

Rocky Mountain Psychological Association Newsletter Fall 2009

President's Message

Eric Amsel

Weber State University

When the Rocky Mountain Psychology Association conference meeting convenes on April 15, 2010 in Denver, it will be celebrating the 80th Anniversary of its founding. The founding marked an important moment in the growth of psychology in the Intermountain West. In an account of beginnings and development, Spilka, (1988)¹ noted that RMPA provided a local forum for faculty to meet, share research, and generally promote the discipline. At the time, psychologists in the area were active but physically isolated and a local meeting was appreciated by all. Spilka (1988) also notes that even at its founding, RMPA recognized its importance not only for scientific exchange but also for the professional socialization of students and has created a "warm and informal professional climate" (p. 97) to promote both goals.



Scientific Exchange

The 2010 Denver conference will be no exception to the long history of promoting scientific exchange and professional socialization in a warm and informal professional climate. A stellar lineup of scholars is already in place which will provide an intellectually stimulating conference, with thanks to RMPA, APA, APS, Psi Chi, and Worth Publishers. Invited presentations will be given by:

Albert Bandura (David Starr Jordan Professor of Social Science in Psychology, Stanford University), well known for articulating and extending the principles Social Learning Theory.

Jacquelynne Eccles (Willburt McKeachie Collegiate Professor of Psychology, Education, and Women's Studies, University of Michigan), well known for her work on adolescent social development.

Ludy T. Benjamin, Jr., (Professor of Psychology and Educational Psychology; Presidential Professor of Teaching Excellence) well known for his work in the history of psychology.

Varda Shoham (Professor and Director, Clinical Psychology Graduate Program, Department of Psychology, University of Arizona), well known for her work on how therapeutic treatments work.

Marie Banich (Professor and Director of the Institute of Cognitive Science, Department of Psychology, University of Colorado at Boulder), well known for the study of the nature, biology, development, and dysfunction of executive processes.

Invited symposia will further explore many of the themes articulated by the invited speakers. One invited symposium will explore the role of history of psychology in the undergraduate curriculum (organized by Eric Amsel and Doug Woody). Another invited symposium will explore the accomplishments of the Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) on Training (organized by Alice F. Healy and Lyle Bourne). In addition to these scholars and symposia, RMPA will be hosting the annual Portenier-Wertheimer Teaching Conference, scheduled for Thursday April 15th. The teaching conference includes a series of symposia on relevant topics, from academic integrity to engaged learning, and includes the *Teaching Take Out* where faculty can learn teaching demonstrations from each other. Speakers invited to present at the teaching conference include:

Wayne Weiten (University of Nevada: Las Vegas), well known for his introductory psychology textbook, *Psychology: Themes and Variation*, now in its 8th edition.

Sandra Hockenbury (Tulsa Community College) well known for her introductory psychology textbook, coauthored with Don Hockenbury, *Psychology*, now in its 5th edition.

But the heart and soul of the RMPA conference is the submitted program. RMPA encourages submissions from faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students. We also support all forms of presentations from individual poster presentations to full symposia. Please consider RMPA this year for your professional outlet.

Professional Socialization

The professional socialization of students is also central goal in our planning for the Denver conference. Running parallel to the teaching conference are hands-on student workshops for writing personal statements and CVs and interviewing for jobs or grad school. Students are encouraged

¹ Spulia, B. (1988). Camaraderie across distance and diversity: A history of the Rocky Mountain Psychological Association. *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*, 24, 92-97.

to sign up early for these activities as they have limited spaces available. Students will also have a chance to meet invited speakers in a conversation hour and luncheon hosted by Psi Chi. RMPA and Psi Chi also offer prestigious student presentation awards which are always a source of pride as we identify emerging talent in the field. We encourage students to submit their research work to RMPA and engage in truly authentic activities of professional psychologists. I promise you an exhilarating personal and professional experience.

RMPA and the Future

My years on the RMPA executive committee, as conference manager, president-elect, and now president, have convinced me that RMPA is a very well run organization. Through the exceptional talents of the executive committee members, we remain a well governed, professionally relevant, and financially solvent organization. To insure that we remain so, RMPA has begun a process this fall to look at our organization and its long term goals and plans. We have reaffirmed our mission statement, which is to advance *“psychology as a science, as a profession and as a means of promoting human welfare in the states of Colorado, Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming... RMPA remains an advocate throughout all phases of professional development by the dissemination of scientific and professional ideas.”* But we are looking to become better governed, increasingly relevant, and more solvent. Over the next year, we will be holding informal discussions with various constituencies of RMPA to solicit feedback about the association. Please forward any thoughts you may have on RMPA and its future to me (eamssel@weber.edu) whether you are from the ranks of RMPA novices or those with long-time ties to the association.

I look forward to seeing you in Denver in April.

RMPA 2010 CONVENTION INFORMATION

APRIL 15-17, 2010

Sheraton Denver Tech Center Hotel

7007 South Clinton Street

Greenwood Village, CO 80112

303-799-6200

Convention Manager

Aaron Richmond
Department of Psychology
Metropolitan State College of Denver
Campus Box 54
PO Box 173362
Denver, CO 80217-3362
arichmo3@mscd.edu
303-556-3085



Lodging

Sheraton Denver Tech Center Hotel. Reservations should be made by calling the Sheraton Hotels reservation number at 1-800-325-3535 by March 14, 2010. Please specify that you are attending the RMPA annual meeting in order to get the special rate. Single/double rooms are \$99 (king or two double beds).



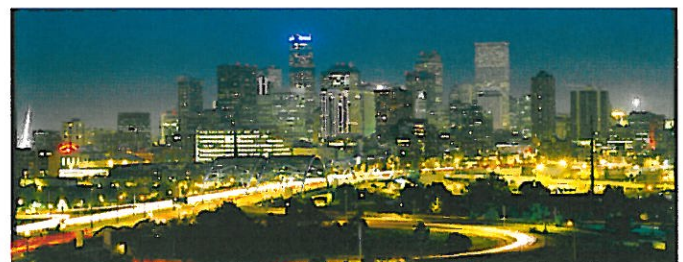
Transportation

There is no hotel shuttle from Denver International Airport to the Sheraton Denver Tech. Super Shuttle (currently \$19 one way; \$38 round trip) is recommended; there is a desk at DIA. Telephone 303-370-1300.

If you are driving from DIA, take Interstate 70 West to Interstate 25 South and exit onto Arapahoe Road (Exit 197). Turn left onto Arapahoe Road and continue past 2 lights. Turn right onto South Clinton Street. Take I-25 South and exit onto Arapahoe Road (Exit 197). Turn left onto Arapahoe Road and continue past 2 lights. Turn right onto South Clinton Street. Take I-25 North and exit onto Arapahoe Road (Exit 197). Turn right onto Arapahoe Road. Travel approximately 100 feet and turn right on South Clinton Street. Take I-70 East to I-25 South. Exit onto Arapahoe Road (Exit 197) and turn left onto Arapahoe Road. Continue past 2 lights and turn right onto South Clinton Street.

DENVER at a glance:

The Sheraton Denver Tech Center, site of the 2010 RMPA annual meeting, is located just off I-25 south of downtown, the professional sports stadiums and the Pepsi Center. The recently renovated hotel has 263 guest rooms that feature great views of downtown, Pikes Peak, and the Rocky Mountains. In-room amenities include high speed internet connection, a work desk, ironing boards and irons, and complementary coffee and coffee maker. If you choose to upgrade to the Club



Level, you will be on the top floor and receive a full breakfast and evening hors d'oeuvres with complementary drinks. Other hotel features include a fitness center with Jacuzzi and outdoor heated pool. Browsers Restaurant (full service), Browsers Library, and Browsers Martini Lounge offer food, drink, and a place to relax.

The Sheraton offers complimentary van service within a 5-mile radius, providing numerous entertainment, shopping, and dining venues from which to choose. These would include the Country Dinner Playhouse (walking distance) and Park Meadows Mall, with Nordstroms, Dillards, Foleys, Lord & Taylor, and several restaurants and specialty shops. Close by are golf courses, bowling lanes, and movie theaters. Restaurant options vary from Applebee's and Bennigan's to Cheesecake Factory, India's Clay Oven, Landry's Seafood House, Macaroni Grill, Maggiano's Little Italy, Morton's of Chicago, Outback, P.F. Chang's, Sahara (Moroccan & Lebanese), and the Trail Dust Steakhouse (also walking distance).

Denver itself is loaded with attractions. For a comprehensive, up-to-the-minute website with information about major current events and destinations in the region, visit one or more of the following:

www.denver.com/

www.denver.citysearch.com/

www.denver.org/

The Denver Museum of Nature & Science (www.dmns.org), Denver Art Museum (www.denverartmuseum.org), Denver Zoo (www.denverzoo.org), Denver Botanic Gardens (www.botanicgardens.org), and the Molly Brown House (www.mollybrown.org) are all outstanding. Check the Denver Museum of Nature and Science's website closer to the convention date for IMAX Theater shows. The Denver Center Theatre Company (www.denvercenter.org) will be showing three plays in repertory during April, 2010: *Othello*, *Mama Hated Diesels*, and *Mariela in the Desert*.

Denver has much more to offer in addition to museums and cultural events. There are numerous beautiful city parks, including Red Rocks Park, Confluence Park at the confluence of the Platte River and Cherry Creek, City Park right next to the zoo, and Dinosaur Ridge (with dinosaur tracks visible from the road). The more ambitious among us might want to take a look at www.trails.com, where you can find lists of such things as the best hiking in Colorado, the best fly-fishing, and the best scenic drives. Bergen Peak is a beautiful hike, and will take you up to 9708 feet. For the more sedate, the Brown Palace Hotel in downtown Denver has been open continuously since 1892; the eight-story atrium lobby is magnificent and tours and wonderful dining are available. The 16th Street Mall and Larimer Square are close by as well. Denver's ethnic neighborhoods have some great restaurants, and the metro area has some truly excellent cuisine - look for suggestions in your registration packet next April. Sports and entertainment venues include Coors Field (the Rockies may be in town!) and the Pepsi Center.

If Park Meadows Mall isn't enough shopping for you, there are also Cherry Creek Mall in southeast Denver and Flatirons Mall on Route 36 to Boulder. The Tattered Cover Bookstore, a notable feature of Cherry Creek for many years and one of the nation's top independent bookstores, has now moved to the historic Lowenstein Theatre on Colfax Avenue.

Also nearby are numerous interesting destinations including the Butterfly Pavilion (www.butterflies.org) on Highway 36 to Boulder, Boulder itself, Golden (with the Coors Brewery, the Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave on Lookout Mountain, and the Colorado Railroad Museum), the Castle Rock Factory Outlets Stores just south of the Tech Center, and, of course, the mountains. The entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park is only about an hour and a half north of Denver off of I-25. There may still be ski areas open for spring skiing in April; I-70 West is a quick access. The Air Force Academy, Pikes Peak (with its cog railway), Garden of the Gods, Manitou Springs, and Cove of the Winds are just a few of the attractions in the Colorado Springs area, just an hour to an hour and a half south on I-25.

As the "Mile High City", Denver is on the high plains right at the gateway to the spectacular Rocky Mountains. When planning for your trip to the convention, remember that while days may be quite warm, temperatures always cool down in the evening, and weather changes can and do occur frequently.

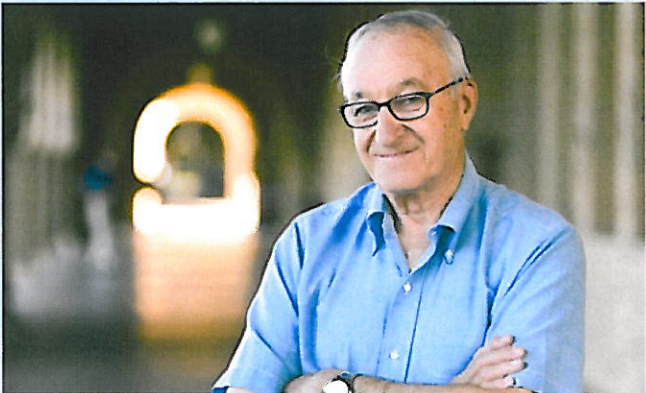
Please see the RMPA 2010 Convention Information section in this newsletter for hotel reservation details.

See you in Denver!



RMPA Convention at a glance:

RMPA
Psi Chi Distinguished Lecture



Albert Bandura
Stanford University

APA
G. Stanley Hall Lecturer

Jacquelynn Eccles
University of Michigan

**Race/Ethnicity as a Context for
Adolescent Development**

Race/Ethnic group educational disparities continue to exist in the USA. In this talk, Dr. Eccles will discuss the ways in which being a member of a particular ethnic group might influence educational achievement. She will stress the undermining influence of experiences of racial/ethnic discrimination in school on students' school engagement. She will present findings from the Maryland Adolescent Development in Contexts Study (MADICS) showing that a strong African American social identity can buffer the negative effects of racial discrimination on African American youth's school achievement and mental health.

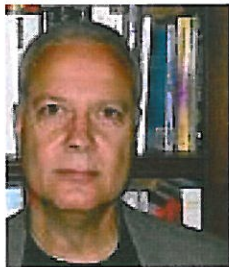


**Portenier/Wertheimer Teaching Conference
Keynote Address**

Wayne Weiten
University of Nevada Las Vegas

**Textbooks in Transition: Controversies
and Practical Realities**

Textbooks continue to play a central role in most undergraduate psychology courses. The textbook enterprise brings together people from two very different worlds: the world of academia and the world of business. In this talk, I will provide an inside view of how textbooks dual identity influences these crucial teaching materials. Among other things, we will discuss why new editions come out so frequently, why texts are so lengthy, whether there is any validity to the criticism that they are all clones of each other, whether the extensive pedagogical aids in texts really facilitate learning, the importance of readability, the educational value of burgeoning ancillary materials, the reviewing process, and the specter of political correctness. I will also present objective, historical data on the controversy regarding escalating textbook prices and discuss what professors can do to reduce text costs for their students.



APS
William James Lecturer

Varda Shoham
University of Arizona

**The Bumpy Road Toward a Scientifically
Principled Clinical Psychology**

Despite overwhelming evidence that specific psychosocial treatments work, many practicing psychologists neither use these effective interventions nor value the scientific evidence that validates them. In a recent *Psychological Science in the Public Interest* monograph, my colleagues and I traced the dimensions of this widening gap between scientific progress and clinical practice (Baker, McFall & Shoham, 2009). In this talk I will summarize the monograph's central arguments, elaborate on several points we did not fully develop, and will also respond to some of the criticisms we have heard, both from inside and outside scientific psychology. Finally, I will discuss the promise of a new accreditation system (PCSAS) designed to recognize and brand clinical psychology training programs that are truly science-based.



Presidential Distinguished Lecture

Ludy T. Benjamin, Jr.
Texas A&M University.

**Why Are We Keeping Psychological
Science a Secret? Psychology's Public
Image and Why We Should Care about It**

This presentation describes the recent political attacks on the value of psychological science and the accompanying proliferation of bogus therapies masquerading as legitimate psychological treatments, actions that have significantly affected the public's understanding of psychology and psychology's public image. The presentation begins with a historical treatment describing the activities of pioneering American psychologists in educating the public about their new science and its applicability to human problems, and it traces such educational activities to current times. The conclusion speaks to the potential role of psychology in the 21st century and the importance of scientific recognition and the public image of the discipline in enabling psychology to fulfill that role.



Diversity Council Invited Address

Theresa Hernández

University of Colorado at Boulder

Novel Therapeutic Strategies to Improve Outcome following Traumatic Brain Injury

Diversity is created through inclusion and acceptance of individuals with varied backgrounds. One of the primary benefits of a diverse community is the increased likelihood of diversity in thought and inquiry, leading to shifts in the way in which a particular area of study is viewed. Dr. Hernández will describe the ways in which her research over the past 2 decades has created such shifts in the areas of novel therapeutic strategies to improve outcome after traumatic brain injury and interpretation of the brain's innate response to injury.



RMPA Past-President Address

Richard L. Miller

University of Nebraska at Kearney

In the Beginning -There was Undergraduate Research in Psychology



In this talk, Dr. Miller will discuss the early history of undergraduate research in psychology including a description of some notable labs that involved undergraduate students in research. He will discuss how the curriculum developed to include lab experiences for undergraduates at many colleges and universities and the role undergraduate research played in the

development of several noteworthy psychologists. Finally, Dr. Miller will describe the work of several individuals whose record of mentoring undergraduate student research psychology was outstanding.

Worth Publishers Lecture

Sandra Hockenbury

Tulsa Community College

*"Are We Here Yet?
Mindfulness in
Contemporary
Psychology"*



Wertheimer-Portenier Teaching Conference

The Teaching Conference will begin at noon on Thursday, April 15. Our keynote address will be given by Wayne Weiten. Wayne teaches psychology and mentors teaching assistants at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is the author of several textbooks and has received distinguished teaching awards from Division 2 of the American Psychological Association (APA) and from the College of DuPage, where he taught until 1991. He is a past-president of the Society for Teaching Psychology. Several symposia on teaching topics have been organized including: Stereotype Threat in the Classroom, Teaching the History of Psychology, Criminal Justice Issues in Psychology, Teaching Non-traditional Students, and Data collection in online teaching: Turning teaching questions into research. We plan on holding teaching workshops on Storytelling, Balancing Family and Academia, and Best Practices in Engaged Learning. This year, the Academic Integrity session will focus tools that help teachers detect cheating. As a part of the pre-conference, there will be *Teaching Take-Out* of short, interactive demonstrations and exercises in several different areas of psychology.

2010 Ellis-Battig Memory Symposium

Optimizing the Training of Knowledge and Skills: A Review of Accomplishments from the Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) on Training

Brief Summary: The goal of this MURI has been to construct a theoretical and empirical framework that can account for and make accurate predictions about the effectiveness of different training methods over a wide range of tasks. The work that will be described in the symposium falls into two interrelated categories: First, experiments will be reported that identify and empirically test training principles. Second, predictive computational models will be discussed that embody the training principles.

(1) *Overview*

Alice Healy and Lyle Bourne, University of Colorado

(2) *Experiments on development and testing of training principles*

Alice Healy University of Colorado

(3) *Experiments on acquisition and retention of basic components of skill*

Robert Proctor, Purdue University

(4) *Experiments on levels of automation, individual differences, and team performance*

Benjamin Clegg, Colorado State University, and Eric Heggstad, University of North Carolina, Charlotte

(5) *Modeling Training Performance in ACT-R*

Cleotilde Gonzalez, Carnegie Mellon University

(6) *Modeling Training Performance in IMPRINT*

William Raymond and Carolyn Buck-Gengler, University of Colorado

(7) *Conclusions*

Lyle Bourne, University of Colorado

2010 Bell/Loomis Environmental Psychology Symposium



The RMPA Executive Committee voted to name the environmental psychology symposium in honor of two outstanding members of the association, Paul Bell and Ross Loomis of Colorado State University. The RMPA Bell/Loomis Environmental Psychology Symposium for 2010 will

again cover a variety of current topics on psychology and the environment. Recent research on natural and anthropogenic sounds in national parks will be featured, but other work in the environmental area is welcome. Contact Paul Bell if you have new research that would be appropriate, paul.bell@colostate.edu.



Loomis receives RMPA Service Award

The 2009 Rocky Mountain Psychological Association Distinguished Service Award was presented to **Dr. Ross J. Loomis** at the RMPA Annual Meeting in Albuquerque. Dr. Loomis is a “retired” Professor of Psychology at Colorado State University, where he continues to write, consult, and work with students and colleagues. His research program has emphasized visitor studies in informal learning environments, such as museums, aquaria, and national parks. His book, *Museum Visitor Evaluation: New Tool for*



Management, has been through multiple printings because of its high demand among museum professionals, and his forthcoming *Taking the Measure: Visitor Studies and Evaluation in Museums* is expected to be another standard reference for the same group. He was also co-author on a major Environmental Psychology text, and currently is Associate Editor for the journal *Visitor Studies*. He has traveled all over the world as a consultant for major museums, and has also received National Science Foundation funding for his museum research. Ross’s multi-decade National Park Service research on park air pollution and visibility received much attention and also attracted funding from the U.S. Navy because the visual detection of pollution plumes in parks is essentially identical to visual detection of jet contrails, and pilots in combat have a distinct advantage if they are first to detect the opponent’s contrail. Ross is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and served as President of RMPA for 2004-2005 with a commensurate term on the Executive Committee. He and his students have made dozens of presentations at RMPA, which they continue to do with him in his “retirement.” In recognition of his assistance with the annual RMPA Symposium in Environmental Psychology, RMPA has henceforth named that event the Bell/Loomis Environmental Psychology Symposium.

Elections

Two positions are up for election this year; President-Elect and Diversity Council Chair. All Professional and Faculty members of RMPA are invited to vote in the upcoming elections. An electronic ballot will be sent to all eligible voting members shortly.

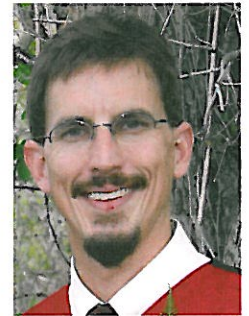
Candidate for President-Elect

William Douglas Woody, Ph.D.

**Associate Professor of Psychological Sciences
University of Northern Colorado**

Biography:

William Douglas (Doug) Woody is Associate Professor of Psychological Sciences at the University of Northern Colorado. He earned his B.S. at Colorado State University, and he returned to CSU to earn his M.S. and Ph.D. in experimental psychology under Wayne Viney. After finishing his Ph.D., Dr.



Woody taught at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire for two and a half years before returning to the Rocky Mountain region to join the faculty at the University of Northern Colorado. His research interests include psychology and the law, history and systems of psychology, and the teaching of psychology, and he has published several peer-reviewed journal articles and invited chapters in these areas and has co-authored a textbook in the history of psychology. At the University of Northern Colorado he teaches a variety of graduate and undergraduate courses including psychology and law, history and systems of psychology, psychology of prejudice, social psychology, psychology of religion, and the interdisciplinary graduate seminar on college teaching. In 2003 Dr. Woody received the first Rocky Mountain Psychological Association Early Career Award, and in 2005 he received the Early Career Award from APA Division 26 (The Society for the History of Psychology). His teaching awards include the Wilbert J. McKeachie Early Career Teaching Excellence Award from the Society for the Teaching of Psychology and university-level and college-level teaching awards from the University of Northern Colorado and Colorado State University. Additionally, the students have named him Best Professor at two of the three universities where he has taught.

Presidential Statement:

I am much honored to be nominated for President-Elect of RMPA. I attended my first RMPA convention during my second year of graduate school, and I have not missed one since. When I taught at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, I presented some of my work at the Midwestern Psychological convention, but I still made time to attend and

present at each RMPA convention, even from outside the region. My experience with another regional association helped me to appreciate RMPA for its willingness to promote both faculty and student research without marginalizing students' contributions and for its openness and strong sense of community that encompasses both new and more experienced faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students. RMPA is unique among regional organizations in its ability to retain the flexibility and responsiveness of a small organization while promoting strong scholarship and learning opportunities. Since my first convention I have taken steps to increase my own and others' involvement in RMPA, and by blending teaching with research, I have brought 28 graduate or undergraduate student co-authors to RMPA conventions. In recent years I have participated in the Diversity Committee and organized several symposia and roundtable sessions on teaching individuals with disabilities. Additionally, I have participated in each Portenier-Wertheimer Teaching Pre-Conference as well as the planning committee meetings for teaching sections of the Pre-Conference and the main convention program; for the past three years I have also organized the teaching demonstration exchange. As I have become more involved with RMPA I have become more devoted to our organization as a scientific and professional society but also to the intangible qualities of RMPA. I cherish our thriving community that brings together psychologists at all phases of their careers to discuss emerging research, share teaching techniques, and network with colleagues and friends, and I have learned much by participating at the convention and by watching others present. As President-Elect I would dedicate myself to the growth the organization as well as continuing the time-honored traditions that make RMPA unique.

Candidate for Diversity Council Chair
Susan E. Becker, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology
Mesa State College

I am in my 14th year as faculty member at Mesa State College. I have been involved with programming at RMPA since 1997, initially as a program reviewer and more recently helping with STP programming and as Diversity Council Chair the last three years. My Ph.D. is in clinical psychology with an interest in human change processes. This work has led me to an appreciation of the diverse ways in which people are able to approach change. I also work in the community with Western Equality and the Western Slope Suicide Prevention Foundation. Both of these efforts attend to how minority status and inequality affect communities. I also work closely with students facilitating research and as a Psi Chi chapter advisor.



Becker's Diversity Statement:

I believe in the power and value of diversity. As Diversity Council Chair the last three years, I have been able to work with the Executive Committee to meet several goals for RMPA. We have had 3 years of successful diversity programming, including key note speakers, round table and panel discussions both in the teaching pre-conference and during regular sessions and we have had 4 successful and very crowded diversity council lunches with video screenings. In addition I have put together feedback from diversity council members about web content, which will be rolling out on the RMPA website soon. It has been exciting to see the spread of diversity based research throughout our conference programming. RMPA's commitment to diversity through the existence of this elected position is unique among regional organizations and I would be honored to continue to serve in this position.

Candidate for Diversity Council Chair
Layton S. Curl, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology
Metropolitan State College of Denver

Layton Seth Curl received his Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Mississippi. He holds a Master's degree in Experimental Psychology, a B.A. with Honors in Psychology, and a Diploma in Asian Studies with Highest Honors from Kansai Gaidai University of Japan.



Over the past decade Layton has taught at both public and private universities in the United States and abroad. At age 23 he served as the youngest member of the teaching faculty at the University of Mississippi, he taught at Kansai Gaidai University in Osaka, and in 2004 accepted a position at Metropolitan State College of Denver, where he plans to remain for his academic career.

During both high school and college, Layton spent years abroad studying in Europe and Asia. While abroad he developed a keen interest in social behavior, prejudice, culture and human sexuality. His publications include a lead article in *International Education* titled, "The Cross-Cultural Generality of Equal Opportunity Climate: A Study of College Students," which sampled 1334 students in three countries. He is better known for his work with colleague Dr. Mary Ann Watson, in which they have produced numerous award winning educational films and documentaries including *Becoming Me*, on the lives and social issues of the transgendered, *Rocking the Cradle: Gay Parenting*, and *Portraits in Human Sexuality*. These films are used across the United States and abroad in college classrooms. The pair are presently producing a film on altruism and helping behavior that takes them to Ethiopia in the summer of 2010.

Curl's Diversity Statement:

I began attending RMPA five years ago and have found it to be an excellent organization for supporting professional development and facilitating student engagement in academia. For my own part, I believe my work in multiculturalism, my personal background, and experience in producing educational documentaries on relevant topics would benefit RMPA and the duties of the Diversity Council Chair. If elected I will support the conference and its members in maintaining the professional and inclusive environment, while working to facilitate diversity events and opportunities to stimulate RMPA's members.

2009 RMPA Psi Chi Award Winners



RMPA 2009 Psi Chi Regional Award Winners (left to right): Nathan Medeiros-Ward (University of Utah), Sara Festini (Scripps College), Danielle Sitzman (Colorado State University), Rena Dalman (Fort Lewis College), Sharon Sternberg (Southern Utah University), and Kimberlee Taylor (Weber State University).

RENA DALMAN, NATANYA MALLIN, JEREMY OSHEIM, AND SHARON SEARS, Fort Lewis College. *Recent Death of a Loved One as a Moderator of the Effects of Mortality Salience on Compassion Towards Strangers*
SARA B. FESTINI¹, SARAH K. TAUBER², AND MATTHEW G. RHODES², ¹Scripps College, ²Colorado State University. *Exploring the Impact of Value on Predictions and Memory for Names*
NATHAN MEDEIROS-WARD AND JOEL COOPER, University of Utah, *When Words Collide: The Impact of Verbal Coding on Driver Distraction*
KIMBERLEE TAYLOR, THERESA KAY, AND DIANNA RANGEL, Weber State University, *Help-Seeking Behavior as Related to Perceived Stress and Gender in a College Population*
DANIELLE SITZMAN, JESSICA JENSEN, ASHLEY WHITE, CHELSEA ADAMS, AND MATTHEW RHODES, Colorado State University, *Own-Compared to Other-Race Faces are Better Encoded During Retrieval*
SHARON E. STERNBERG AND JEFF ELISON, Southern Utah University, *Faking It: An Examination of Self-Report Psychopathy Measures*

RMPA Treasurer's Report

9/09

Conference Income (Boise)	\$26,430.00
Conference Expenses	\$27,748.46
Profit (Loss):	-\$ 1,318.46)
Current Amount in Checking Account	\$25,939.74
Current Amount in Savings Account	\$ 1,057.79
CD Investment	\$16,522.21
Total:	\$43,520.21
Number of Members	106
Number of Affiliates	290
Number of Lifetime Members	53

Diversity News

The RMPA diversity council is very pleased to be rolling out our web page. Check out the information on past student paper award winners, previously screened documentaries, and tips for increasing diversity in your research. We are very excited about our speaker for 2010, Professor Theresa Hernandez from University of Colorado at Boulder who will be speaking about cross cultural clinical work. We will have two diversity lunches; one on Friday screening the documentary "Becoming Me: The Gender Within" and on Saturday we will be viewing excerpts from the documentary "Emanuel's Gift" about living with disability in West Africa. This year's roundtable discussion at the teaching pre-conference will be on "Avoiding Stereotype Threat in the Classroom" and we hope to have a student panel this year, on higher education and the older student. If you are interested in participating in the student panel, please contact Susan Becker at sbecker@mesastate.edu

RMPA FUTURE CONVENTION SITES

2011
Salt Lake City, Utah
Radisson Hotel – Downtown
April 14-16



2012
Reno, Nevada
Peppermill Resort Spa Casino
April 12-14



2013
Denver, Colorado
Renaissance Denver Hotel
April 11-13



RMPA Early Career Award Call for Nominations

RMPA is soliciting nominations for the 2010 *Early Career Award*. The award will be presented at the Albuquerque convention to recognize a member of RMPA who is early in their career and has already made significant contributions to the Association and to psychology. The awards committee consists of the past-president, the current president, and the president-elect. Recommendations of the awards committee are ratified by the RMPA Executive Committee.

Criteria for the Award

Candidates for the award must:

- have a doctorate in psychology, or a related field,
- have been granted a degree five to ten years prior to their nomination,
- have been visibly active in RMPA for no less than 5 years, and, ideally, should have mentored students who have participated in RMPA, and
- show promise of achieving national visibility.

To Nominate a Candidate for the Award

All that is required for a nomination is

- a current curriculum vitae, and
- two letters of recommendation that speak to the criteria listed above.

Self-nominations are acceptable.

Send nominations via e-mail to:

Bill Wozniak, Ph.D.
Department of Psychology
University of Nebraska at Kearney
wozniakw@unk.edu

Deadline for Nominations: *February 1, 2010*

Previous Early Career Award Recipients

- 2003 – William Douglas Woody, University of Northern Colorado
- 2004 – Britton Mace, Southern Utah University
- 2005 – Michelle Butler, US Air Force Academy
- 2006 – Carla Reyes, University of Utah
- 2007 – Krista Forrest, University of Nebraska at Kearney
- 2008 – Cheryl Sanders, Metropolitan State College of Denver
- 2009 – Jeff Elison, Southern Utah University

Elison receives 2009 Early Career Award



Jeff Elison receives 2009 Early Career Award from Past President Judith Sugar and RMPA President Bill Wozniak during the RMPA meeting.

RESEARCH CORNER

Dr. Jeff Elison, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Southern Utah University was the 2009 RMPA Early Career Award Winner. He was invited by the newsletter editor to prepare a short description of his research for the research corner.

My research program has focused on issues related to the social emotions of shame, guilt, embarrassment, and humiliation. These emotions have seen increased attention in recent years due to their relationships to development of self, moral development, violence, and psychopathology. In addition, these emotions are something we all experience and something with which we all must cope. For that reason, students are often interested in this line of research. One theme of my research has been investigations designed to address definitional issues. A second theme has been relationships between these emotions and anger / violence. In a series of studies exemplifying both themes, I worked with Susan Harter investigating causes and correlates of humiliation, as well as distinctions between humiliation, shame, guilt, and embarrassment. Our interest in humiliation stemmed from the apparent role played by humiliation in school shootings and other acts of violence. More recently, my students and I have investigated displaced aggression motivated by watching someone else's humiliation, and sympathy for those who are humiliated, including the perception that being repeatedly humiliated is perceived as a mitigating factor in school shootings.

The third theme in my research is how we cope with these emotions. It is not shame or guilt, per se, that are problematic, but how one copes with the emotions that may be adaptive or problematic. Many of my studies involve the development, validation, and application of a self-report instrument, the Compass of Shame Scale (CoSS), designed to assess Nathanson's compass of shame model. Studies involving the CoSS have demonstrated a differentiated pattern of

relationships between the shame-coping styles and other measures of self-esteem, self-compassion, psychopathology, perfectionism, fear of failure, anger, and coping. The CoSS has been translated by other researchers into nine foreign languages. My research has a strong applied aspect as a better understanding of shame and shame-coping by teachers, therapists, parents, coaches, and sport psychologists can help them help others.

Selected Publications

Elison, J., & Harter, S. (2007). Humiliation: Causes, correlates, and consequences. In J. L. Tracy, R. W. Robins, & J. P. Tangney (Eds.), *The self-conscious emotions: Theory and research* (pp. 310-329). New York: Guilford Press.

Elison, J., Lennon, R., & Pulos, S. (2006). Investigating the compass of shame: The development of the Compass of Shame Scale. *Social Behavior and Personality, 34*, 221-238.

Elison, J., Pulos, S., & Lennon, R. (2006). Shame-focused coping: An empirical study of the compass of shame. *Social Behavior and Personality, 34*, 161-168.

Elison, J. (2005). Shame and guilt: A hundred years of apples and oranges. *New Ideas in Psychology, 23*, 5-32.

Campbell, J. S. & Elison, J. (2005). Shame coping styles and psychopathic personality traits. *Journal of Personality Assessment, 84*, 96-104.

Thanks for the help!

In addition to the efforts of the executive committee, RMPA would like to thank the following individuals for helping out with the program planning for the 2009 conference in Albuquerque.

RICHARD MILLER (University of Nebraska at Kearney), DOUG WOODY (University of Northern Colorado), and STEVE BARNEY (Southern Utah University), for planning the teaching preconference

PAUL BELL, Colorado State University, for planning the Environmental Psychology Symposium

MARK MCDANIEL, Washington University, for planning the Ellis-Battig Memory Symposium

VANESSA EWING, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, Broomfield Academy, for planning the GLBTQ Diversity session

MELANIE DOMENECH-RODRIGUEZ, Rocky Mountain Regional Vice President of Psi Chi, for planning the Psi Chi Events

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, for sponsoring numerous sessions

ASSOCIATION FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE, for sponsoring the William James lecture

MARY ANN WATSON and LAYTON CURL, and Metro State College of Denver, for planning and sponsoring a video lunch session

BRIAN BURKE, Fort Lewis College, for planning the terror management symposium

BRADLEY SMITH (Boise State University) and TODD RYSKA (Army Center for Enhanced Performance), for planning the Injured Soldiers Symposium

If you are interested in planning a symposium for 2010, contact the Program Chair, Diane Martichuski, at diane.martichuski@colorado.edu.

RMPA Student Paper Award Winners

At the 2009 RMPA Convention in Albuquerque, five students received RMPA Student Paper Awards. RMPA President Bill Wozniak presented the awards at the annual awards ceremony and business meeting. They were:



BRITTNEY EVANS, Lynn University, "Cultural Perspectives on Traumatic Incidents"



TRAVIS SIMCOX, New Mexico Highlands University, "Prior Expectations Have an Effect on Selective Transfer from Iconic Memory"



AMBER CANNON, Mesa State College, "The Influence of Novel Stereotype Threat on Performance"



LARAN H. DESPAIN, University of Wyoming, "The Impact of Smoking Cessation Tools on Cessation: Telephone Counseling, Medications, and Religious Faith"



LONNIE BRADFORD, Xavier University, "Impact of an Elderspeak Educational Program on Resident Well-being, Self-Concept, and Communication Satisfaction"

2009-10 RMPA Executive Committee



Rocky Mountain Psychological Association
80th Annual Convention of the
Rocky Mountain Psychological Association
April 15-17, 2010
Sheraton Denver Tech Center Hotel
Greenwood Village, Colorado

RMPA 2010 DENVER

DEADLINES
Submissions:
Faculty - January 8, 2010
Students - January 15, 2010
Advanced Registration:
Convention - March 12, 2010
Hotel - March 14, 2010

LOCATION
Sheraton Denver Tech Center
7007 South Clinton Street
Greenwood Village, Colorado
Phone: 303-799-6200
Reservations: 800-325-3535
www.sheratondtc.com

www.rockymountainpsych.org

RMPA Convention posters are available to Psychology Departments for display. Contact RMPA Secretary Bob Rycek for details at rycekr@unk.edu



The Rocky Mountain Psychological Association Newsletter is published twice a year, Fall and Spring, and posted on the RMPA website www.rockymountainpsych.org. Please direct any inquiries to the Editor, Robert Rycek, RMPA Secretary, at rycekr@unk.edu



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