrator

at OU. Tom Ray assisted in the introductory counseling course I took under Bill Lemmon. Maurice Temerlin was an outstanding graduate student of that era.

Dr. Rohrer served as advisor for my thesis, which dealt with relations between involvement in extracurricular activities and achievement of academic potential among OU undergraduates. My research indicated that involvement did not hinder academic achievement, and so I recommended to the undergraduate dean's office through Dr. Rohrer, who served as assistant dean at the time. I do not know whether the student personnel office followed my advice.

After completing course work for my doctorate at the University of Kansas, I returned to my alma mater, Southern Nazarene University, in the fall of 1955 and joined OSPA in 1956. My recollection of those early years is sketchy, but I did enjoy the stimulation of colleagues and the opportunity to hear regionally noted speakers. When activities involving undergraduate psychology students came along, I tried regularly to have some representatives from SNU involved. My students profited considerably from the interaction with students and professionals from other campuses. They especially enjoyed hearing some of the invited speakers, as well as participating in the College Bowl competition.

One of my memories of OSPA sessions involves the discussion of recommendations for the upcoming licensing legislation. I recall that I made the initial motion that OSPA should recommend persons to be appointed to the Licensing Board. The motion passed and became part of the legislation governing licensure in Oklahoma.

During the time of my association with OPA, the emphasis had shifted from an academic Association where colleagues involved in instruction and research could share their work and perspectives

toward being a larger, more clinically oriented advocacy group. This change has developed concurrently with the changing roles of professional psychology over the past several decades. Although I qualified for the counseling and experimental specialties in the early licensing procedures, I have considered myself primarily an instructor. While my main emphasis has been instruction of undergraduates in psychology, I have also been involved in internal leadership and research processes at SNU.

I have enjoyed my association with OPA and its members and look forward to seeing it continue to promote the development of a strong presence for psychology in Oklahoma, both at the professional level and at the level of education and research. I am convinced that these two aspects of Oklahoma psychology can be separated only to the detriment of each.

Vladimir Pishkin: Thirty-five years ago my wife, Dorothy, daughter Gayle, and son Mark, came to Oklahoma City on the Santa Fe Railroad for a visit. I presented my work at a colloquium as a faculty candidate to the Department of Psychiatry, University of Oklahoma College of Medicine.

I am still here! As I look at the present and the past some significant contributions occur to me as an Oklahoma psychologist: (1) I participated in writing and campaigning for the first Oklahoma licensing of psychologists, (2) I co-founded and became director of the Behavioral Sciences Laboratories, VA Medical Center, Oklahoma City, (3) I was elected president of the Southwestern Psychological Association, (4) I was appointed and served as visiting professor, USSR National Academy of Sciences, now Moscow, Russia, (5) I served as commanding officer, Air Force Intelligence Service Reserve Detachment, Tinker Air Force Base, (6) I'm currently professor emeritus, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, OU College of Medicine, (7)

At this time, my major focus is being editor-in-chief (for the past 25 years) for the *Journal of Clinical Psychology*. I am pleased and honored to be among those who are designated as “Pioneer Psychologists” of Oklahoma.

Sarah Allison: As a freshman at Penn State University in 1947, I took the routine battery of psychological/vocational tests. It was suggested to me that I might be interested in becoming a psychologist. I have always been grateful for that suggestion.

After completing undergraduate and master's degrees at Penn State and an internship at Western State Hospital in Virginia, I received my doctorate at Oklahoma University in 1957. My early work experience in Tulsa at the Children's Medical Center and the Juvenile Court primed me for the woman's movement as I was told that as a woman psychologist, I would be best working only with children and for less pay than a male psychologist.

I became the first full-time psychologist in private practice. Much of my time was spent answering the question, “What is a psychologist?” After many PTA talks, my practice grew and became a successful one. Many who sought help did so because they had the basic introductory course in psychology at our universities and had a respect for the knowledge and profession. Thus, I am a strong believer in the interdependence of the three areas of psychology: research, academia, and practice.

My profession has afforded me the opportunity for social action and participation. I started the NOW organization in Tulsa, laid the ground work for the shelter for battered women after visiting Erin Pizzey's shelter in London, and was a National Board member for NARAL at the exciting time of Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision. When I brought these issues to OPA, I received the support I needed from my professional colleagues.

The Licensure Act of 1965 was the significant time of all

working together to provide the necessary structure for the advancement for psychology. I served as chairperson of the Board of Examiners in 1972. (I prefer social action.)

I have had opportunities for travel, as I went to China after the Cultural Revolution on an APA Committee with Dr. Ray Fowler to help organize and reactivate the China Psychological Association in Beijing, and also to do research in the field of alcoholism in Tbilisi, Russia. I retired from practice in January 1995, but continue a very intense interest in the profession, which is ever changing and growing. I am appreciative of the many opportunities I have had because of my profession.

Thurman Coburn: My career in psychology began in the mid-1950s when I was a graduate student at the University of Oklahoma. At that time, education for exceptional children was really beginning to blossom, and I was employed by the Department of Pupil Services under the late Dr. Leonard Cox and the late Dr. Virgil Hill. At that time, there was no designation for school psychologists and we were granted temporary teaching certificates in special education. There was a great need for identifying exceptional children, especially those who were developmentally delayed, and with my Binet Kit and my Bender Cards, I think I visited every school in the Oklahoma City system. I made many friends among the teachers and administrators, and some of those friendships continue to this day.

After receiving my Ph.D. in the spring of 1958, I expanded my area of operation to include the entire State of Oklahoma. I became the psychological consultant for the Division of Special Education with the State Department of Education. For two years, I packed my Binet and WISC kits all over the state. This was a lonely existence. I found it a long way from Boise City to Bartlesville and from Alva to Altus. With no one with whom I could consult, I



frequently felt professionally lost and frustrated. After two years of this, I took a position as the psychologist with a diagnostic team in Shreveport, Louisiana, doing essentially the same work that I had been doing in Oklahoma. There I had good people with whom I could consult, and the fishing was fine, but the constant threat of limited funds caused me to return to Oklahoma in the early 1960s.

Now as I wind down toward retirement, I have been primarily engaged in psychodiagnostic evaluation of geriatric patients. I suppose I might be called a "life-span psychologist." These forty years of practicing psychology in a variety of settings have been real fun. I enjoyed it all until managed health care managed (pun intended) to frustrate our efforts in trying to provide good mental health care. This is also a part of life, and I will learn to live with it.

Edward Jorden: Soon after I came to teach psychology at Phillips University in Enid in 1950, with a master's plus nineteen hours from the University of Nebraska, I decided to work toward a doctorate at the University of Oklahoma. Over a period of time, this put me in contact with Drs. Wilson, Hoisington, Sherif, Lemmon, Glixman, Latimer, and Oldroyd. While teaching at Phillips University, I also served as a part-time research associate for the American Psychological Corporation in the 1950's. I taught courses for instructor pilots at Vance Air Force Base in Enid on a part-time basis and served on the National Air Training Command Advisory Board (U.S. Air Force) in the 1960s. For twenty plus years, I was the consulting psychologist for the Speech and Hearing Clinic in Enid. I was licensed in 1965 with license number 88.

It was Dr. Oldroyd in 1950 who encouraged me to become active in the developing Oklahoma State Psychological Association. In those early days, we met with the Oklahoma

Academy of Science, and meetings were held on the campus of a state public or private college or university. Business meetings were concerned with establishing representation to the American Psychological Association by joining with another state educating the public about the field of psychology and qualifications for and the definition of “psychologist,” developing support and the necessary documents and procedures for certification or licensure of psychologists, and of course planning future meetings and attracting new members for the organization. There were paper sessions and sometimes a symposium.

As the membership grew, the day came when the organization decided to have its own “Convention” and no longer meet with the Oklahoma Academy of Science. If memory is correct, the first was held at the Texoma Lodge, and attendance was good. The interest and participation were excellent, and the usual networking with other members was great. However, Saturday afternoon a symposium was planned and people had prepared for it, yet only about three people showed up so it was canceled. Even though the topic was interesting and of significance, it lost in competition with an afternoon of boating, fishing, etc., and most importantly, the OU football game.

Buck Elsea: Having decided to study psychology during my tour of duty in the Navy during World War II, I returned to the University of Oklahoma in 1946 to re-enroll. The memory of my meeting with Dr. Louis B. Hoisington, my first advisor, still looms clearly in my mind. He welcomed me back to the university with genuine warmth and acceptance, the like of which I had never experienced before. After completing about six semesters and about twenty-four hours of psychology courses, I had, without knowing it, developed the belief that I was very knowledgeable, understood the mind, mental processes, and psychology. But

suddenly one day, much to my dismay, I stumbled onto a terrible discovery. I realized that I did not understand anything about the mind, mental processes, psychology, or anything else and, in short, that I really didn't know anything. After confessing this tragic discovery to Dr. Hoisington, who listened politely, he informed me that I had actually learned something very important, i.e., that I didn't know anything. When I asked him how that was important, he smiled and replied, "Oh, Mr. Elsea, that places you in a marvelous position to start learning." I staggered out of his office even more confused, bewildered, and distraught than I had been when I had entered.

I took a position as assistant psychologist for the State Department of Public Welfare in 1956, completed my internship at the Griffin Memorial Hospital in 1957-58, and then returned to the State Department of Public Welfare. After completing the requirements for a Ph.D., I served as supervisor of the Psychological unit, and trainee and internship supervisor for the O.U. Clinical Psychology graduate students. I remained with the Department thirty-one years, at which time I retired. Along the way, I served as assessment officer for two Peace Corps projects and also two years on the State Board of Examiners. I still maintain a private practice that I started ten years before retiring from DHS.

I am grateful to the many professors, supervisors, trainers, supervisees, and clients with whom I have been privileged to work. Often, I remember the things I learned along the way from so many different people and also from myself but, most of all, I frequently hear the echoes of that quiet, gentle, kindly voice of Dr. Hoisington saying, "That's right, Mr. Elsea, you really don't know anything and that places you in a wonderful position to start learning." Guess that is his way of keeping me humble and in a continuing education mode.

THE LATER YEARS  
1997-2021

## THE HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER AND ACADEMICIAN IN THE EARLY 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

*Clinical psychologists are trained to solve behavioral problems, and the world promises to provide no shortage of these.*

*Ludy Benjamin, 2005*

As earlier noted, by the beginning of the 1960s, concerns of a more clinically oriented advocacy group fully dominated ninety percent of Association business—as they have continued to do so for the last 60 plus years. Since the momentous victory of the Psychologist Licensing Act (HR939), enacted into law 28 June 1965, official Board minutes record an unbroken litany of membership concerns such as insurance reimbursement, hospital privileges, political recognition, acceptance by the medical community and society at large, in addition to daily office management issues. The decade of the 1990s and throughout the first two decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, these issues, as well as managed care and prescriptive privileges for health service providers, continued to be the dominant concerns of the Board. Even in late 2017, Dr. Antonio Puente, president of the American Psychological Association noted that, “We are focusing efforts to make our role in mental health stronger, from inclusion in the definition of physician in Medicare to helping shape new health care policy.”

## LICENSURE ISSUES

Those leaders who first sought to organize Oklahoma psychology in the late 1940s would have been evincing preternatural insight in anticipating the growth of non-academic psychology, and how guild interests would dominate OPA long before its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Not until 1959 was the first clinical/counseling psychologist elected to serve as president; moreover, fewer than a half-dozen academic/researchers from then until 2021 have served in that office. At present, health service provider participants comprise over 90 percent of membership. Dr. Vernon Sisney explains how it began. “In 1959, I became the first clinical psychologist to serve as president. To the best of my memory, the Association was primarily an academic group centered around OU until clinical psychologists began to get involved around 1953 or so. From that point on, it evidenced a sudden up-shoot in membership and concern for the community. In as much as the association was so heavily laden with academicians, it wrestled only slowly with practitioner concerns. The need for licensure was obvious, but I suppose because their livelihood didn’t depend on it, they were not as concerned. It should be pointed out that by this time the state medical association had become aware that we were making noises about licensure and were not at all amused.”

In a speech presented to the APA in 1971, Dr. Oscar Parsons, a former president of OPA, described clinical psychology as “a young, vigorous profession barely past its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday. It has moved from psychometrician status to become a full-fledged, independently functioning profession...the largest subgroup in which psychologists presently (one-third) are trained.” Although clinical psychology’s origin is traditionally traced back to Lightner

Witmer in 1896, Parsons' description was none-the-less accurate. It was the post-World War II Veterans Administration that first established the doctorate as the entry-level degree for clinical psychology. The United States went from having no formal university programs in 1946 to over half of all Ph.D.s in psychology in 1950 being awarded in clinical psychology. In short order, the University of Oklahoma graduated its first Ph.D. in clinical psychology in 1953, and its first Ph.D. in counseling psychology in 1968. Oklahoma State University awarded its first Ph.D. clinical psychology doctorate in 1968 and counseling psychology doctorate in 1980. The University of Tulsa's clinical psychology program began in 1987.

President of OPA in 1975, Dr. Kenneth Sandvold, a founder of the OSU clinical psychology program, opined that, "Soon after coming to Oklahoma, and shortly before the demise of the OU program, I attended my first OSPA conference. Some psychologists seemed pleased that a second clinical program would be available. Others, when learning of our intentions, stopped speaking and walked away."

The earliest role of the Oklahoma University must further be noted. As president of OPA in 1960, Dr. Maurice Temerlin, chair of the OU psychology department, could conclude that, "By 1959, 17 people had completed the program, over half of whom stayed in Oklahoma. These newly-minted clinicians, plus a few recent graduates from other states, were destined to decisively impact Oklahoma psychology in the decade of the 1960s and beyond."

Of the 191 doctorates granted by the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University departments between the years 1953 and 1970, over one-half had been awarded in clinical psychology. Furthermore, of approximately 150 persons listed in the 1972 *Annual Directory of Licensed Psychologists*, over 100 were clinical psychologists, with a dozen or so others listed in the

related specialty of counseling psychology. Dr. Robert Schlottman, a past member of the OPA Board, summed up the position of the Association toward licensure of sub-doctoral individuals in the fall 1982 issue of the *Oklahoma Psychologist*. “Psychology has had to struggle for years to overcome the domination of medicine. Without rigorous standards as exemplified in doctoral-level licensure, the profession is vulnerable to be edged out of its rightful place in the provision of health care services. Licensure of persons with the master’s degree in psychology would make our legal position far less secure and could ultimately deprive the public of services of independent practitioners of psychology.” Thirty-six years later, the 2018 OPA president, Dr. Lori Holmquist-Day, was yet addressing the same intractable issue: “We included hand-outs on the duties of the Psychologist of the Day that included current legislative issue OPA is tracking as a means to educate our legislators on the difference between mental health providers with a doctoral versus master’s degree.” As an aside, Oklahoma was one of three states to achieve licensure in 1965; the first state to achieve licensure was Connecticut in 1945, with Missouri being the last in 1977.

Predictably, the composition of the membership of the Association increasingly reflected this development. At the beginning of the eighth decade, more than two-thirds of its 150 full members were health service providers. Consequently, the increased attention paid to private practice issues that began in the late 1950s continued to be OPA’s predominant concern. The Association even changed its name in 1973 as a way to further reflect this new status.

As earlier shown, at the OSPA organization meeting in 1946, it was proposed by Dr. Vera Gatch that, “A committee must be established to work on a proposed licensure law to be presented to the Oklahoma Legislature.” This was followed up by an attendant



1949 committee report by Dr. John Gittinger that described charlatry practices in Oklahoma City, as evidenced by the listing of phony psychologists in the city telephone book that resulted in “local clinics would not employ psychologists until the air was cleared as to the definition of what a psychologist actually was.” Additionally, it became immediately apparent that the passage of several additional laws, over a time period of decades, long extended even as the Association approached the celebration of its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, would require the creation of a Health Service Provider Division, HSP—achieved in the year 1979. Until then, the first tentative, deliberate steps were made by individuals or small groups of highly motivated private practice health care psychologists.

## INSURANCE ISSUES

The first bold step forced on newly licensed psychologists was the immediate need to secure an adequate stream of income through reimbursement of services.

“From the very beginning, and long before the creation of HSP, our plan was to achieve licensure first, then go for insurance,” commented Dr. Kenneth Shewmaker, long-time chair of the insurance committee. To achieve the latter was just about as difficult as the former. Individual psychologists had to hound the halls of the state capitol for about five more years.” The late Dr. Bill Saunders, the first individual to graduate with a doctorate in clinical psychology from OU (thus in the state of Oklahoma) in 1953, commented that, “Private practice was not particularly profitable until the mid-1970s. Before then, one could just about count the number of successful private practitioners listed in telephone book yellow pages on the fingers of one hand.”

“A major issue during my 1970 OSPA presidency,” stated Dr. Dick Sternlof, “was the topic of reimbursement by insurance companies. Some companies allowed psychologists to bill them, but only if they were supervised by a psychiatrist...A group of clinical/counseling psychologists led by myself, Drs. Sisney and Shewmaker, plus a variety of others joined forces and were able to get a Freedom of Choice Bill passed through the Legislature whereby we could be reimbursed for our services on par with psychiatrists. This legislation opened the doors for us in many ways and was the beginning of an increased private practice for many. OPA was only secondarily involved in this activity because individuals were worried about the Association’s tax status vis a vis lobbying types of efforts. Some psychologists even actively fought our efforts in this regard.”

Two years later, OPA president Dr. Bill Jaynes announced that, “Despite the enactment of House Bill 1210, a few third-party payers refuse to comply. The insurance committee, then chaired by Dr. John Boland, published a list of these companies and members were asked to protest to the Insurance Commissioner.” In 1975, the insurance committee reported a major achievement with the passage of SB252, which amended current insurance laws to include psychologists, especially as it related to group insurance. Dr. Diane Willis, the Association’s representative to Division 31, (State, Provincial, and Territorial Psychology Association Affairs) extended appreciation to the many Oklahoma psychologists who contributed money to CAPPS (The Committee for the Advancement of Professional Practice), Division 31’s political arm. “In 1973, CAPPS filed a successful class action anti-trust suit in District Court against Blue Cross and Blue Shield. As a result, the carrier was forced to drop the requirement of medical referral and supervision for psychological services.” During the late 1970s, OPA and APA in general were caught between those who

demanded a tighter definition of psychology (insurance companies, consumer groups and legislators) and those demanding a less restrictive definition (some academic groups and those with quasi-clinical training). It was no easy task to even approach, much less resolve, this long-standing intractable issue.

## HOSPITAL PRIVILEGES

With the issue of third-party insurance reimbursement now somewhat less than intractable, private practitioners turned their immediate attention to hospital privileges during the mid-1980s and 1990s. An ad hoc committee on hospital privileges, chaired by Dr. Mark Ketterer, was reestablished in 1984. Approved guidelines for psychologists in hospitals were sent to each hospital in the state. Then in 1990, hospital privileges chairs Drs. Richard Bost and Dianne Williamson, along with HSP, presented the Board with a list of activities (primarily legislative and legal in nature) necessary to achieve full staff privileges for psychologists. The primary goal for the year 1992 was to develop and initiate legislation that would support obtaining hospital privileges. Stated President Dr. Dave Schroeder: “However, when the Chiropractic Association initiated hospital privilege legislation at the same time, the Board decided that it would wait until later to initiate our proposal.”

Dr. Cathie Shaw, OPA president in 1993, was able to announce that, “The passage of HB139 was a step toward pursuing hospital privileges this upcoming legislative session. Thanks to Stewart Beasley, Tom Vaughn, Richard Bost, and our lobbyist Richard Hess for this legislative success...Once we can obtain full hospital privileges our standing will be assured as independent health providers by other professions and the community at large.” Then finally, it could be announced that, “The Oklahoma

Psychological Association was successful in supporting legislation that was passed in 1995. The legislation was initiated in the state senate and was designed to gain hospital privileges. It passed as SB365 and was signed by the Governor on 27 April 1996. Once again, Oklahoma has led the nation in this legislation being one of only three states now having statutorily legislation providing hospital privileges for psychologists.” In spite of this development, later task forces and committees have had to deal continually with the ever-lingering unfinished issue of hospital privileges.

### PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY

The mid-1990s witnessed a grant of \$75,000 from the national Prescribing Psychologists’ Registry to be used to introduce prescriptive privilege legislation in the state. The OPA then promptly signed a tentative agreement with the Registry to provide instruction for training in psychopharmacology. The Board followed up by endorsing a statement from its task force on prescriptive privileges that psychologists who are properly trained in prescribing psychotropic medication should then be allowed, under the law, to prescribe such medications. Some sentiment was expressed to introduce legislation immediately. It likewise proceeded to support the optometric association’s efforts to repeal the medical board’s authority to sue other licensing boards over what constitutes the practice of medicine, as well as a recently-passed law granting prescriptive authority to nurses. By the year 1999, there was increased sentiment expressed to introduce legislation immediately, recognizing it would take several years for it to pass, and also thinking it would de-synthesize the Legislature to the issue. The thought was that more psychologists should be trained prior to submitting legislation.

In 2001, President Dr. Paul Tobin noted that, “The Board once more initiated an effort to assess the will of state psychologists regarding prescription privileges through a membership survey. Questionnaires showed a general support for prescriptive authority, but it was clear that such support would evaporate should it be accompanied by excessive fees assessed for lobbying purposes. It became immediately clear this was a high risk/high gain activity and that nothing might come of it. Other states were showing some successes, but there was no initial support for such expenditures in Oklahoma.”

OPA President Dr. Frank Collins commented in late 2006 that, “Despite early reticence, by the year 2003, a Division of Prescriptive Authority (RxP) was finally formed with Dr. Larry McCauley as chair. This could have been because by then Association funds showed a reserve of \$126,000 with the reception of CAPP grants of over \$15,000 to be used for prescriptive authority efforts.” But then the year 2005 began with an announcement that finances were running low because very little income from Prescriptive Division activities was received to offset its expenses. The RxP Division worked closely with the legislative committee to create a list of psychologists who were adequately trained in prescriptive issues---such was found to be less than half a dozen. The division chair was granted \$1200 by the Board to attend an APA state leadership conference on RxP privileges. Likewise, a “road show” was set up in different towns in the state to visit with psychologists about prescriptive authority. By the next year, the Board felt confident enough to ask a state senator to carry a bill introducing prescriptive authority to the Legislature. This initial, as well as subsequent attempts, proved only marginally successful. The Board maintained a wait and see attitude with limited progress noted in monthly secretarial recordings. Dr. Phil Hyde, who served as OPA president in 2007

as well as 2012, commented that, “I undertook conducting a survey of our membership...Among other issues, the results indicated that members considered that the Board and Executive Director were doing a good job but they were still not at all interested in pursuing prescriptive authority.”

Concomitant issues received much repetitive attention throughout those same years. The Board coordinated bi-annual SPEEC/APAIT (American Psychological Association Insurance Trust) Risk Management workshops. The Board and committees held periodic meetings with the Oklahoma Insurance Board director, and were actively involved with DHS and the Legislature in the language of Medicare rules to establish psychologists as eligible providers for Medicare services. Psychologists had been included as qualified examiners at sanity and child custody hearings since 1980. A committee was instigated to evaluate its present status. Similarly, various committees were appointed to investigate the effectiveness of continuing education credits, which had been required since 1989. Additionally, long hours of tedious effort resulted in the opening of some hospitals to the awareness of the quality of psychological provider services. Dues were repeatedly increased to accommodate these added HSP activities.

Newsletter reports by the 2017 OPA president, Dr. Gil Sanders, resonated with previous and later presidential messages concerning Association HSP-type issues. “Several Board members, along with our executive secretary, Danna Fowble, attended an APAPO conference in Washington, DC, where we visited with all Oklahoma Congressional staff members relative to the need to maintain the gains that psychologists achieved in recently-passed federal regulations...We requested that Congress pass legislation permitting psychologists to directly bill Medicare without supervision of MDs, and to look at the problem of why

under federal guidelines psychologists are not yet defined as physicians.

“Moreover, the definition of ‘physician’ under Title 59 of Oklahoma statutes is essentially the same. The failure to obtain full medical staff privileges at hospitals is one result of this. A bill was introduced in the last Oklahoma legislative session to correct this but did not move out of committee. We will try again next legislative session. I cannot over stress the importance of APAPO and OPA action alerts as this is how we can have an impact on pending legislation and build better relationships with US Congressional and state legislative delegations. The Association will continue to rely on grants from CAPP to a significant degree. Yet, to continue providing services, we must add additional members or have to increase dues. It is my desire to increase membership numbers in lieu of a dues increase.”

A reply from the Association’s new lobbyist, Clay Taylor, who was hired at a salary of \$15,000 in 2017, subsequently spoke to this. “OPA has asked me to find an author to file two bills for the next session. One would place psychologists in the same definition as MDs. The other is to join an interstate compact to allow psychologists to see patients across state lines. This would allow for use of telepsychology or temporary in-person, face-to-face practice across state lines in PsyPact states offering a higher degree of consumer protection across state lines.

“OPA’s biggest priority is to expand our scope of practice by granting psychologists RxP privileges. To that end, we are pleased that OPA has started a limited PAC fund...As we move through the next session, health care funding, especially for mental health, will again be a priority. A shortage of psychiatrists has helped aggravate this need, with only 510 presently licensed in Oklahoma. By allowing psychologists to write mental health prescriptions would be to double the number of [prescribing] mental health

professionals in Oklahoma.” It was later announced that Association funding was once again in the red, requiring a 13 percent dues increase by 2019 to \$330 for full members and \$170 for post docs.”

Dr. Sanders concludes, “Let us not forget that not only are we a science but a health profession. A review of APA model doctoral programs...shows that at least 60 percent of our education and training is directly related...In fact, the overlap of psychology and medicine is so great that there has been at least one program that combines the PhD in psychology with an MD program.” At present, psychologists in the states of Idaho, New Mexico, Louisiana, Illinois, and Iowa are permitted to apply for prescriptive practice authority, as well as the Public Health Service, the US military, District of Columbia, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Guam. In 2018, Texas and two other states, Hawaii and Oregon, maintain pending prescriptive legislation.

Dr. Jack Kitaeff, a health care provider in the state of Virginia, and a recent candidate for the office of president of APA insisted that, “We must ensure that psychologists are recognized as full-fledged health providers from both statutory and health insurance standpoints. This would include increased training programs in psychopharmacology with the goal of appropriately trained psychologists achieving prescriptive authority in every state.”

In a 1991 book (*Clinical Psychology: Historical and Research Foundations*) edited by Dr. C. Eugene Walker, a former OPA president, it was concluded, “That clinical psychology seems to have developed sufficiently as an independent profession...is linked to the fact that licensed practitioners of psychology, if they wish, are able to earn a living in the private health care sector.”



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As early as 1975, a proposed revision of Association bylaws included a section permitting, but not mandating, the establishment of a Central Office and a paid executive director (ED). The then president, Dr. Ken Sandvold, noted that, “While the Association was not yet at the point where such an office was necessary or affordable, the time is rapidly approaching.” Seven years subsequent, an ad hoc committee, chaired by Dr. Steve Caldwell, was approved to investigate the advisability of hiring an ED. Eighteen months later, OPA employed its first part-time ED described by former OPA President Dr. Charles Whipple as, “A master’s level student of mine at the University of Central Oklahoma named Gary Huddleston, who was paid \$350 per month. After a couple of years, he left to continue doctoral studies at Oklahoma State University, subsequently becoming an Oklahoma legislative lobbyist.”

OPA President Dr. John Watkins announced that HSP successfully voted a divisional dues increase to \$150 to accomplish the purpose of retaining a lobbyist, noting that, “In the past 18 months we have had a part-time executive officer who has made a decided difference in terms of continuity and quantity of membership and program functioning.” The combined membership for all level of participation was 558. There were 250 full members, 82 associates, three life members, seven affiliates, and 216 students. The amount of dues collected increased by \$3000 from the previous year. It was the Board’s opinion that the new ED position had more than paid for itself. The Association was, two years later, in receipt of a \$17,000 grant from the Office of Professional Practice of the APA for the establishment of a full time Central Office. Subsequent to vetting several candidates, as of

1 January 1988, Mr. Richard Hess took possession of the job of ED, as well as lobbyist.

To achieve this end, general membership dues had to be increased, in some cases tripled, over the basic dues structure of previous years. Regrettably, this led to attrition among the membership, most notably those from the academic/research community. Approximately 50 members immediately resigned to form the Oklahoma Psychological Society, which specialized exclusively in academic/research issues. Dr. John Braggio, Division of Academic and Research Psychology (DARP) secretary announced that, "Membership has been declining for several years. Higher required dues and the almost total dominance of guild issues were the reasons given." In spite of this, by the end of that year, membership statistics still recorded 308 full members, 133 associates, nine affiliates, and 95 students. It should be noted that OPA's new Division of Research and Training (DRAT) continues to exist and enlists a sizeable number of participants in 2021.

Legislatively, 1988 was one of the most productive since passage of the licensing bill in the mid-1960s. Psychologists gained the passage of a bill mandating that one member of the Board of Mental Health be a psychologist. It also permitted a psychologist to serve as commissioner of that board. On the national level, Medicare passed both houses of the Legislature. Additionally, licensed psychologists were required to achieve continuing education credits. OPA became involved in rural health and AIDs coalitions and sponsored HB1566 (housing for the homeless) which ultimately became law. It held the most financially profitable annual conference in several years, leading to the conclusion that, "The convention should be an appropriate fund developmental tool each year."

The 1988 OPA president, Dr. Bill Shaw, stated that, "Hess and Associates are to be commended for their work. His supportive

efforts have made OPA much more manageable than at any point in the past. This was a major step for the Association from an all-volunteer organization to a professionally-managed association.

Upon accepting the recommendation of Mr. Hess, the Association, through the efforts of Dr. Stewart Beasley, initiated a 'Psychologist of the Day' program at the state Legislature. In so doing it became the first ever association to be accorded such a status in the country." Thanks to our new Central Office, we continued to become more organized as a true Association," Recalled Dr. Gale Hobson, OPA president in 1991, as well as 2005, "I have a vivid memory of being elected treasurer a few years before, and at the time was handed the entire OPA financial records in a box with a checkbook to balance. This was an overwhelming chore for one who often could not balance her own checkbook."

In 2012, after a productive tenure of over 24 years, Mr. Hess resigned. "On a personal note, my two terms as president (six years total) were quite challenging times emotionally, particularly with Richard's sudden departure," stated Dr. Phil Hyde. "I and several others tried to convince him to stay." With his resignation in hand, the search for a person/organization to administer the Association began. Mrs. Vickie White-Rankin, a former member of the State Legislature, was eventually chosen to fill the position. Some of the more notable activities to occur during her brief tenure were to further establish a quarterly newsletter "online." She assisted the Executive Committee: to design performance review procedures for Board and committee members, as well as for the Executive; helped to create a formal mentoring plan for students and new PhDs; and moved Association archives from the Central Office to the then president's residence. White-Rankin subsequently resigned the office after a two-year tenure, her last day with OPA being 31 December 2014. The new executive director, Danna

Fowble, IOM, was immediately employed and took over the position 1 January 2015.

“As a long-time OPA Board member and editor of the *Oklahoma Psychologist*,” commented the late Dr. Logan Wright in an interview in 1994, “I witnessed so much enthusiasm and energy expended by enumerable volunteers year after year. Energy alone, however, is never sufficient since it must always be administered in a consistently focused manner, lacking this entropy sets in. To some extent, by the mid-1990s the Association had experienced its share of this.” Wright, who served as president of APA in 1986, concluded that, “With the realization of a full-time Central Office, in 1988, I think, OPA took its rightful place among other professional societies in the state, and Oklahoma psychologists experienced a pride in our profession to a degree seldom felt before. No other single incident, with the exception of licensing in the mid-1960s, has been as crucial to Oklahoma psychology’s long-term survival.”

## WOMEN IN OKLAHOMA PSYCHOLOGY

As the Association moved nearer to the end of its three-quarters century, the issue of the so-called “feminization of psychology,” a phrase that would have appeared to earlier generations of psychologists as oxymoronic, continued to increase in interest. It is well documented that at present three out of four undergraduate psychology majors are women, with over 70 percent of all psychology doctoral degrees awarded to women, most of those in the area of applied psychology. Such was not the case in the beginning, nationally as well as in Oklahoma.

“APA was founded 115 years ago,” observed the 2017 APA president, Dr. Antonio Puente, “Since then, we have gone from 31 members—all men, all white, all academic—to 171,675 members

of which 60 percent are women, with a majority being clinicians.” In 1995, the year before OPA celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, an APA task force explored the changing gender composition of psychology in America. Among its observations were: “Women made up just over 20 percent of Ph.D. recipients in 1972. Twenty-five years later, nearly 72 percent of new doctorates entering psychology were women. At the same time, graduate enrollment in psychology approached three-quarters female. This imbalance could be due to a more innate attraction of women to the field and to helping others. ‘Women have always dominated such fields as nursing and social work, why not psychology.’ Another conjecture was that governmental fluctuations in social science funding tightened causing a decline in salaries. In response, men left to pursue other employment. ‘Men left and women came into fill the vacuum.’ ” Though the above were found to be valid, the primary reason was conjectured to be that it simply became easier for women to be accepted into graduate school. “Women have always wanted to be psychologists; they just didn’t have an opportunity to do so.”

There is no way to estimate the number of those employed as a psychologist in the state of Oklahoma since 1946, particularly a number for each gender. By the year 1940, APA had listed a total of three Oklahoma women members in its organization, all clinicians. Just as academic psychology was, in the earliest years, thought of as “men’s work,” so too applied psychology was thought as “women’s work.” At the beginning of World War II, no more than ten percent of psychology faculties nationally were made up of women and most of those in colleges for women. At present, 2021, nationally about 33 percent of full professors are women. This level of academic status is mirrored in Oklahoma. At the same time, over half of all clinical/counseling psychologists were women, as were 75 percent of school/educational

psychologists. This national trend was likewise mirrored in Oklahoma. Of the three female charter members of OSPA (OPA), one was a clinical psychology graduate student named Vera Gatch, who became the first female president of the Association, as well as the first woman to be licensed as a psychologist in the state; Corinne Bell taught at the Oklahoma College for Women for over 40 years; and Dr. Amanda Herring was a school psychologist in Tulsa.

The first fully-credentialed woman to be employed as a psychologist in one of Oklahoma's three comprehensive universities, as a full member of the department and on equal standing with all others, was Dr. Alexis Anikeefe. She began her tenure as an assistant professor of industrial psychology at Oklahoma A&M College in 1953, resigning in 1956. The second woman to be hired in the state to teach psychology was Dr. Irene MacKintosh. She taught experimental psychology at OU from 1955 until 1959. In 1959, Dr. Irene Horton became the first woman to teach psychology at the University of Tulsa, as well as the first female department chair in the state.

By the year 1972, seven years after the Oklahoma Legislature had passed the psychologist licensing law, the Oklahoma State Board of Examiners of Psychology (OSBEP) had issued 150 licenses, 96 under the grandfather provision of the law, including 19 master's level degrees. Of that total, 34 were women, one-half holding master's credentials. The Oklahoma Psychological Association was 50 years old in 1996, HSP was 16, and OSBEP 31, at which time 763 licenses had been granted with 465 on active status. Of these, approximately 35 percent were women. The majority of those pioneer women who were listed in the very earliest OSPA/OPA rosters, or licensed OSBEP, over half under a master's level provision, worked in applied settings. A few were

partially employed in academic positions; however, their primary source of income was earned as health service practitioners.

The first woman, Elizabeth Starkweather, to be elected to the OSPA Board occurred in 1949, with only two others serving in the Association's first 25 years: Alice Anderson as secretary in 1963, and Vera Gatch in 1968. Sixteen women had been elected to the position of secretary/treasurer by 1996, with an additional 18 serving as a member-at-large. By the year 2020, an additional 17 women served as secretary and/or treasurer, and another 23 served as members-at-large. In several instances, this included multi-year terms. In terms of percentages, approximately 60 percent of electees assumed office in the last one-third of Association existence. In its 41 years of existence, the HSP Division had been chaired by only 10 women, five of those in the last dozen years; the DRAT division being chaired by six women in the entirety of its existence.

Fifteen women have served OPA as president in 74 years, nine in the last 24, including three out of the last six years. "Believe it or not, I was only the fourth woman to serve as president in the Association's first 45 years," observed Dr. Gale Hobson, "the three previous must have been extraordinarily brave to step forward. Inspired by them, and because I was in the process of raising two daughters as a single parent, I decided to focus that year's convention around women. We called it 'Because we all have daughters, mothers, grandmothers, and sisters.' Several special women in mental health work presented workshops. They put on interesting programs about women in families and multiple roles women assume along with demanding careers. Today that is old information, but at the time it was still new to many. One note to the future: We have in my view, an unprecedented potential as women to affect the future care of the mentally ill in this state. We have not only the strength and energy of present psychologists,

young or old, women or men, but the time is right to be proactive in addressing the issues that affect our profession, and to be a voice for those who do not have power to speak for themselves.”

At present, 60 percent of the Association’s membership is women, with 80 percent of those employed as applied psychologists. In that regard, Dr. Tom Vaughn writes that, “Dr. Rubino-Watkins developed a Women Psychologist group that focused primarily on issues that affected female psychologists. Her group has had unimaginable success in more effectively involving women in OPA as well as addressing concerns they face in their everyday lives and professional practices. Recently a group held a Men’s Gathering for male psychologists who had begun working in the field in the last 10 or so years, for the purpose of becoming acquainted with OPA, and to network as OPA women have been doing, ‘given that we are becoming a minority in the profession.’ ” The result of this friendly competition resulted in an uptick in OPA membership. A 2015 APA task force cautioned, “If this feminization of psychology continues, psychologists seem unsure whether the field will reach a point where the numbers become permanently disproportionate.”

On the issue of feminization, the late Dr. Frank Collins, a former professor at Oklahoma State University and chair of the National Council of University Directors of Clinical Psychology, as well as a former president of OPA, concluded that, “What the field can agree on is the need to maintain the value of psychology to society at a broader level. This means that ensuring that psychologists, regardless of gender, meet client’s needs to the best of their ability. Some clients require a certain gender therapist and it’s essential to have both options.”



OFFICERS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS  
1997-2021

1997

President: Patrick Mason  
Past President: Roberta Olson  
President Elect: Charlotte Rosko  
Secretary: Jan Culbertson  
Treasurer: Kay Tabor  
Directors: Linda Burks, Dana Foley, Jill Scott, Richard Walton

1998

President: Charlotte Rosko  
Past President: Patrick Mason  
President Elect: Stewart Beasley  
Secretary: Jan Culbertson  
Treasurer: Ed Beckham  
Directors: Dana Foley, Heather Huszti, Jill Scott, Richard Walton

1999

President: Stewart Beasley  
Past President: Charlotte Rosko  
President Elect: Pamela Fischer  
Secretary: Nancy Dilly  
Treasurer: Ed Beckham  
Directors: Dana Foley, Heather Huszti, Paul Tobin, Richard Walton

2000

President: Pamela Fischer  
Past President: Stewart Beasley  
President Elect: Paul Tobin  
Secretary: Nancy Dilley  
Treasurer: Dan Jones  
Directors: Ed Beckham, Robin Gurwitch, Rick Walton, Maria Trapp

2001

President: Paul Tobin  
Past President: Pamela Fischer  
President Elect: Ed Beckham  
Secretary: Maria Trapp  
Treasurer: Doug Brady  
Directors: Dan Jones, Keith Green, Frank Collins, Allen Sweet

2002

President: Ed Beckham  
Past President: Paul Tobin  
President Elect: Dan Jones  
Secretary: Maria Trapp  
Treasurer: Michael Kampschaefer,  
Directors: Douglas Brady, Frank Collins, Donna Greenberg, Richard Walton

2003

President: Dan Jones  
Past President: Ed Beckham  
President Elect: Maria Trapp  
Secretary: Douglas Brady  
Treasurer: Michael Kampschaefer  
Directors: John Call, Frank Collins, Richard Walton, Robert Powitzsky

2004

President: Maria Trapp  
Past President: Dan Jones  
President Elect: Gale Hobson  
Secretary: Douglas Brady  
Treasurer: Stewart Beasley  
Directors: Ed Beckham, John Call, Larry McCauley, Robert Powitzsky

2005

President: Gale Hobson  
Past President: Maria Trapp  
President Elect: Frank Collins  
Secretary: Wade Hamil  
Treasurer: Stewart Beasley  
Directors: Katrina Cochran, Charlotte Rosko, Larry McCauley, Robert Powitzky

2006

President: Frank Collins  
Past President: Gale Hobson  
President Elect: Phil Hyde  
Secretary: Wade Hamil  
Treasurer: Stewart Beasley  
Directors: Sharon Brady, Shelli Jackson, Katrina Cochran

2007

President: Phil Hyde  
Past President: Frank Collins  
President Elect: Tom Vaughn  
Secretary: Kathie Ward

Treasurer: Stewart Beasley

Directors: Sharon Brady, Shelli Jackson, Robin Gurwitch, Robert Powitzky

2008

President: Tom Vaughn

Past President: Phil Hyde

President Elect: Larry McCauley

Secretary: Katie Ward

Treasurer: Stewart Beasley

Directors: Steve Scott, Robin Gurwitch, Phil Massad, T. Leffingwell

2009

President: Larry McCauley

Past President: Tom Vaughn

President Elect: Sharon Brady

Secretary: Teri Bourdeau

Treasurer: Stewart Beasley

Directors: Steve Scott, Susan Howard, Phillip Massad, Phil Hyde

2010

President: Sharon Brady

Past President: Larry McCauley

President Elect: Teri Bourdeau

Secretary: Bruce Hobson

Treasurer: Stewart Beasley

Directors: Steve Scott, Spence Wilson, Susan Howard, Phil Hyde

2011

President: Teri Bourdeau

Past President: Sharon Brady

President Elect: Phil Hyde

Secretary: Bruce Hobson

Treasurer: Steve Scott

2012

President: Phil Hyde

Past President: Teri Bourdeau

President Elect: Stephen Gillaspay

Secretary: Tim Doty

Treasurer: Steve Scott

Directors: Gail Poyner, Gant Ward

2013

President: Stephen Gillaspay

Past President: Phil Hyde

President Elect: Julio Rojas  
Secretary: Tim Doty  
Treasurer: Steve Scott  
Directors: Grant Ward, Gail Poyner, Maria Trapp, Dianne Hyde-Hoehn

2014

President: Julio Rojas  
Past President: Stephen Gillaspy  
President Elect: Gail Poyner  
Secretary: Tim Doty  
Treasurer: Phil Hyde  
Directors: Rick Walton, Maria Trapp, Mary Rolison, Diane Hyde-Hoehn

2015

President: Gail Poyner  
Past President: Julio Rojas  
President Elect: Randy Randleman  
Secretary: Jennifer Sweeton  
Treasurer: Phil Hyde  
Directors: Tim Doty, Richard Walton, Maria Rubino-Watkins, Wade Hamil

2016

President: Randy Randleman  
Past President: Gail Poyner  
President Elect: Jennifer Sweeton  
Secretary: J'Dene Rogers  
Treasurer: Wade Hamil  
Directors: Bobby Martin, Richard Walton, Tim Doty, John Linck

2017

President: Gil Sanders  
Past President: Jon Hart  
President Elect: Lori Holmquist-Day  
Secretary: J'Dene Rogers  
Treasurer: Wade Hamil  
Directors: Leslie Riley, Cody Commander, John Linck, Rachel Funk-Lawler

2018

President: Lori Holmquist-Day  
Past President: Gil Sanders  
President Elect: Jon Hart  
Secretary: J'Dene Rogers  
Treasurer: Bobby Martin  
Directors: Cody Commander, Rachel Funk-Lawler, Peter Rausch, Leslie Riley

2019

President: Jon Hart  
Past President: Lori Holmquist-Day  
President Elect: J'Dene Rogers  
Secretary: Kayla Balcom  
Treasurer: Bobby Martin  
Directors: Peter Rausch, Eileen Parker, Ilse Carrizales, Caitlin Stephens,  
Leslie Riley, Rachel Funk-Lawler

2020

President: J'Dene Rogers  
Past President: Jon Hart  
President Elect: Jennifer Morris-Steber  
Secretary: Bobby Martin  
Treasurer: Gil Sanders  
Directors: Peter Rausch, Ilse Carrizales, Rachel Funk-Lawler, Caitlin Stephens,  
Ginny Burke

2021

President:  
Past President:  
President Elect:  
Secretary:  
Treasurer:  
Directors:

DIVISION PRESIDENTS  
1997-2021

<u>Academic and Research</u>		<u>Health Service Provider</u>	
1997	Reubin Wigdor	1997	Jere Fritz
1998	Reubin Wigdor	1998	Paul Tobin
1999	Roberta Olson	1999	Steve Abernathy
2000	Jill Scott	2000	No Record
2001	Gene Walker	2001	Keith Green
2002	Frank Collins	2002	Maria Trapp
2003	No Record	2003	No Record
2004	Gilbert Sanders	2004	Ed Beckham
2005	No Record	2005	Paul Tobin
2006	Carol Terry	2006	Renee Orcutt

2007	Thad Leffingwell	2007	John Stewart
2008	Thad Leffingwell	2008	David Dodd
2009	Stephen Gillaspy	2009	Marsha Moore
2010	Stephen Gillaspy	2010	Marsha Moore
2011	No Record	2011	No Record
2012	No Record	2012	No Record
2013	Sunnye Mayes	2013	Randy Randleman
2014	Sunnye Mayes	2014	Bobby Martin
2015	Joanna Shadlow	2015	Bobby Martin
2016	David Kerby	2016	Lori Holmquist-Day
2017	David Kerby	2017	Jennifer Morris
2018	David Kerby	2018	Jennifer Morris
2019	David Kerby	2019	Jennifer Morris
2020	Eileen Parker	2020	Kara Rodgers
2021		2021	

THE DIVISION OF PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY, CREATED IN 2003, IS NOT LISTED DUE TO LACK OF ASSOCIATION RECORDS. THE DIVERSITY DIVISION, CREATED IN 2016, PRESIDENTS ARE GLENNA STUMBLINGBEAR RIDDLE, 2016-17, AND SHANNNON BEACH, 2018-20.

#### NEWSLETTER EDITORS 1997-2021

1997-00	Jill Scott	2015-16	Keith Green
2001-03	Donna Greenberg	2017	Central Office Staff
2003-04	Kathie Ward	2018	Central Office Staff
2004-05	Alice Wellington	2019	Central Office Staff
2006-07	Patricia Brandon	2020	Central Office Staff
2008-09	Maria Rubino-Watkins	2021-	
2009-11	No Records		
2012-13	Maria Rubino-Watkins		

#### MEMBERS OF THE LICENSING BOARD 1997-2021

1997-2000	David Johnson	2009-2012	Miramar Cohn
1999-2003	Stephen Close	2011-2015	Teri Bourdeau
1999-2003	Sharon Brady	2011-2015	Steward Beasley
2001-2005	Phillip Hyde	2014-2016	Susan Howard
2000-2004	Carrol Weaver	2014-2016	Shawn Robeson

2000-2008	Cheryl Kilpatrick	2015-2019	Kathleen Ward
2003-2011	Tom Brian	2016-2020	Randy Randleman
2003-2011	Gale Hobson	2017-2021	Michael Basso
2004-2008	Paul Tobin	2018-2020	Curtis Grundy
2005-2009	Scott Miller	2019-2021	Kurt Choat
2008-2016	Ray Hand	2020-	
2009-2017	Pamela Fischer	2021-	

## AWARD RECIPIENTS

1997-2015

1965

(Note: 1965 previously and inadvertently omitted in 1996 edition)

Distinguished Service Citation- Marcus Barker, M.D.

Distinguished Service Citation- James Behrman, M.D.

Distinguished Service Citation- Frank Moore, Ph.D.

1997

Distinguished Psychologist Citation- Kay Goebel, Ph.D.

Distinguished Contribution to Psychology Citation- Douglas Brady, Ph.D.

Distinguished Administrative Service Citation- Candice McCaffrey, Ph.D.

Distinguished Citizen Citation- Pam Newby

Distinguished Service Citation- Rick Irwin, M.D.

Special Legislative Award- Sen. James Maddox

1998

Distinguished Psychologist Citation- Roberta Olson, Ph.D.

Distinguished Contribution to Psychology Citation- Ray Hand, Ph.D.

Distinguished Administrative Service Citation- Richard Carothers, Ph.D.

Distinguished Citizen Citation- Angela Buckelew

Distinguished Contribution to the Public Interest- Barbara Bonner, Ph.D.

Distinguished Service Citation- Jerry Vannatta, M.D.

Special Legislative Award- Rep. Joe Eddins

1999

Distinguished Psychologist Citation- Cal Stoltenberg, Ph.D.

Distinguished Contribution to Psychology Citation- Bruce Cook, Ph.D.

Distinguished Public Service Citation- John Chaney, Ph.D.

Special Legislative Award- Rep. Tom Coburn, M.D.

2000

Distinguished Psychologist Citation- Frank Collins, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Contribution to Psychology Citation- Terry Pace, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Administrative Service Citation- JoAnne Goin, LSW.  
Distinguished Public Service Citation- Rep. Susan Winchester  
Distinguished Public Information Citation- Teresa Green  
Distinguished Contribution to the Public Interest- Arlis G. Wood, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Service Citation- Jack Block  
Special Legislative Award- Sen. Rick Littlefield  
Special Historian Award- C. Eugene Walker, Ph.D.

2001

Distinguished Psychologist Citation- Thomas Vaughn, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Contribution to Psychology Citation- Robert Schlottmann, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Administrative Service Citation- Ben Brown  
Distinguished Public Service Citation- Quin Tran  
Distinguished Citizen Citation- Malcom Wall  
Oscar A. Parsons Lecturer Award- Laura J. Tivis, Ph.D.  
Special Legislative Award- Rep. Deborah Blackburn  
Distinguished Contribution to the Public Interest- Paul A. Heath, Ed.D.

2002

Distinguished Psychologist Citation- Larry L. Mullins, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Contribution to Psychology Citation- Patrick J. Mason, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Public Service Citation- Hon. Nancy Coats  
Oscar A. Parsons Lecturer Award- Elana Newman, Ph.D.  
Special Legislative Award- Rep. John Sullivan  
Distinguished Contribution to the Public Interest- Robin Gurwitch. Ph.D,

2003

Distinguished Psychologist Citation- Charles M. Whipple, Ph.D., Ed.D.  
Distinguished Contribution to Psychology Citation- Janet M. Spradlin, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Administrative Service Citation- Terry L. Cline, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Public Information Citation- Mick Hinton  
Distinguished Citizen Citation- Anna McBride  
Oscar A. Parsons Lecturer Award- Thad Leffingwell. Ph.D  
Special Legislative Award- Rep. Jari Askins

2004

Distinguished Psychologist Citation- Paul G. Tobin. Ph.D.  
Distinguished Contribution to Psychology Citation- Phil Hyde, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Administrative Service Citation- Katrina Bright, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Public Information Citation- The Tulsa World



Oscar A. Parsons Lecturer Award- Sharon M. Mullins, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Contribution to the Public Interest- Marsha S. Moore, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Service Citation- Oncology Group OUHSC  
Distinguished Early Career Award- Rhonda Johnson, Ph.D.  
Special Legislative Award- Rep. Ron Peters

2005

Distinguished Psychologist Citation- Arlene B. Schaefer, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Administrative Service Citation- Thomas Evans, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Public Service Citation- Kelly Basey, J.D., Eugenia Baumann, J.D.  
Distinguished Contribution to the Public Interest- Patricia Brandon, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Service Citation- Anne Baker, LCSW  
Distinguished Early Career Award- Dennis R. Combs, Ph.D.  
Special Legislative Award- Sen. Cal Hobson  
Distinguished Public Information Citation- Eric Dlugokinski, Ph.D.  
Oscar A. Parsons Lecturer Award- Lisa Frey, Ph.D.

2006

Distinguished Psychologist Citation- Stewart R. Beasley, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Contribution to Psychology Citation- Cheryl Kilpatrick, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Administrative Service Citation- Debbie Spaeth, LPC  
Distinguished Contribution to the Public Interest- Edith G. King, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Service Citation- Jim Cox, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Early Career Award- Stephen Scott, Ph.D.  
Special Legislative Award- Sen. Charles Laster  
Oscar A. Parsons Lecturer Award- Jennifer Callahan, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Public Information Citation- Guiding Light Inc.

2007

Distinguished Psychologist Citation- Bruce Hodson, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Contribution to Psychology Citation- Frank Collins, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Administrative Service Citation- Robert J. Powitzky, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Public Service Citation- Howard H. Hendrick,  
Distinguished Contribution to the Public Interest- Pam Fischer, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Early Career Award- Janie Rhudy, Ph.D.  
Special Legislative Award- Sen. Mike Morgan  
Distinguished Public Information Citation- Dick Pryor  
Distinguished Citizen Citation- Gerald Gurney, Ph.D.  
Oscar A. Parsons Lecturer Award- Stephen Gillaspay, Ph.D.

2008

Distinguished Psychologist Citation- Larry McCauley, Ed.D.  
Distinguished Contribution to Psychology Citation- Tom J. Brian, Ph.D.

Distinguished Administrative Service Citation- Sue Fleming  
Distinguished Contribution to the Public Interest- John Tassey, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Early Career Award- Terri Bourdeau, Ph.D.  
Special Legislative Award- Rep. John Sullivan  
Oscar A. Parsons Lecturer Award- LaRicka Wingate, Ph.D.

2009

Distinguished Psychologist Citation- Terry Cline, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Administrative Service Citation- Leah Taylor, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Contribution to the Public Interest- Laura Pitman, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Service Citation- Tulsa Police Department  
Distinguished Early Career Award- Julio Rojas, Ph.D.  
Special Legislative Award- Gov. Henry Bellmon  
Distinguished Public Information Citation- Wes Lane J.D., Kim Henry  
Oscar A. Parsons Lecturer Award- Melanie Nelson, Ph.D.

2010

Distinguished Public Service Citation- Kim Holland  
Distinguished Contribution to the Public Interest- Alan Doerman, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Service Citation- Marcia Ledbetter, M.D.  
Distinguished Early Career Award- Joy Kelley, Ph.D.  
Special Legislative Award- Rep. Joseph E. Dorman

2011

Distinguished Psychologist Citation- Thad Leffingwell, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Contribution to the Public Interest- Gail Poyner, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Service Citation- David Dodd, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Service Citation- Kathy LaFortune, Ph.D.  
Special Legislative Award- Rep. George Faught

2014

Distinguished Psychologist Citation- Jan Culbertson Ph.D.  
Distinguished Contribution to the Public Interest- Teri Bourdeau, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Contribution to Psychology Citation- Pam Fischer, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Early Career Award- Jennifer Sweeton, Ph.D.  
Sustained Service Award- Wade Hamil, Ph.D.  
Sustained Service Award- Stewart Beasley, Ph.D.

2015

Distinguished Service Citation- Molly Ross, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Contribution to Psychology Citation-Arlene Schaefer  
Distinguished Administrative Service Citation- Lee Thrash, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Early Career Award- Glenna Stumblingbear-Riddle, Ph.D.

## **The Oklahoma Psychological Association at Age 75** (Interim Title)

As OPA approached its three-quarter-century existence, its overarching goals, energized by multiple calls-to-action via email, phone, and in-person visits with state law makers, were the approval of two regnant and long-over-due bills before the state legislature, which, if authorized, would result in statutory parity with dentists, optometrists, chiropractors, veterinarians, in addition to physicians holding MD/DO credentials. Should this be realized, a crucial step will have been taken to allow the licensed psychologist health care practitioner to take a rightful place as hospital staff participants, thus resolving several of the attendant issues invariably emanating from ratification of the Psychologist Licensing Law of 1965.

President Dr. Jon Hart explains: “The 2019 year was highlighted with legislative consideration of HB2194, Physician Definition bill—later renamed ‘Parity in Practice’. The bill was written and introduced by former OPA president and OSBEP member Dr. Randy Randleman, who was elected to the House of Representative for OK District 15 in 2018. There were two primary reasons for this somewhat controversial piece of legislation that mandated inclusion of psychologists in the state definition of ‘Physician’. The bill, if passed, rectified statutory disparity uniquely directed towards psychologists. The second reason was to lay the groundwork for psychologists to push for full voting membership on hospital system medical staffs where they are increasingly employed as providers.

“Meetings were held with the Oklahoma State Medical Association on more than one occasion to try to address this collaboratively. Unfortunately, although respectful, the meetings were not fruitful and we ultimately had to agree to disagree with

our physician peers. Despite this opposition, the bill successfully passed the House. The Senate was to vote on this in the 2020 session. Also, later in the 2019 session, legislation enacting HB1057 PsyPact was passed without opposition, and rulemaking with OSBEP began on the initiative. On the national level, OPA leadership was able to persuade Rep. Kevin Hern (Ok 1<sup>st</sup> District) to sign on as a co-author for APA's HR884 Medicare Mental Health Access Act.”

THE ABOVE IS THE FIRST OF THREE PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES (2019-20-21) FOR THIS SECTION. OTHER ENTRIES WILL INCLUDE THOSE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BOARD MEMBERS, AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP, ETC.

## LIST OF ACTIVITIES AS EMPHASIZED BY EACH YEAR'S PRESIDENT

### 1996-1999

The elected leadership of the Executive Committee during this time period included presidents Roberta Olson, Patrick Mason, Charlotte Rosko and Stewart Beasley. The following is a succinct compendium of the more notable accomplishments and actions during this time period as emphasized by each year's president.

- 1) The Board endorsed a statement from the exploratory prescriptive privilege committee that, "Psychologists who are properly trained in prescribing psychotropic medications should, under the law, then be allowed to prescribe such medications." Some sentiment was expressed to introduce legislation immediately.
- 2) A grant of \$75,000 from the president to the Prescribing Psychologists' Registry to introduce legislation for prescription privileges in Oklahoma was received.
- 3) Signed an agreement with the Prescribing Psychologists' Registry to provide didactic instruction for training in psychopharmacology.
- 4) The optometric association's efforts to repeal the medical board's authority to sue other licensing boards over what constitutes the practice of medicine was supported, as well as a recently-passed law granting prescriptive authority to nurses.
- 5) A grant from APA was received to block the effort for licensing of master's level psychologists.
- 6) SB380, which created a new group of mental health practitioners, entitled "Licensed Behavioral Practitioners" was signed by the governor.

- 7) A task force to deal with the issue of hospital privileges was appointed and a survey was submitted to the membership.
- 8) As a result of the 1995 federal building bombing, a \$6000 grant was received from APA for disaster relief training.
- 9) A 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary history of OPA was published.
- 10) Excluding students, Association full membership in the late 1990s averaged around 260. Annual dues had been tripled by 1999, and total membership decreased fifteen percent.
- 11) Oklahoma earned a seat on the APA Council.
- 12) Became a member of the national coalition for health care reform.
- 13) Placed an OPA member on the child death review board.
- 14) Became a member of Division 31 of APA.
- 15) Officially supported the OSU school psychology program to achieve accreditation.
- 16) Was not successful in acquiring hospital privileges.
- 17) Participated in the 'starting right' program on managed health care and substance abuse treatment.
- 18) A campaign to 'put a psychologist in the hospital' was initiated.
- 19) A new policy on members who became inactive or moved out of state was developed.
- 20) The legislative and hospital privileges committees were combined.
- 21) The managed care and insurance committees were combined.
- 22) The peer standards review committee was dissolved.

## 2001-2005

The elected leadership of the Executive Committee during this time period included presidents Paul Tobin, Ed Beckham, Dan Jones, Maria Trapp and Gale Hobson. The following is a succinct compendium of the more notable accomplishments and actions during this period of time as emphasized by each year's president.

- 1) Reviewed the "Psychologist of the Day" program and decided to sustain its participation.
- 2) Initiated an additional legislative presence at the State Capitol by developing a "Brown Bag Luncheon" program which sponsored various guest speakers regarding mental health related topics.
- 3) Placed psychology in the language of Medicare rules to establish psychologists as eligible providers of such services to children.
- 4) Initiated another effort to assess the will of state psychologists regarding prescription privileges through a survey.
- 5) Took the first steps to develop an OPA website.
- 6) Approved the research and writing of a 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary history.
- 7) A business practice network, which focused on the work of psychology in Oklahoma businesses, was undertaken.
- 8) Personnel were appointed for an "Anxiety Screening Day" both in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Its intent was to provide mental health screening for the public, as well as to provide greater visibility for Oklahoma psychologists throughout the state.
- 9) The SPEEC committee coordinated a risk management workshop with the American Association Insurance Trust.
- 10) Held Board meetings in Oklahoma City, Tulsa and elsewhere.

- 11) Created an annual “Healthy Workplace Award” for Oklahoma businesses.
- 12) Established a Division of Prescriptive Authority and received grants totaling over \$15,000 from CAPP.
- 13) Prevented the sun setting of the licensing law.
- 14) The book “Oklahoma Psychology in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century” was published and sent to historical societies, college libraries, Library of Congress, and to the Archives of the History of American Psychology. Copies to individuals were sold for \$55. The Association’s oral history had increased to over a dozen individuals.
- 15) An average of over 120 full members attended annual conferences during this period.
- 16) A state senator addressed issues relative to OPA during an annual conference, a first.
- 17) In order to bring more newly-licensed individuals into the Association, a “Distinguished Early Career Psychologist Award” was approved.
- 18) Names of persons were designated to fill vacancies on State board and agencies such as Medicaid Advisory, Tobacco Use Prevention, Child Death Review, and Catastrophic Health Emergency Powers Act.
- 19) Created a list of psychologists who were adequately trained in prescriptive issues, as well as set up a Road Show on such in several Oklahoma towns.
- 20) Recommended changes to the workers compensation law were successfully approved by the State Legislature.
- 21) A one-hour credit for continuing education was instigated for those who voluntarily attended Board meetings.
- 22) A lawyer was hired as general counsel at a salary of \$150 per month.



- 23) The president of the Florida Psychological Association visited with OPA's executive secretary relative to the Psychologist of the Day program. OPA was designated to handle the issue of credentialing those qualified in disaster responses, as the Board of Examiners was not lawfully created to do so.
- 24) Provided instant fax communication in Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

#### 2006-2010

The elected leadership of the Executive Committee during this time period included presidents Frank Collins, Phil Hyde, Tom Vaughn, Larry McCauley, and Sharon Brady. The ongoing is a succinct compendium of the more notable accomplishments and actions during this period of time as emphasized by each year's president.

- 1) Sought help from the membership so that a slate of candidates was available for each election looking "down the road a few years" toward grooming new psychologists throughout the state to consider becoming part of OPA's administration.
- 2) Sought to revitalize the website via contracting with professionals rather than relying on the good will of members.
- 3) Looked into the possibility of publishing the newsletter on the website "as most organizations seem to be headed in that direction."
- 4) Refined the Association's mission statement and developed a mantra: "Thinking Psychologically, Acting Responsibly."
- 5) Established the role of a Director of Professional Affairs funded by a grant from APA with the intent of strengthening and enlarging membership.

- 6) Developed a “lunch with the leaders” resulting in OPA leadership sharing meals with several state politicians throughout the period.
- 7) Conducted a survey of membership satisfaction that revealed, among other issues, satisfaction with OPA leadership but dissatisfaction with increased efforts to achieve prescription authority.
- 8) Discussed concerns of some members who worked with Medicaid clients concerning audits by the OHCA of 18 out of 207 psychologists whose billing was outside of typical parameters.
- 9) Held a males only gathering for the purpose of increasing membership of newly-degreed individuals.
- 10) Developed a women’s psychologists group for the purpose of increasing membership of newly-degreed individuals.
- 11) Published a membership recruitments brochure “What Has OPA Done for Me Lately.”
- 12) Worked with the licensing board to develop 55 questions regarding accreditation guidelines to be sent to the APA accreditation committee.
- 13) Worked with OSBEP to create a four-year term of office rather than a seven-year term.
- 14) Met with legislators in a collaborative effort to extend services under Medicaid to adults.
- 15) Investigated the possibility of eliminating the annual convention in lieu of two or three freestanding continuing education programs.
- 16) Granted an award to a governor, the Honorable Henry Bellmon---a first.
- 17) The fee for continuing education approval was set at \$100 for non-members.

- 18) Hits to the continuing education webpage received nearly 200 per day, an all-time high.
- 19) It was decided that the Association would abandon its formal newsletter in lieu of news and updates posted to the website.
- 20) Retired members were required to pay membership dues for the first time.
- 21) Declining income over several previous years was seen as evidence that an increase in dues was required.
- 22) Management fees paid to the Executive Director were significantly reduced.

#### 2011-2015

The elected leadership of the Executive Committee during this time period included presidents Teri Bourdeau, Phil Hyde, Stephen Gillaspy, Julio Rojas and Gail Poyner. The ongoing is a succinct compendium of the more notable accomplishments and actions during this period of time as emphasized by each year's president.

- 1) A significant turning point for OPA was the resignation of Richard Hess in May, 2012. Thus, after a quarter of a century, his tenure ended and a search for a new administrator of the Association began.
- 2) Subsequent to the vetting of several candidates, the full Board contracted with Vickie White-Rankin, a former state legislator, to serve as executive director for a period of two years.
- 3) A sampling of Board activities during her tenure included a continuing consideration of establishment of a monthly or quarterly newsletter "online."
- 4) Established a concrete manner of conducting performance reviews of the secretary as well as Board members and division/committee participants.

- 5) Moved the Association archives from the Central Office to the then president's residence.
- 6) Evolved a "succession plan" for ensuing executives noting that, according to the APA, the average executive remains five years, and that definitely after 10 years it is advisable to maintain such a plan considering that a transition can last upward to three years.
- 7) Established a formal "mentoring" program for students and new professionals.
- 8) Contracted with Constant Contact permitting more immediate member contact, as well as contact with 450 or so licensed psychologists not members of the Association.
- 9) Vickie White-Rankin submitted her resignation with a termination day being 31 December 2014.
- 10) Association membership remained static in 2015; excluding students, numbering 141 full members with four emeritus participants.
- 11) Danna Fowble assumed the position of OPA executive secretary, January 2015.
- 12) An Early Career Psychologist Committee and the awarding of a subsequent annual citation were approved.
- 13) Membership approved revised Bylaws—the first in several years.
- 14) An updated version of the website with several new features was approved. These included online dues payment, online registration for workshops and annual conventions, as well as a searchable membership database—to name a few.
- 15) Received an organizational grant for \$10,000 in support of the Central Office.

- 16) Under the leadership of the Legislative and Prescriptive committees, began again the process to become designated as physicians.
- 17) Joined in an OPA outreach event to provide services to the Oklahoma food bank.
- 18) Created a “Diversity” Division.
- 19) Two continuing major legislative concerns throughout this period were possible cuts to behavioral health services and the threat of privatization of Medicaid.
- 20) Moved Association archives to a more permanent and secure location at the University of Central Oklahoma.
- 21) Approved the publication of a 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary history.

#### 2016-2021

The elected leadership of the Executive Committee during this period of time included presidents Jennifer Sweeton, Gil Sanders, Lori Holmquist-Day, Jon Hart, J’Dene Rogers, and Jennifer Morris-Steber. The ongoing is a succinct compendium of the more notable accomplishments and actions during this time period as emphasized by each year’s president.

- 1) Began anew the process of working toward RxP rights, as well as toward the goal of being designated as physicians. Board members, in concert with the executive secretary and lobbyist, began building relationships with key members in the Legislature.
- 2) The Political Action Committee was resurrected, and supported an independent expenditure for a candidate in southeast Oklahoma.
- 3) Assisted the OSBEP Board in its effort to clean up statutory language on the Licensing Act. Permitting four psychological technicians instead of two, and psychologist and technician offices may be different.

- 4) Drafted a needs assessment survey for members and nonmembers alike, which led to a review of the dues structure, and auto bank draft options for dues payment.
- 5) Endorsed the Trust in efforts to bring enhanced Ethics CE's to the membership.
- 6) Worked with an attorney to review the Bylaws as well as the Policies and Procedures Manual.
- 7) Continuing a multiyear trend, it was announced that OPA represented less than 30% of psychologists practicing in the state.
- 8) Due to the above, new efforts in recruitment were instigated.
- 9) Enhanced membership benefits through webinars, conferences, newsletter and listserv.
- 10) Allowed full member dues to be paid semi-annually.
- 11) Rolled out new wording as to how to support the Association's new limited PAC.
- 12) Voted in 13 new members and 18 students, the most at one time in several years.
- 13) Voted to increase 2018/19 dues by 13%: full members \$339, 1<sup>st</sup> year post doc \$170.
- 14) Due to 2018 Oklahoma election year politics, it was decided not to push for RxP rights.
- 15) Jennifer Sweeton resigned as OPA president and moved out of state. Randy Randleman assumed the office in her place.
- 16) Randy Randleman took a position on the OSBEP requiring that Gil Sanders move up to the OPA presidency.
- 17) An OPA State Task Force Committee was formed for the purpose of operationally defining the rules and procedures for each state board seat OPA is responsible for nominating or deciding locally and/or nationally.

- 18) Secured authors for two legislative bills (PsyPact and Physician Definition) that will “take our practice to a whole new legal status if passed in 2019.”
- 19) Improved upon the duties of Psychologist of the Day by including hand-outs that included current legislative issues OPA is tracking as a means to educate legislators on the difference between mental health providers with a doctoral versus master’s degree.
- 20) The annual conference (2018) was held in Tulsa, the first time in five years. For the first time in many years, the OSBEP board meeting was held in conjunction with this event.
- 21) Worked diligently to increase visibility, utility, education and training to our legislators, state chamber, and state agencies.
- 22) Updated the listserv including adding an ECP listserv and monthly membership reports to the Board and division chairs to more accurately provide information to market mental health services OPA provides to the consumer.
- 23) The HB2194 (Parity in Practice) bill was approved by the House of Representatives. Senate is to vote on the bill in 2020.
- 24) The HB1057 (PsyPact) bill was approved by the full legislature.
- 25) Representative Kevin Hern (Ok 1<sup>st</sup> District) agreed to sign on as a co-author for APA’s HB884 Medical Mental Health Access Act.
- 26) Approved the creation of an ECP committee mentor program.
- 27) Increased the number of ECP members to serve as board members and division chairs.
- 28)

29)



## Before There Was OPA

There are no records that indicate any attempt was made to establish a systematic communication link between the less than a half-dozen colleges that taught primarily introductory psychology courses during the early years of the 1900s, including the University of Oklahoma, (OU), Oklahoma Agricultural & Mechanical College, (OSU) and Tulsa University (TU). During this time, nothing but sporadic, informal meetings were held by individual faculty members at annual conferences of other state associations, such as the Oklahoma Education Association and the Oklahoma Academy of sciences. One conspicuous reason for this organizational tardiness was a lack of numbers.

Psychology in Oklahoma was consensually validated to have commenced in the year 1900 when the OU College of Liberal Arts funded a department under the chairmanship of Lawrence W. Cole, Oklahoma first recognized psychologist. When Cole left in 1908, the department was transferred to the College of Education. The recipient of the earliest recorded psychology doctorate, W.W. Phelan, from George Washington University in 1905, was Cole's replacement. Phelan subsequently taught at OSU before that department was founded in 1938.

During the first four decades of the Twentieth Century, psychology and teacher education became intertwined so as to become a virtual Gordian knot. Nationally, only a handful of frontier colleges were large enough to teach "strait" psychology. With the exception of perhaps one or two general courses, to justify existence at all, psychology was forced to serve in a public school teacher-training role. This was very much the case in the state of Oklahoma. Consequently, psychology was typically taught by professors of education, who, by and large, did not

identify with organized psychology. The American Psychological Association consistently listed only one or two individuals from Oklahoma as members. It is noteworthy that the last major university in America to move from administrative control of a College of Education to a Liberal Arts College was Oklahoma State University in 1982. Most regional and private colleges in the state have yet to make that same move.

In the year 1930, APA membership from the state of Oklahoma had increased to five: L.B. Hoisington, Martin White, Leona White, and M.O. Wilson from OU; and L.S. McLeod from TU. By 1940, state membership had increased to eleven. These include the above, plus Charles Bumstead and John Gittinger from OU; R.H. Beall and L.W. Rowland from TU; Melvin Rigg, E.L. Stromberg from A&M, and J.D. Remple of the El Reno Reformatory.

Before the end of the Second World War, TU which lists its department's inception as 1926, OSU which began development of its program in 1938 and became a free standing department in 1946, as well as OU, never employed more than two or three full-time instructors at any one time. Private and regional programs seldom required more than one faculty member. Psychology was a relatively unknown major to begin with, and as one OU student of the time, John Gittinger, explained it, "Being in the Bible belt, we were looked upon with considerable suspicion by the general student body and faculty."

Thanks to the large number of military psychologists stationed in the state by late 1945, APA membership increased to nineteen fully trained psychologists who could be depended upon to form a viable state-wide organization. From the efforts of this handful of pioneers the OSPA (OPA) was formed with twenty-two charter members, nineteen men and three women.

The generation of senior psychologists who founded OSPA was no longer active in Oklahoma psychology by the year 1960. This was the case with nine out of the first dozen Association presidents. Louis B. Hoisington retired in 1954, Solomon Reed in 1955, and Laurence McLeod in 1956. Clifton Allen died in 1957. M.O. Wilson and Howard Taylor retired in 1958 as did Austin Cleveland in early 1960. John Rohrer left the state in 1950 and Joseph Latimer in 1956. Several more Association leaders became inactive before 1960: G. Raymond Stone, John Gittinger, Melvin Rigg, Solis Kates, Newell Berry, Richard Cannicott, Leonard Ostlund, D.H. Dietrich, Harold Coppock, B.L. Gotham John Drevdahl, Harl Young, R.H. Beall, Earl Markwell, E.H. Nelson, Allen Ruggles, Melvin Denny, Leo Cain, and others.

As noted throughout this history, few early members were employed outside of the college classroom. The majority who did stay to make Oklahoma their professional home were clinical/counseling psychologists, the majority of those being women. Most members and leaders between the 1960s and the Association's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary were no longer recruited from higher education institutions. Slowly but inexorably, the Association changed; its primary concern no longer the ivy covered halls of academia, being supplanted by the needs of the health service practitioner, and the therapeutic environment provided by the consulting room.

The End