In Memoriam: Russell J. Bent

Russell Julian Bent, age 79, passed away peacefully after a long illness on August 22, 2008 at his home in Roswell, Ga. He was surrounded by family and friends. He attended St. Peter's College and received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Fordam University in 1961. He was awarded an honorary D.Sc. degree from the University of Indianapolis and an honorary Psy.D. degree from Forest Institute of Professional Psychology in 2002. His professional career included a faculty position at Emory University and was Deputy Superintendent at Georgia Mental Health Institute.

He was a leader in the American Psychological Association national quality of care and credentialing activities. Russ was a faculty member and, later, Dean of the School of Professional Psychology at Wright State University from 1978 until he retired in 1994. After his retirement, he worked as a private consultant and became the Executive Officer of the American Board of Professional Psychology until he retired in 2006. Throughout his life, Russ was an avid and accomplished golfer, skier, magician, and photographer. He is survived by his wife, Ann Bent; daughter, Pamela LeBey Wilson and son, Daniel LeBey, both from a previous marriage; son-in-law, Randy Wilson, and grandsons, Nicholas and David Wilson.

from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, August 28, 2008

continued on pg 8

A message from the president:
“That’s it...there you have it!”

Christine Maguth Nezu, Ph.D., ABPP

Dr. Russ Bent was never one to mince words. After explaining an important issue, or describing a job to be done concerning the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP), Russ would often end the conversation with the words “that’s it...there you have it!” As I reflect upon his recent passing, and the plethora of contributions that characterized his generous service to our organization for many years, it strikes me that he would have especially enjoyed that this Specialist issue is dedicated to that legacy.

However, as I think about our many conversations over the last decade, I am also confident that he would have wanted me to use this moment of personal tribute not just to celebrate Russ, but as an opportunity to celebrate the importance of the ABPP organization itself, and the high esteem he held for board certification. Through the construction of transparent policies and procedures, as well as promoting an ongoing system of self-study, Russ helped transform the idea of board certification from the perception of a rare and elitist credential to one of a professional responsibility that all in this issue:

- Executive Officer Report
  Winter 2008/2009 report from David R. Cox, Ph.D., ABPP

- The Future of ABPP Board Certification
  by Christopher Ebbe, Ph.D., ABPP, FAACP

- The Importance of Board Certification
  by William Amberg, Ph.D., ABPP and the OBCP board

- Editor’s Corner: The Burdens of History
  by Robt. W. Goldberg, Editor of The Specialist

what he and I had in common was a sense of practicality and willingness to “dig in and get things done.” It’s a promise I made to him to continue. Therefore, in a season of hope and change and new beginnings, I am grateful for the opportunity to share with you my vision for the future of ABPP, while simultaneously reflecting on Russ’ contributions and the foundations he was instrumental in creating.

Honoring Russ’ legacy

When Russ stepped into the role of Executive Officer, his leadership became essential to the development of the ABPP credential as a gold standard for board certification, ethical integrity, competence, and a responsibility to the individuals and systems that engage psychologists as healers, consultants, leaders, and clinical mentors. Through the construction of transparent policies and procedures, as well as promoting an ongoing system of self-study, Russ helped transform the idea of board certification from the perception of a rare and elitist credential to one of a professional responsibility that all
Special Section: In Memoriam: Russell J. Bent.................1
Drs. Bent, Cox, Fox, Talley, Kaslow, DeLeon and Goldberg

A Message From the President..................1
Christine Maguth Nezu, Ph.D., ABPP

Winter 2008/2009 Executive Officer Report..............3
David R. Cox, Ph.D., ABPP

The Future of ABPP Board Certification...............5
Christopher Ebbe, Ph.D., ABPP, FAACP

Notes from CPPSA....................6
Joe Talley, Ph.D., ABPP, CPPSA

Great News: Florida ABPP...................6
Florence Kaslow, Ph.D., ABPP

The Importance of Board Certification...............7
OBCP and William Amberg, Ph.D., ABPP

About Your Consultant: Russ Bent...............10
Russell Bent, Ph.D., ABPP

Special Section: In Memoriam: John Jackson...........11
Drs. Fagan and Goldberg

Special Section: In Memoriam: Jacquelin Goldman...........13
Robt. W. Goldberg, Ph.D., ABPP

Board and Academy News..................17
Drs. Ebbe, Conroy, Ezzo, Thoburn, Erchul, Pelletier, Lochman, Stachowiak, Davidson and Pollard

News from the Specialists..................21

Editor’s Corner: The Burdens of History..............22
Robt. W. Goldberg, Ph.D., ABPP

Newly Certified Specialists / Deceased Specialists........23
David R. Cox, Ph.D., ABPP

We successfully relocated the office from Savannah, GA to Chapel Hill, NC the first week of August. The move went essentially without a hitch. The truck was loaded Tuesday, arrived Wednesday and the new offices were operational by Friday. We have not received any complaints about “downtime” and contrary to prior moves and our anxiety arising out of that history, no records or other materials were lost in the process.

Inter-organizational efforts

I have continued involvement with a number of committees and organizations within the field of professional psychology: Council of Specialties in Professional Psychology (COS), Committee for the Advancement of Professional Psychology (CAPP), Board of Professional Affairs (BPA), Board of Educational Affairs (BEA), the Association of State and Professional Psychology Boards (ASPPB), Psychology Executive Roundtable (PER), Trilateral (now merged with PER), Council of Credentialing Organizations in Professional Psychology (CCOPP), National Council of Schools and Programs in Professional Psychology (NCSPP) and others. Although the American Psychological Association Task Force on Taxonomy was not budgeted for 2008 (in APA) that group did hold a teleconference and make recommendations to CRSPPP, the group that will be continuing work in that area within APA.

ABPP and ASPPB

ABPP and ASPPB continue to have a very strong working relationship as Organizations. This past year the formal institution of the ABPP and ASPPB reciprocal discount program occurred (it had been verbally agreed to in 2007). Psychologists who have a CPQ will be granted a $100 discount on the usual $200 fee. Psychologists who have ABPP will be granted a $100 discount on the usual $200 fee for CPQ.

Maintenance of certification

ABPP has begun initial discussions and exploration of maintenance of certification (MOC) issues. While there is not an expectation that any implementation will be conducted in the very near future, it is something that our profession, and therefore ABPP, needs to be considering given current trends in health care.

Florida legislative and rules update

My column in the Summer 2008 Specialist referenced some of the proceedings regarding the Florida Board of Psychology (BOP) board certification issues. Of note is that on November 14, 2008 the State of Florida Administrative Weekly published notice that: “The Board proposes to review the existing language in this rule to determine whether changes are necessary.” This is expected to be taken up at the January 23, 2009 meeting. I have had conversations with The Florida Psychological Association, ASPPB and APA, each of whom expressed considerable concern about the current Florida status.

State Affiliate Initiatives

ABPP Specialists in Florida and New York have each taken on initiatives to start, or revive (in the case of Florida), groups of ABPP board certified psychologists with the state.

Early Entry Option

The ABPP Early Entry Program continues to be a welcome addition to our boards. Several institutions, including professional school and university programs, have agreed to sponsor their students in this fashion. This program appears to be serving us, and early career psychologists quite well. In 2007, we had 24 Early Entry applications; through October 2008 we had 133 Early Entry Applications. As well, we are already seeing many of the EE applicants convert to candidacy!

As an aside – in 2007 we had 220 applications total (including EE apps); through October 2008 we had 320. All of you recruiters are doing a great job! Thanks!

Periodic comprehensive review update

This year we completed the Periodic Comprehensive Review (PCR) of the American Board of Couple & Family Psychology (ABCFP) and the American Board of Forensic Psychology (ABFP). At this point, the following boards have undergone review: Clinical Psychology, Counseling Psychology, School Psychology, Clinical Neuropsychology, Couple & Family, and Forensic. The Cognitive & Behavioral board and Clinical Health board will be reviewed in 2009.

Recognition with the Department of Veterans Affairs & the United States Military

Most of you know that the Department of Veterans Affairs has explicitly and exclusively recognized ABPP as the only psychology board certification organization eligible for salary grade increases.

Signed into law in October was a bill that allows for an accession bonus (“signing bonus”) of up to $400,000 for ABPP board-certified psychologists who enlist in the military. No, that is not a typo – the law permits up to $100,000 per year over a 4 year period!

I had the honor of presenting to roughly 20 psychologists at Walter Reed Army Medical Center earlier this year, as well as to a similar number of psychologists at Navy Day in Boston during APA Convention. The latter presentation was at the invitation of the Admiral over psychologists in the Navy, who wanted to specifically recognize those who had become ABPP board certified and provide encouragement to others.

CO staff updates

Nancy McDonald is staying on as an employee full-time and indefinitely. Nancy has been commuting periodically to Chapel Hill, where she stays in a corporate apartment (this costs us less per month than 5 or 6 days in a hotel). She has been staying 1-2 weeks at a time, and works from her home in the Savannah area otherwise. So far this is working very well for all of us and we are happy that she is staying with us!

Lanette Melville has joined our staff as the “keeper of the applications”. Lanette works ½ time and does a fantastic job of processing applications, responding to telephone and email queries and the like. She is very efficient; applications that are complete are often provided to me for review and completed within the same day. On average, completed applications (those for which we have all of the materials required of the applicant to submit) take no longer than 3-5 days to move on the next phase (e.g., Specialty Board review).

Robert Matteson is our new Information Technology Specialist. Robert has a background in web site design, database work, journalism and newsletter preparation as well as a specialty in infographics. He has been a pleasant and welcome addition to our staff and we look forward to his contributions to our new web site as it rolls out in the next few months and preparation of newsletters, brochures, PowerPoint presentations and the like. Please let us know if you have needs that he might be of assistance with.

Central Office tasks

We are also working on the initial phases of implementing the charitable arm of ABPP – the 501(c)(3). Al Finch is heading this up and we should have it in place shortly.

Despite costs incurred with the relocation (which we kept as low as possible) we have managed effectively and come in under budget for the year. This was accomplished by consciously managing tasks and personnel, in a fashion that
competent psychologists would be compelled to achieve.

Concerning competency, his contributions have always positioned ABPP at the forefront of this movement in professional psychology (Kaslow & Ingram, in press). For example, his contributions at a 2002 Competencies Conference: Future Directions in Education and Credentialing in Professional Psychology (Kaslow, 2004; Kaslow et al., 2004) helped lead the collaborative development of a cube model for competency (Rodolfa et al., 2005), and intensified the focus on competency-based assessment in ABPP. Later in 2007, foundational and functional competencies were defined by the ABPP Board of Trustees and were unanimously approved as a heuristic for all specialty board examination materials and formats to implement as part of our uniform standards.

Russ’ contributions of delineation and accountability of standards, policies and procedures, development of an organizational self-study process, and promotion of evaluation of competency for all board-certified psychologists, provided us with organizational foundations on which we proudly continue to build. Our current strengths involve having the needed collection of talents and resources to fuel historic advances in moving ABPP toward our shared vision.

Applying our strengths

We now have an organization that is more diverse than ever before, with energetic and enthusiastic professionals who are focused on promoting our shared value to professional psychology (rather than any of our own parochial specialty interests), and a collaborative group of hardworking individuals in voluntary leadership positions at the forefront of each of our 13 specialties. In my 25 years of professional work, I have never experienced a more dedicated and reasoned group of people who continually strive for increased public and professional awareness of the ABPP brand and its leading role in the competency movement. It has been my experience that in many professional organizations it is easier for psychologists to share toothbrushes than theoretical orientations or credit for accomplishments. This is not the case with our organization. Perhaps because board certification through demonstration of competence has such a clear goal of increasing public confidence, our Board of Trustees has adopted the attitude of supporting one another as professional psychologists and getting things done such that all will benefit and not just for their own specialty. For example, in our last annual meeting which was held in December, 2008, we developed an action plan for marketing, recruitment, continuing education and began planning an ABPP-wide conference for 2010. We also developed an action plan and timeline for disseminating our early application procedures, developed guidelines for procedures for considerations of subspecialties, reviewed and made recommendations concerning the functions and relations between academies and boards, and wrestled with possible models to adopt that would allow academies and boards to structure their activities in ways that best fit with their specialty. Finally, we made decisions regarding how to adapt to future changes in the professional landscape and remain fiscally responsible as we continue to support all of our 13 specialties and consider applications from emerging specialties. Simultaneous to this recent meeting of the Board of Trustees, our first-ever book, entitled Becoming Board Certified by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP), co-edited by myself, Al Finch, and Norma Simon, went to press with Oxford University Press. Many prominent board-certified specialists from various specialties contributed voluntarily to the project. We anticipate its release by the APA 2009 convention. All royalties will go to ABPP and we plan to make it available on a “bookstore” section of the web page. In the spirit of this column, the book will be dedicated to Russ Bent.

These initiatives, policies, and actions are moving forward with a full-time staff of motivated and talented professionals and a new central office in Chapel Hill, NC that is positioned for organizational growth. We have established a strong presence in the profession with many different liaison, state, and jurisdictional organizations. Our reputation for self-study and continued improvement is growing among these liaison partners including the Council of Specialties in Professional Psychology, the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards, and the Department of Veteran Affairs.

We embrace and stand behind our commitment to multiculturalism and diversity in our services to the public as well as our own representation to the profession. Also at last month’s meeting, we approved a change of status from a diversity task force to a standing committee. This was done in order to better guide us in how to achieve our potential for leadership in diversity and multiculturalism and we will participate as both sponsors and presenters at the January 2009 National Multicultural Conference and Summit. I also appointed a new task force that will be devoted to the specific concerns of military examinees. As we head into the future, there will be many opportunities for greater numbers of board certified specialist to volunteer and become involved in these many initiatives.

The future: our collective vision and Russ’s dream

The future vision of our current ABPP Board is one that is consistent with the many hopes and dreams expressed by Russ over the years: that we grow in both strength and influence as the leading board certification credential in professional psychology and that ABPP becomes a part of every competent psychologist’s expected developmental process. As one can see from the description of our current activities and involvement of the leadership across our specialties and our professional full time staff in the central office, we have begun many of the hopes that Russ Bent had expressed for the organization. Largely due to the implementation of an early entry application program that encourages pre-licensed new professionals to begin the application process early in their career, we have increased our total number of new candidates this year by 45%. This indicates that our mutual efforts are beginning to show good results. However, we have a long way to go before it is the rare exception that eligible and competent psychologists are not board certified.

How best to take these initiatives to the next level? To put it simply (as Russ would do), we need each and every one of you. We have seen firsthand the incredible growth that can take
place when large numbers of us dedicate even a small portion of our time or effort to help the organization grow. With your help, I am confident that we can continue to significantly impact growth in just one year. While many columns have been written during the past year about the value of ABPP for its members, I believe that in the spirit of Russ’ memory, his example for volunteerism and giving back to ABPP, I would like to provide a different type of list that focuses on what each board-certified specialist can do for the organization. With your help, we can increase the size, budget, professional involvement, and ultimate influence of board certification in psychology to peers, our organizational partners, and the public.

1) Encourage and mentor just one colleague to sit for board certification this year. Accept no excuses, be willing to provide mentorship, send the link for the application, and encourage them to inquire with the specialty board of interest about any opportunities for scholarships (for example, some boards offer diversity scholarships) or with the central office about a payment plan to make costs more manageable.

2) Pay your annual fee and sign your attestation on time.

3) Invite a board-certified specialist to give a talk at your professional organization, worksite, or state/jurisdictional psychology organization. If you are unsure of who to invite, ask the Executive Officer, David Cox, the Associate Executive Officer, Nancy McDonald, me, or any of the current executive committee or board of trustees members whom to invite for a talk or workshop. Many of us will gladly present voluntarily.

4) Begin a special interest section in your state or specialty organization of board certified psychologists for the purpose of sharing the value of the certification with others, or peer-led discussion groups, referrals, etc. Such groups are already being pursued in New York and Florida.

5) Link your practice Web site to your specialty board or academy, as well as the ABPP central office.

6) Call or e-mail your specialty board or academy and ask what you can do to volunteer for the specialty.

7) Buy copies of the ABPP book that will come out this year and hand them out to colleagues, students, interns, and postdoctoral fellows.

8) Write letters and e-mails to relevant hospital, government, insurance organizations, or media outlets to make them aware of the value and importance of board certification in professional psychology.

9) Always (that means always!) use the ABPP designation after your name to indicate that you are a board certified psychologist in your specialty.

10) Consider a donation to our ABPP foundation. Recently, we received a generous donation from a current ABPP member in the form of a legacy contribution to ABPP though her estate planning.

Finally, please remember to attend our annual convocation during APA. This celebration and recognition of newly certified specialists has evolved to include a presentation by a distinguished speaker, specialty awards, and a lovely social reception. The speaker this year will be past-APA president Alan Kazdin.

In memory of Russ, with deep respect for our past, with admiration for the talented people I have the privilege to work with in the organization, and with a sense of eager anticipation for our future, I am grateful to continue to serve as ABPP President for 2009. Please join me in making this ABPP’s best year ever. As I consider the many discussions and phone calls I have had with Russ over the years, I am compelled to end this tribute to him and ABPP with both a smile and tear. That’s it…there you have it!


Christopher Ebbe, Ph.D., ABPP, FAACP
ABPP has been the most reputable sanctioner of post-licensure competence for applied psychologists. However, ABPP and many of its specialty Boards face diminishing interest in Board Certification from psychologists. Board Certification can vary likely continue, though perhaps in diminished numbers, but if Board Certification is to be a vital part of professional psychology, a different image of ABPP in the minds of psychologists in general will be necessary.

Explaining low interest

Most practitioners want to believe and do claim to the public that state licensing as a psychologist is a sufficient guarantee of competence. Licensing, while perhaps necessary, has diminished the raison d’etre of Board Certification (and guarantees little regarding competence, particularly because most states have abandoned oral examinations for licensure due to the difficulty of defending their reliability in court). The graduate schools and APA have done an ineffective job of ensuring competence in graduates. We all can understand the difficulties of defining competence and of providing reliable, consistent judgments of competence by faculty and supervisors. For example, there is no common language in psychology for human behavior, and we do not even have clear definitions of emotions. APA has recently done some good initial work on "competency benchmarks", but the benchmarks only state what should be evaluated and do not address the problem of reliable, consistent human judgment, without which the benchmarks can only help us to aim education in certain directions. Interest in Board Certification is hindered by

The future of ABPP board certification

THE FUTURE, pg 14
Great news- Florida ABPP has formed

Florence Kaslow, Ph.D., ABPP

Within the last two months, a group of diplomates has gotten together to form Florida ABPP, the first state chapter of ABPP to be established and to affiliate with ABPP officially. We are extremely excited about this development and to be able to report that the chapter is growing nicely in terms of membership and member representatives from the various specialties.

About five years ago, we had formed the Florida Association of Board Certified Diplomates (FL ABCD). As the first chair of that organization, I was pleased that we were able to fulfill several of our purposes, such as getting to know diplomates in other specialties as well as in our own across the state. Many of us were able to refer to one another, which was another bonus. We held board meetings occasionally with FPA or at board members’ homes. In addition, we held several membership meetings in conjunction with the annual FPA conference. My successor as chair was well-known rehabilitation psychologist Bernie Brucker. Shortly after his term of office began, Bernie’s life came to an unexpectedly rapid end. No vice chair had been elected and our then-secretary had moved out of town. This occurred during the time when recognition of board certified psychologists by the Florida Board of Psychology was going on. Bernie and David Cox had been able to attend a few of the meetings. This recognition was accorded and we were jubilant at first, but along the way, some other groups also managed to get recognized. One or two other boards may have met the criteria set, but there are questions about some of the others and this has caused a lot of concern and consternation with ABPPs throughout the country.

This fall, we decided to regroup under the name of Florida ABPP. We wanted to clearly be identified with ABPP and open only to those certified by ABPP. We now realize that among our other purposes, it is important that we have an active legislative committee so that we can send representatives to the board of psychology meetings as well as to FPA when there are items on the agenda of mutual concern as we would like to work supportively with our state psychological association.

As of now, we have between 25 and 30 members. Dues are $25 annually and any out-of-state diplomate who is also licensed in Florida is welcome to join us. Current officers are Chair, Florence Kaslow; Co-Chair, Lenore Walker; Secretary, Scott Mathias and Treasurer, Dorita Marina. Dues should be sent to Dr. Marina. Specialty board representatives are:

Clinical Child - Fred Alberts
Cognitive & Behavioral - Robert Heller
Group - Joshua Gross
Rehabilitation - Barry Nierenberg

Clinical Health - Melodie Moorehead
Couple & Family - Robert Silver
Neuropsychology - Larry Levine

The legislative committee is chaired by David Shapiro.

We have inquiries out to diplomates in other specialties and hope that this category of board members will be filled out by December 10th.

We held our opening affair, a holiday party on December 20th, at the home of Lenore Walker and David Shapiro. Our first full membership meeting will be held at the FPA Convention at the Ritz-Carlton in Manalapan, Florida between July 9th and 12th. We are currently putting together a proposal for a panel entitled Preparing for Board Certification by ABPP. Our plan is to have representatives of four of five specialties present during the workshop and to include a half-hour for participants to meet with representatives of the specialty in which they might be interested.

Watch for more news in succeeding issues of The Specialist. We hope that ABPPs in more states will follow our lead and set up state affiliate chapters. We hear through the ABPP grapevine that some of our colleagues in California are already considering this and we hope that this is the beginning of a real trend. It made more sense to us to become a chapter of ABPP than a section of our state psychological association as this strengthens all of us and helps publicize ABPP. We hope you agree.
The importance of board certification

**OBCP and William Amberg, Ph.D., ABPP**

Organizational and Business Consulting Psychology (OBCP), formerly the Industrial/Organizational Psychology Board, was one of the four original ABPP boards, and has been board certifying specialists for over 60 years. Board certified Organizational and Business Consulting psychologists are known for demonstrating competent and ethical practices in work environments. The broadened criteria on which a candidate can choose to be examined in Organizational and Business Consulting Psychology includes all of the competencies of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (APA Division 14), and the core competencies of the Society of Consulting Psychology, (APA Division 13). Emphasis on engineering and consumer & management psychology has been increased. The focus of the examination is the candidate's specific area(s) of professional practice.

Within these domains, the specialty is defined as the practice of psychology applied to organizational entities, especially business settings. The practice modality of the specialty includes: research, management, assessment, development, intervention, consultation and support. As an applied area, this specialty is focused on improving organizational functionality and is based on the science, discipline and profession of psychology.

ABPP examinations focus on the modalities used by the applicant in the following areas:

- Assessment, selection, placement and performance management
- Training and development
- Organization and management psychology
- Organization development
- Consumer psychology
- Engineering psychology

Requisite doctoral level training typically includes the biological, cognitive, behavioral, social, industrial, and organizational bases of behavior impacting individual and organizational assessment and development of organizations.

Enhanced training, cross training, mentorship and supervised experience might include, but not be limited to, counseling and clinical psychology, business administration and economics, attitude theory, motivation, human resources, organizational behavior, leadership, management, training, stress management and organizational health psychology, ethics, labor, and government relations.

OBCP strongly embraces specialty competence and certification, beyond licensure, as the future direction of applied professional psychology. Through ABPP, the OBCP sponsors a straightforward and pragmatic specialty examination of a candidate's specific practice, experience, and competence. There is also an expedited avenue for senior psychologists with 15 years post licensure experience. Whichever avenue a candidate utilizes, upon application, an experienced mentor is assigned to provide advice and guidance. This highly collegial board certification process consists of a review of the application and relevant credentials/training/experience, a separate review of a presented practice sample, and an oral examination by a three-person panel. A far wider range of practice samples is available for “senior” candidates. Examiners are Board certified and experienced in the particular practice area of the applicant. All ABPP applicants must be licensed psychologists.

ABPP examinations focus on the modalities used by the applicant in the following areas:

- Science base and application
- Assessment processes
- Intervention techniques
- Consultation with clients, colleagues, public

The American Board of Organizational and Business Consulting Psychology, the profession of psychology and the public today view specialty certification, through this process of peer review, as increasingly valuable and the clearest and most responsible way to represent one's specific professional competence. ABPP is the only non-profit, professional, unitary organization with thirteen specialty boards, rigorous quality control, and professional recognition as an independent certifier of specialty practitioners in psychology.

The ABPP specialty board certification process is increasingly recognized by ASPPB and its member jurisdictions as a mechanism for mobility and is seen as an increasingly valuable credential by universities, hospitals, health service systems, agencies, and the public. Board certified specialists are listed in many on line and published directories including the ABPP Directory of Specialists, the APA Membership Directory and the National Register of Health Service Providers. Certification provides an opportunity to publish in the ABPP Specialist, an invitation to attend ABPP’s Annual Convocation at the APA National Convention and is increasingly recognized for salary bonus benefits by public agencies. There is a significant premium reduction for liability insurance by the American Professional Agency.

As a result of board certification, ABPP specialists may represent themselves as specialty board certified to all elements of the profession and the public, as meeting the highest standard of responsible applied specialty competence.

**EO REPORT, from pg 3**

allowed us to thoroughly review the processes whereby applications move through the organization, and then matching the skills of personnel and organizational needs. Nancy and I have had long discussions about these areas, how they have worked (or not) in the past and feel very good about how Central Office is working presently, as well as hopeful regarding future growth of services that Central Office can provide.

We are looking at alternative avenues for generating revenue that include a “book shop” (ABPP and Oxford University Press do have a book coming out on becoming board certified, from which all royalties will go directly to ABPP), continuing education programs (perhaps through affiliating with existing journals as one means) and others. Your ideas along these lines are welcomed.

Lastly, but by no means least, ABPP has experienced the loss of a number of significant people in the recent past. Most notably, of course, is the loss of Russ Bent, who contributed so much to this organization and professional psychology. In his honor, we are establishing a memorial scholarship program within ABPP. Details of how that will work are being established, but I certainly want us all to be mindful of the invaluable contributions made by Russ and others we have lost recently. Their leadership and personalities are missed greatly.

---

Winter 2009
In memory of Russ Bent - a dedicated colleague

It was my privilege to work with Russ for many years while the American Board of Rehabilitation Psychology (ABRP) was in formation and seeking approval as an ABPP board, and as a site visitor for the Office of Accreditation of APA. We should all be remembered as devoted to the cause of excellence in psychology as was Russ. He was a champion for professional training in psychology and excellence in credentialing psychologists. In the years that many would have abandoned ABPP as the pinnacle of professionalism in psychology, Russ remained dedicated to making a Diplomate status the expected credential of every professional psychologist. During those years when vanity boards and window-dressing certification of all sorts cropped up in most every profession, including psychology, and some were tempted to lower standards, he was a tireless worker, not afraid of "going against the tide" to maintain the rigorous requirements for ABPP and to keep it highly respected. He won, and we thank him for that! Bernie Brucker, Mitch Rosenthal, David Cox, Dan Rohe, Bruce Caplan, Tony Ricci, Jim Whelan, Mary Wilmuth, Harry Parker, and I worked hand in hand with Russ, often being challenged, but never discouraged from bringing ABRP to the highest level for acceptance into the ABPP family of Diplomate boards. With his help, ABRP succeeded in gaining ABPP recognition. It is with sadness that we bid farewell to Russ, as we have to Bernie Brucker, Mitch Rosenthal, and Harry Parker, but remember and celebrate them all for what they have given to professional psychology through ABPP.

Remembering Russ

Shortly after being named the first Dean of the Wright State University's new School of Professional Psychology in 1977, I recruited Russ to accept the position of Professor and Associate Dean of Professional Practice.

I never regretted that choice. In his new role, Russ was responsible for all student practicum placements, the School's internship program, a comprehensive service center for faculty and students, and a faculty practice plan, to name the most visible of his assignments.

He came in at the beginning to help recruit faculty and prepare for our first class. For practicum placements, he negotiated agreements with over 50 hospitals, clinics, human service agencies, and practices in the region. He helped recruit and qualify local psychologists as supervisors and monitored the quality of their services. For many years he was a busy circuit rider visiting placement sites, the vast majority of which had never trained practicum students, putting out fires, smoothing differences, resolving conflicts and generally making sure everything worked as planned.

He put together an internship consortium involving a number of public and private agencies in the region; set up a selection process to review applicants, initiated an evaluation procedure and reporting system on internship progress, put in place monitoring and self-evaluation of the program by the sites, and oversaw the achievement of APA accreditation. He achieved that accreditation in the minimum amount of time possible.

He helped design and implement a large, comprehensive human service center in downtown Dayton for faculty and student practices and as a resource to the community. The new center was built by public funds and was the first such center established at any school of professional psychology in the US. He was responsible for all programs and services at the center including business operations.

The faculty practice plan he developed was loosely based on similar plans developed for medical school faculty in other universi-

Richard H. Cox, PhD, ABPP  email: r-bcox@ix.netcom.com
490 Bear Tree Creek
Chapel Hill, NC 27517

Meetings, meals, magic and mentoring: CPPSA and learning from Russ Bent

Many of you have known Russ Bent far better and far longer than the fifteen years that I have, but when I think of Russ Bent I think of meetings-B.O.T. meetings, APA Governance Meetings, Inter-Organizational Council Meetings, ABPP Convocations, informal meetings around the ABPP exhibit booth at APA and large joint executive board meetings like the first one between academies, examining boards and the B.O.T in Albuquerque. So many meetings, so many accompanying reports and so much travel to attend them (not to mention carrying the old fold-up exhibition booth around himself) left me marveling at Russ' stamina. His emotional equanimity during conflict at meetings was worthy of emulation. My first one-to-one contact with him was when he joined me at breakfast at the Inter-Organizational Council in Charleston to see how it was going for me as a new academy president. His words were welcoming, encouraging and reassuring.

When I think of Russ Bent I think of fine meals. It seemed that Russ always knew where the best restaurants were in any city; be it Anthony's or The Abbey in Atlanta, Brennan's in New Orleans, the steak house under the arch in St. Louis, and the little place across from Sir Francis Drake in San Francisco. And he would always be a most gracious host, taking us to some place where you had to try the turtle and alligator soup. The ostrich loin was once recommended and once he took a group (George Goldman and others were there) to hot chocolate and a walk on the levees after dinner. Russ was a master at getting more work out of us because he made sure we had fun, too. Although I learned he was watching the ABPP purse, nevertheless, when I once naively asked why these fine dining places always had a special menu with “The American Board of Professional Psychology” on the front. He told me that this was so that he could give options for dinner on this special menu but also leave off selections in the highest price range. The meals together and surrounding play seemed to melt the once hard-set, opposing opinions over time and cooperation.

Ronald E. Fox, PhD
The Consulting Group of HRC
103 Arbuthus Place
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
occurred - be it between examining boards and academies, CPPSA and the BOT or ASPBP, The NR and ABPP.

Occasionally, Russ would treat us to a show of his magic tricks. This could provide relief from a wearying agenda or temporary distraction from a seemingly unsolvable conflict. Russ stuck with the crafting of the wording of the inter-organizational accords with the then CPPSA Chair, Chuck King, in the mid-1990's to reach a statement accepted by all even though there had been much posturing and venting in the actual meeting. Russ appeared to work this other organizational type of magic often, too. He was supportive of CPPSA during its beginning and founding by Nate Turner and through its subsequent leadership of Chuck King.

Carl Zimet, myself, Chris Ovide, Bernie Brucker and Howard Cohen as we transitioned from having a liaison-only presence, to being a liaison but present at the closed session relationship, to being a full voting member of the B.O.T.

Through all of these meetings, meals and magic, much mentoring occurred by example. Russ taught us perseverance, stamina. If you want to have influence at a meeting—do your homework for it, always have some fun and a good meal together while you work together, bring those who appear to be opposing you into the tent, too; illusions (if being an ally or an adversary) may exist but may appear differently tomorrow when seen from another angle, market the abstraction of ABPP visibly with pens, post-its, clocks, ribbons, lapel pins, brochures and ads.

My last conversation with Russ in person was at the ABPP Governance Meeting in San Francisco at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel when he sat down next to me at breakfast. He asked how a former intern of his, Rolffs Pinkerton, who is also currently a colleague of mine was doing. I answered that he was now enjoying his four grandchildren very much and Russ replied, “Damn, I must be getting old! My interns have grandchildren!” Truly there was much mentoring in the meetings, the meals and the magic with Russ Bent and we shall miss him greatly.

Joe Talley, Ph.D. ABPP, Chair and CEO Emeritus, CPPSA

A tribute to Russ Bent

Russ Bent was a very gregarious and charismatic leader – or at least that was my experience of him. In all the years that it was my pleasure to know him and work with him, he exuded an unwavering loyalty to ABPP and his belief in the importance of both specialization and Board Certification. His positive attitude towards life was reflected in the fact that he frequently smiled and brought joy to his interactions. At the same time, he had enormous energy and the drive to do whatever was necessary (and ethical) to accomplish the tasks set out. Russ led ABPP ably through the transition from Missouri to Savannah. He picked up the reins when ABPP was faltering and succeeded in pulling things back together and moving forward at a rapid pace. He brought the issue of competency to the fore in our deliberations. Russ also liked to be certain that our various Board Meetings were places where we worked hard but also had a chance to play together, just as he made sure would happen at the 50th Anniversary dinner celebration. At our 60th Anniversary dinner, as Producer and Mistress of Ceremonies at the Talent Show, I thought we were particularly privileged to have Russ as one of the participants. He performed one of his famous magic acts.

Russ left an enormous legacy to many Diplomates and to the entire field of Psychology in which he had served as a professor, a dean, a leader in APA as well as in ABPP and many other organizations. Russ, I miss you now at our ABPP gatherings and in The Specialists and hope you are resting peacefully. Goodbye again, dear friend.

Florence W. Kaslow, Ph.D., ABPP

Aloha

Russ Bent was a wonderful friend and colleague for so many years. He was a visionary who truly cared about psychology and the patients whom we serve. It was always fun to visit with Russ when he would come to the U.S. Senate. He had a magical way with people, cards, and professional issues. His laughter was definitely contagious. His hope for the future – unsurpassed. I miss him on these Holidays.

Aloha,

Pat DeLeon, J.D., Ph.D., ABPP, Former APA President

‘The Great Bentini’

Russ Bent was an ABPP mentor to me. The first time I met him was on a Sunday night in 1986 in lodging arranged by the Menninger Foundation in Topeka, KS. ABPP was still organized into Regional Boards at the time and the Midwest Regional Board was giving its annual exams. The American Boards of Forensic Psychology and of Clinical Neuropsychology had just been taken in by ABPP. I had been appointed as Midwest Forensic Specialty Representative and had no idea what to expect. It turned out that Russ, I, and Linas Bieliauskas (new Clinical Neuropsychology Representative) arrived famished and Topeka was blacked out as if it were still World War II; not even a pizzeria was open. Linas had the foresight to bring some beer so I recall we drank a late liquid supper and began to foment revolution. Even in that first meeting, I recall that Russ opined that the Regions were just about dead and that ABPP had to take some radical measures to assure that the organization had any future at all.

Russ’ prowess as a magician, particularly his legerdemain with a deck of cards, was well known and entertainingly demonstrated every few years first to the Midwest Board and later to the entire BOT; just often enough so that his act did not get stale. I began early on to refer to him as ‘The Great Bentini.’ It turned out that, as a young man, Russ had contemplated a career as a professional magician rather than as a psychologist. He would hang out at the New York area magic shops and had once met the legendary John Scarne, the world’s foremost expert on gaming. He was considered skilled enough to be invited into ‘back room’ sessions where magicians shared their tricks. Those in attendance will recall he still had his stuff at the 60th Anniversary of ABPP Dinner in 2007. However, luckily for ABPP, he chose psychology as a career, where he continually worked his organizational magic in academics, health care, and of course for ABPP.

Russ became President of the Midwest Board and anticipated the reorganization into Specialty Boards, with which he was later involved on the ABPP Board of Trustees as Member and later as President. He was a systematic and organized thinker, which ABPP badly needed in a leader and administrator. I had been appointed as newsletter editor in 1990 and thus had a chance to work with him more closely and interact with him more frequently and informally. On the BOT as President and later as Executive Officer, he put forth Herculean effort to develop, establish, and set down policies and procedures for ABPP, templates for Specialty Boards and Academies to follow, and standardize the examination process while still respecting the unique circumstances and evaluation needs of the individual Specialties. In particular, these were needed by many of the newly formed Specialty Boards and Academies, who were pretty much at sea when they were first established. Today’s comparability of examination rigor and standards, despite the diversity in Specialty Examinations’ unique contents, has its roots in his organizational thinking.

Russ was a tireless worker. ABPP had retained him half-time as Executive Officer and he commuted from his retirement home in Hilton Head, SC to Savannah, GA, to which Central Office had moved. It turned out that he worked much more than half time
About your consultant: Russ Bent

by Russell Bent, Ph.D., ABPP

Editor’s note: This is a self-description by Dr. Bent written in August 2005

I would like to thank [you] for having confidence in me and inviting me to be your consultant re: accreditation by the APA in the substantive area of clinical psychology. I look forward to meeting with the administration, program directors, faculty, and students to attain our mutual goal of accreditation of your program. Certainly, APA accreditation is a responsible step if you intend to graduate (professional) psychologists in the context of today’s credential requirements.

I hold a Ph.D. from a program in clinical psychology (Fordham University, 1961) with honorary degrees of D.Sc. and Psy.D. from the University of Indianapolis and Forest Institute for Professional Psychology respectively. I hold accumulated many “meritorious contribution” awards from State and National Organizations serving as President of the Georgia Psychological Association, the National School and Programs in Professional Psychology, the American Board of Professional Psychology, and chair of APA Committees such as the Peer Review Committee, Committee on Health Insurance, and Executive Committee of the APA Committee on Accreditation.

My career has been a mixture of practice, program development/administration, education/teaching, and advocacy. I have published and presented in these areas consistent with the rank of full-professor and University Dean. My positions include Associate Dean to Dean at the Wright State School of Professional Psychology (Ohio), Deputy Director of the Georgia Mental Health Institute (Atlanta), Director, Division of Psychology, Emory University School of Medicine (Atlanta).

Outside of my Dean position at Wright State (accredited clinical program and internship program) my teaching areas have been forensic psychology, integrative psychotherapy, service delivery systems (incl. consultation, supervision), and small group practice tutorials (professional development). My main conceptual thrust has been the functional, competency development of psychological practice, education, and certification-including, of course, doctoral programs in professional psychology and the certification of specialists in professional psychology.

More pointedly, as a consultant for developing professional programs to attain APA accreditation of my over several dozen “clients” (now accredited), the programs in California in which I have served as consultant includes four CSPP campus (particularly Psy.D at San Francisco area and the Fresno Campus), Wright Institute, Azusa, J.F.K.U., Pepperdine, Fuller Theological, Chapman University, and CIIS. Over the last several years I consulted at U. Indianapolis and Xavier University (Ohio), both of which are now APA accredited.

Although retired from academia and practice, my current position is as Executive Director of the American Board of Professional Psychology with its several thousand certified specialists, 13 specialty boards, and liaison relationships with the APA Committee on Accreditation, Psychology Executives, APAGS, ASPPB, Council of Specialties, and Council of Credentialing Organizations in Professional Psychology.

I look forward to working with you at I.T.P.
In Memoriam: John H. Jackson
Remembering John Jackson (1922-2008)

Tom Fagan, Ph.D., Division 16 Historian
John Henry Jackson was born on September 21, 1922 in Macon Georgia, and died on May 14, 2008 following a long bout with complications from prostate cancer. John received his B.S. from Milwaukee State Teachers College (1946, currently University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), A. M. (1948) and Ph.D. (1957) in educational psychology from the University of Chicago. His dissertation, “The Relationship Between Psychological Climate and the Quality of Learning Outcomes Among Lower Status Pupils in the Classroom” was overseen by Drs. Carl R. Rogers (dissertation chair), Benjamin S. Bloom, and Herbert A. Thelen. That was a very distinguished committee!

John served a long career in the Milwaukee Public Schools, first as an instructor (1946-1960), then as a teacher in the Reading Center (1960-1962), and as a school psychologist from 1962 until his retirement in 1989. In his latter position he served as Coordinator or Director of Psychological Services (1983-1989), and as Human Relations Goal Coordinator. He managed a private practice, lectured at Marquette U. from 1966-1973, and was a founding member and former officer of the Wisconsin School of Professional Psychology.

Organizational Works
John was active in the affairs of school psychology at the state and national levels. He joined APA in 1963 and became a Fellow in 1982. He served on APA’s Policy and Planning Board, the Board of Professional Affairs (1984-1987) and was a former chair of the APA Task Force on Psychology in the Schools. He served the Division of School Psychology as Monitor for Professional Standards (1977-1979) and as one of three division representatives to APA Council from 1981-1984. John facilitated restructuring the division’s governance in the mid-1980s which established vice-presidencies as counterparts to APA boards (Jackson, 1985). In addition he chaired the Division’s Committee on School Psychology in Large Urban School Districts, served as Monitor to the Board of Ethnic Minority Affairs. He was granted the Division 16 Distinguished Service Award in 1986 and gave the award address the following year (Jackson, 1987). John was the first African-American recipient of that award.

As a charter member of NASP, John retained his membership until 2002 and changed his NCSP to retired status in 2003 (personal communication from Brieann Kinsey, June 4, 2008). He was also a fellow of the American Orthopsychiatric Association, a member of the Wisconsin Psychological Association, and the Milwaukee Area Psychological Association, serving as president of the latter in 1981-1982. He was a licensed psychologist in Wisconsin and served on that state’s psychology examine board (1974-1980), and was listed in the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology.

Literary Contributions
Over the course of his school psychology career, John published several articles in scholarly journals including Professional Psychology: Research & Practice, Journal of School Psychology, and Professional School Psychology. With Margaret Bernauer he published a grant sponsored monograph in 1968, The School Psychologist as a Therapist which described a project funded under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Across his school psychology career he published on topics related to school psychology interventions (Jackson, 1970; Jackson & Bernauer, 1968, 1975), the development and importance of school psychology (Bernauer & Jackson, 1974; Jackson, 1990, 1996; Jackson & Pryswnsky, 1987; Pryswnsky, Harris, & Jackson, 1984), and minority affairs relevant to school children and psychologists (Jackson, 1992; 2005). He was an editorial consultant to the Journal of School Psychology and to Professional Psychology.

Contributions to ABPP
Board certified in school psychology on June 30, 1970, John was among the earliest school psychology diplomates from the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP), and was active in the ABPP leadership. John was likely the first African-American ABPP in school psychology although the Board does not track records by ethnicity (personal communication from Nancy McDonald, June 9, 2008). John served as an examiner for those seeking diplomate status in the ABPP. He also served as an examiner for those seeking the diplomate, served on the Midwest ABPP Regional Board, and as ABSP President in 1993. Dawn Flanagan (personal communication, June 10, 2008) recalled participating in an exam with John in the 1990s. “He had high standards and was very detail oriented. The exam was rigorous for the candidate and the examiners as well.” Dave Utech (personal communication of June 10, 2008) commented that John “was a pioneer, as a black psychologist, a black clinician, a black leader in a major city school system, and a black leader in ABPP. I remember John as one of the committee members for my oral exams for the school psychology diplomate for ABPP. He was very pragmatic, not only asking how I had reached diagnostic formulations about the child I (tried to) interview and briefly examined on the other side of the one-way mirror, but then also asking me what I thought would be practical suggestions for the child’s teacher and parents. He would nod encouragingly, but then lead me further with a series of ‘What if....?’ questions. By the time the exam was over, I had no idea if I had done well, but I did know that I had been treated fairly by a very insightful man. A few years later, I got a call from John, asking me to participate in oral exams for ABPP in the Midwest region. He and I met at the airport one afternoon while he was changing planes, and he left me with a pile of papers and suggestions about how the exam process might be organized in the Chicago area. Soon he was sending me candidate biographies and applications, always with words of encouragement about moving the process forward. I was able to sit on a few oral exam committees with John and found that he held very rigorous standards of professionalism while also treating each applicant with the utmost respect. John always found a way to gently ask questions about psychologists’ involvements with minority students and families. When the ‘Larry P?’ case in California was a recent memory, he challenged psychologists to find fair ways to identify children in need without stigmatizing them or over-identifying subgroups. He seemed to always hold the needs of the individual student first, while trying to understand them in the larger societal context.”

Beeman Phillips (personal communication of June 7, 2008) recalled that after John “was accepted as a school psychology diplomate in the ABPP, he was active in later efforts to revise and improve procedures for implementing school psychology’s new role as a recognized specialty in the ABPP. This involved assessment and other procedures to be followed by applicants seeking diplomate status in the ABPP. He also was active in efforts to inform the field at large of the personal, as well as general, benefits of becoming a licensed psychologist, and a diplomate. In addition, he was active in the affairs of the American Academy of School Psychology, an affiliate of the ABPP. Finally, he frequently mentored school psychologists who wanted to become active in Div. 16 or other school psychology related organizations (including public school center organizations).”

Another colleague, Walt Pryzwansky (personal communication, June 23, 2008) commented, “I had the pleasure to work with John in several different professional arenas and consequently, observed and interacted with him as he served in a variety of roles. I found him consistently to be the professional’s professional and more importantly the human being’s human being. He was gracious and kind to a fault while being true to his ideas and professional ethics and standards, so much so that some initially could misinterpret that commitment and persistence. However, once as his position

Winter 2009
Recalling John Jackson

Robt. W. Goldberg, Ph.D., ABPP

John Jackson was President of the ABPP Midwest Regional Board when I joined it. I was the new MW Forensic Specialty Representative and definitely the new kid on the block in terms of age and prior organizational experience. John took the time to warmly welcome me and encourage my full participation, and I rapidly became comfortable in the ways of ABPP.

John was a gracious, highly principled, organized, articulate, and committed human being and professional. He unfailingly maintained a professional decorum, semi-formal but friendly. He was informed and always up-to-date on psychological issues well outside of his School Psychology specialty. His opinions were respected by all. He was always careful to compose examiner teams who would fairly examine the particular candidates. He would brook no discourtesy, flippancy, or condescension of examiners toward candidates. He always held himself out as an emergency pinch-hitter examiner, should there be any need, a wise practice which I later adapted to doing my own professional interviews. In conducting our MW Board business, the agenda was always completed and loose ends tied up.

John was also a fiscally responsible, indeed frugal, individual. The MW Board would hold its annual dinner after the Board Meeting and exams. The Board rule, I think promulgated originally by John, was that none of us would even consider making the board, “acting on what it said were complaints from parents, instituted a one-year ban on black substitute teachers. The ban, in turn, prompted protests from Shorewood High Schools students upset at the board’s intolerance and led to the resignation of the high school principal, who quit because he had been ordered not to hire African Americans (Ryan, 2008). As his career progressed, he appears to have become increasingly concerned with minority-majority relations and the training of psychologists to effectively deliver services to both groups. His frustrations and recommendations are described in his publications late in his career (Jackson, 1992, 1997, 2005).

John Jackson was among the early and most distinguished African-American school psychologists in the United States, although not the first such practitioner (Graves, in press). John’s last residence was in Wauwatosa, WI. He married Cynthia A. Fletcher on December 24, 1959 and they had no children. John was preceded in death by his wife and his sister, Dorothy. Dr. John Jackson’s contributions to the field of school psychology and the lives of countless children and families in the Milwaukee area will be long appreciated.


* Appreciation is expressed to the following for their assistance in preparing this article: Bruce Bracken, Bill Erchul, Rosemary Flanagan, Joe French, Robert Goldberg, Gloria Gottsegen, Meg Jones, Jim Larson, Tom Oakland, Beeman Phillips, David Prasse, Walt Pryzwansky, Jean Ramage, Cecil Reynolds, Adam Scheppman, Dave Utech. Background information was also obtained from John Jackson’s election statements published in The School Psychologist, 1977 31(4); 1983, 37(4); 1984, 38(4); and 1985, 39(4).

*This tribute is also appearing in the Division 16 newsletter, The School Psychologist.
Winter 2009

In Memoriam: Jacquelin Goldman

November 12, 2008

Jacquelin Goldman, Ph.D., ABPP recently passed. The funeral was Sunday at The B’nai Israel Congregation in Gainesville, Florida. Dr. Goldman was a Professor Emeritus in the Dept. of Clinical and Health Psychology at UF. She had a distinguished career authoring three textbooks (including “On Becoming a Psychotherapist”) and many honors. She had in the past served on ABPP Board of Trustees. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Hospice or to any of the many organizations she supported: Altrusa Club, Maimondides Society of the Jewish Council of North Central Florida, the Humane Society, the Democratic Party, the Harn Museum of Art. She established the Jacquelin R. Goldman Scholarship in Developmental Psychology and made a generous donation to APA to establish a congressional fellowship for psychologists to impact child-related legislation. Dr. Goldman was known as an excellent teacher and mentor.

Vignettes of Jacqui Goldman

Robt. W. Goldberg, Ph.D., ABPP

I first ‘met’ Jacquelin Goldman over the phone. I had expressed interest in assuming the Editorship of The Diplomate newsletter in 1990 and, out of the blue, Jacqui cold-called me for a telephone interview. A disembodied, yet robust, voice began to grill me on my qualifications, interest, skill set, and degree of commitment to the post. There were no superfluous pleasantries but I rapidly became appreciative of, and resonated with, her ‘bottom line’ approach which matched my own. I guess I did well enough to get the job.

This editorship admitted me to BOT meetings as Newsletter Editor and Secretary ex officio and Jacqui was the first BOT President I had the opportunity to observe. It should be noted too that she was the first woman BOT President, and a leader ahead of her time. I gathered that the custom had been for BOT meetings to be a somewhat dreary recitation of annual reports, with insufficient time left to conduct business and take action. However, Jacqui’s style of presiding was to rush through the ritual reports so that ABPP, which was on shaky ground, could begin to consider transforming itself into a more viable and modern organization.

Apart from beginning to consider ABPP reorganization, the hottest issue with which the BOT dealt during her time in office was APA’s establishment of what is now known as the APA College of Professional Psychology. The original name APA was going to use for this project was the “American College of Professional Psychology” which Jacqui realized was going to cause considerable customer confusion with ABPP. She was vociferous in her complaints to various APA folks about this. In a happy coincidence, the BOT was meeting in the D.C. area at the same time APA was holding an official social function, subsequent to which we understood some action would be taken with regard to the “American College.” Jacqui managed to get ABPP representatives invited to that social function, in order for us to lobby. She was insightful enough to realize that, if she were going to represent ABPP, she would likely rile the APA folks up in a way which would not advance our cause. So, without Jacqui, five of us crammed ourselves into a subcompact car and careened along the Beltway from Bethesda to Alexandria to attend this APA function, which was at an almost impossible-to-find location. Once there, we were able to advocate for our position with some APA folks. And, subsequent follow-up and prodding by Jacqui, APA did agree to change the name to the National College of Professional Psychology.

She will be missed.

Jacquelin Goldman

She was known for her sharp mind and her keen sense of humor. She was a force to be reckoned with and a leader ahead of her time. Her passing is a loss not only to ABPP but to the field of psychology as a whole.
applied psychology's culture of secrecy regarding practitioners' actual behavior with clients. This secrecy is partly motivated by confidentiality concerns but is primarily motivated by practitioners' fears of criticism if others were to see their work. This fear is unfortunately reasonably justified, given the inability of most practitioners to view the work of others with objectivity and within the context of the extremely complex tasks of evaluation and treatment. Most psychologists have experienced, in practicum or internship, in licensing oral exams, or even in ABPP exams, the narrowness and subjectivity sometimes displayed by clinical psychologists regarding the work of others. These experiences serve to establish the conviction on the part of all new psychologists that exposing themselves and their work is both dangerous and pointless, and this conviction is played out in their never seriously sharing with others their experiences as therapists and only seeking consultation when they encounter potential legal problems. The secrecy in which practitioners practice maintains this sad state of affairs, by making it impossible for skills in objectivity and in understanding others' systems of thought to be developed.

Since the profession has been so silent on the issue of specific competence definitions and measures, most practitioners have no idea themselves of what competence might be and are therefore not engaged in self-assessment or professional growth beyond state-required continuing education and occasional efforts to expand their own practices. Most, therefore, have no motivation to demonstrate advanced competence.

Being unsure of their own competence and of how they compare with others, most applied psychologists remain cool to opportunities to demonstrate their competence, or they defensively accuse those who are interested in competence of elitism. Most practitioners avoid case consultation groups with their peers out of fear of this competition and of being humiliated.

Since APA is an organization composed mostly of practitioners with only basic credentials (doctorate and licensure), it has naturally been resistant to recognizing any higher standards of competence than licensure, although it has at times tacitly agreed that Board Certification is valuable.

In its current incarnation, Board Certification is over as soon as the exam is passed. The image of ABPP is therefore limited to that of gatekeeper or sanctioner. ABPP offers to diplomats no activities, support, or goals for further development and growth after the achievement of Board Certification. The only joint activity of diplomats is to urge others to also become Board Certified. To have a "positive" program of some sort (rather than only the "negative" program of gatekeeping) would expand the ABPP image and provide much more value to diplomats over their entire careers.

Motives for board certification

Current applicants for ABPP Board Certification are motivated by some combination of (1) desire to pursue competence or excellence, (2) desire to gain competitive advantage over other practitioners, (3) desire to gain specific benefits tied to Board Certification (such as bonus pay), and (4) desire for status. In seeking more applicants for Board Certification, appeal can be made to any or all of these motives.

Very few bases have been found in recent years for promoting the "value" of Board Certification in terms of appealing to desires for status, for gaining advantage over colleagues, and for accessing diplomate-based benefits. It was hoped that the concrete benefits of Board Certification would motivate many to seek it, but this has not proved to be true. Those who are Board Certified get the self-satisfaction of achieving Board Certification, the status that one's peers grant for being Board Certified, and an occasional credential advantage on the witness stand, but the only other concrete advantages of Board Certification are reduced malpractice fees from one insurer and (very recent) pay bonuses from the military, the VA, and the Public Health Service. ABPP can continue to work to induce other organizations to grant benefits contingent on being Board Certified, but there are no reasons to believe that the concrete advantages will ever be much greater, since the bottom-line-oriented health care industry in general does not value advanced competence and never will.

Those who seek status and those who seek advantage over colleagues will not encourage others to become Board Certified, since that would weaken their own status position. Those who are motivated by concrete advantages will not advocate for Board Certification, since they will already have the benefits and their eligible colleagues will already know about the benefit being offered.

It would seem then that the only motive for becoming Board Certified that has not been fully exploited is that of seeking to be a good or better practitioner, and currently ABPP ceases active involvement in this interest at the point of initial (entry-level) Board Certification and therefore leaves this motive partially unexploited. Those who are Board Certified can recommend the current exam process as a learning experience to others, but if they were involved in an ongoing program of further learning, consultation, and achievement, they would be even more enthusiastic in urging others to apply.

This is not necessarily to advocate for a return to the earlier "excellence" agenda, since that, too, was a one-time-only event, but rather to suggest a career-long program of professional growth, delineated and supported by ABPP (which would, of course, have excellence as its logical conclusion and driving force in the minds of most).

To sum up, marketing (letting psychologists know about Board Certification and urging them to seek it) is having little effect in generating greater numbers of applicants. Recent pay bonuses in the military and VA are producing applicants, but these numbers will plateau soon, and there are no additional concrete benefits on the horizon. Most psychologists see insufficient benefit from Board Certification to justify to themselves the expense and potential humiliation of taking the exam. There are almost no advocates in the profession for greater self-awareness and self-exposure on the part of practitioners, which could support an ethos of increasing competence throughout one's career. APA's lack of support and the lack of any control by psychology or on the part of states of qualifications to practice specialties makes ABPP's role as sanctioner a weak one. Most psychologists have little idea of what competence is and are frightened that they might not be competent in the eyes of their peers.

Internal issues

In an effort to survive (and hopefully flourish), ABPP chose in the early 1990's to change from being a guarantor of a high level of general competence ("excellence") to being a guarantor of readiness to practice a psychological specialty. This provides a service to the public, although examining for entry into a specialty is a guarantee of only minimal competence and will ultimately be of only limited value to the public. (Surely we expect practitioners to get better at what they do after entering the specialty, and ABPP does not define or encourage this.) By evaluating candidates for beginning practice in the specialty and not attempting to guarantee ongoing competence (through re-examination, for example) or to evaluate any higher level of practice, it has become somewhat analogous to licensing, as a gatekeeper for entry only. For ABPP specialties with more specific information on which to examine, such as forensic and neuropsychology, examinations can perhaps be made difficult enough to guarantee reasonable overall competence in the specialty (not just readiness to practice), but in those with more general exams, such as clinical, it is more difficult (though hopefully not impossible) to make examinations both more difficult and adequately defensible in terms of the judgments examiners are asked to make.

A weakness in ABPP's move to specialties is that some ABPP specialties are not really specialties. Clinical is the best example, since in a sense it is the ground from which all specialties spring. It makes no sense to psychologists or to the public to think of clinical as a specialty (even though it might be possible to make some analogy to family practice in medicine). The loss of the commitment to examine for "excellence" has created more recruitment difficulty for clinical than for other ABPP specialties, since being a practitioner of a more clearly defined specialty is more remunerative. Applicants for Board Certification in clinical do not apply in order to demonstrate their appropriateness for "entry into the practice of the specialty of clinical psychology,"
and the Clinical Board (ABCP) would be hard pressed to convincingly define clinical as a true "specialty."

Predictions and recommendations
ABPP could continue with "business as usual," but there are other options, such as taking a role in defining standards for practice at levels above that of licensure, turning to a greater emphasis on excellence, offering examinations at levels of practice beyond entry into a specialty, establishing a career-long professional growth and development program for diplomates, and re-joining APA to continue examinations in that context.

Business as usual
ABPP can continue to exist in its current form without disappearing, but the outcome is not desirable in all respects. "Hot" specialties such as forensics and neuropsychology will continue to grow for a while in numbers of diplomates, but most others will slowly decline, some into organizational non-feasibility. On the other hand, even in areas such as clinical, there will always be a certain, even if small, number of people who are drawn to Board Certification by the various motives described above. If ABPP's sphere of activity does not change, a way must be found to serve these small numbers of psychologists in various specialties that is inexpensive yet maintains the standards appropriate for Board Certification. The current Board and Academy structure may be sufficient for this, although the dues per member would probably have to increase.

Standards
An important and very possible new function of ABPP would be to enhance and expand its role in the establishment of standards and aspirational goals for post-licensure practice. ABPP could take the lead in defining post-licensure competence and in developing methods of ensuring reliable, consistent judgments of it. This would, of course, require more disciplined, objective evaluation by persons who are able to see the larger context of psychological work and to minimize personal preferences and countertransference reactions.

One option would be to join formally the APA competency benchmark effort. Nonethe-
less, ABPP should probably claim for itself the position of final arbiter of standards for post-licensure certifications and examinations. The benchmark effort already has tentative standards for "Readiness for Advanced Practice and Specialization" (the current point of Board Certification examination and soon to be the point of licensure). ABPP could use or amend these and take for itself the responsibility of defining standards for levels beyond entry-level, such as "journeyman" and "master" levels.

Excellence
ABPP could shift back from examining for specialty entry-level competence to a focus on general, advanced competence ("excellence"). The basis for this must be carefully developed standards (more detailed than those used currently for ABPP specialties) and emphasis on using only evaluators who can reliably apply these standards. The notion of "elitism" must be combated by emphasis on detailed standards. (The "old boy club" image of ABPP will probably be alive to some extent in the minds of some as long as ABPP is separate from APA.)

Proposal - career professional development
In my opinion, the only thing that will make Board Certification more valued in the eyes of psychologists and third-party payers is an image in the professional community as well as in the health care community of ABPP as actively contributing to the actual competence of those who are Board Certified (not just evaluating it once). Being the gatekeeper only will not increase the natural respect and acceptance of ABPP over what they are now, and no marketing effort alone will succeed in doing this. (Legislation or an industry-wide requirement that practitioners in certain positions be Board Certified would increase the number of applicants for Board Certification, but it would not increase the natural respect and acceptance of ABPP.) One way that ABPP can improve its image is to be more involved in the professional growth and development of its members than it is.

For example, aspirational goals, standards, and expectations could be defined for an entry-level, a journeyman-level, and a master-level of practice in any specialty. This has the advantage of making clear that all practitioners are expected to advance along this road of professional development as far as they individually can, so that life-long learning becomes real rather than mere words. Judging from the personal experiences of many therapists, the journeyman level (when one finally feels he or she "really" understands clients and what needs to be done to help them) occurs after an average of seven years of post-doctoral practice, and I would venture that progress toward the master level would involve another ten years after that. (Obviously, this notion of competence encompasses much more than competence at applying defined technical interventions, and includes an in-depth understanding of clients' inner workings and motivations.)

The entry level of Board Certification would be defined as including those who have just achieved the knowledge necessary for the specialty and have developed personal attributes that do not interfere with treatment outcomes. These psychologists can usually figure out some things that will be helpful but not always quickly. They can apply defined treatment interventions with some expertise. This level is a cut above licensure.

The "journeyman" level would include those who make quick, comprehensive, and accurate assessments of clients, whose manner of relating to clients provides significant enhancement of the likelihood of therapeutic success, and who know in advance which approaches and interventions are likely to work best with each client (based on considerably more than DSMIV diagnosis).

The "master" level would not be restricted to luminaries such as Beck, Ellis, and Masterson but would encompass those truly expert and effective therapists who have enhanced journeyman qualities, who are respected and admired by their peers, and whose consultation, supervision, and training are valued and trusted.

Levels of passing for each examination could be established also, such as "pass," "pass with distinction," and "pass with excellence.

Clearly the work of defining additional levels of standards and developing fair and reasonable examinations will take much effort and several years, but it is an opportunity to energize our members by inviting their participation, and we do have many diplomates who are well qualified to take on this task. Criteria can be defined generally, to apply to all specialty areas, and each area would restate and annotate these criteria for its own specific use.

The critical importance of evaluators who can understand comprehensively a candidate's conceptions and treatment behaviors was noted above (as opposed to judging a candidate on similarity to the evaluator or conformity to an established therapeutic world view). Perhaps thirty percent of current diplomates can do this adequately, but this skill can be developed by others, if it is held up as an aspirational goal and if its potential benefit, of lifting the need for the secrecy surrounding clinical work so that we may learn from each other, can be made clear. We claim that we can do this already for clients (an objective, non-judgmental, comprehensive understanding), so there is no reason that we cannot aspire to do this for ourselves and our colleagues. ABPP could be the champion of this enlightened approach. There are already several internship programs that use this approach for training, and their experience can provide a basis for development of the approach as the ground for career-long development.

The career-long learning program could provide for members selected significant articles to read; study materials for a learning group; instructions for establishing and running peer consultation groups; descriptions of a sequenced series of growth steps, including self-assessment tools and exercises; instructions for various kinds of pro bono services for the community; and other such materials. These would be sent to the member on a schedule (or on request), based on the member's own growth path.

ABPP exists now through the volunteer work of dedicated members, with few paid staff. Many Academies do not even have an office or permanent address. It is an important question, therefore, whether this expanded notion of Board
Certification, with a lifelong learning program and several levels of achievement, can function without many more paid staff. The work of defining standards and creating examinations can be done by our volunteering members, as can the administration of the examinations themselves. Even if the total number of entry-level diplomates increases dramatically, only some fraction of them (thirty percent?) will take the second-level exam, and only a fraction of those will take the third-level exam. The learning program for members can be developed by volunteers and sent through e-mail for the most part, with perhaps one hard-copy mailing per year of additional materials. A few more paid staff will be needed for the additional administrative paperwork, mailing, and tracking required, and these can be paid for through the income from the educational program. Continuing education credits could be offered for some of the learning activities in the self-development program (reading articles, completing comprehensive self-assessments including self-reflection, etc.), and a charge could be made for these credits to support the program.

There are two major areas of therapeutic approach and beliefs defining themselves currently (and to some extent sparring with each other)—a “process approach” versus a more technique-oriented approach. The process approach values the therapeutic interaction and relationship highly and would be illustrated in various analytic, uncovering, and relationship therapies. The technique approach is more concerned about well-defined and more routine therapeutic interventions and is well disposed toward the notion of empirically supported treatments. (No value judgment is implied here. These are both legitimate approaches.) Adherents of the process approach wish to make their interventions effective, and adherents of the technique approach know that process elements can make their interventions more effective. (Of course, will be very difficult to accept for many who are loyal to the current concept of ABPP. (I am not fully informed about the legal ramifications of examining to standards but assume that since APA can do this for programs, this could also be done for individuals.)

Future marketing

Future marketing can be confined to two issues: (1) ensuring that all practitioners know about ABPP Board Certification and view it as a fair and competent evaluative effort, and (2) establishing in the minds of psychologists that ABPP establishes the standards for Board Certification and for post-entry-level certifications of achievement and is contributing actively to the career-long professional growth of its members. Promoting Board Certification through advertising the advantages available to those who are Board Certified has reached its limits of effectiveness, since those advantages are not likely to increase much until ABPP takes its appropriate place as the acknowledged setter of standards, and until sanctioners understand the concept that there are several levels of competence beyond licensure and that those levels are important to those who receive services, as well as to those who pay for them. Our progress in defining standards and methods of evaluating them can be documented (and “advertised”) via articles in a variety of professional journals, to begin the process of attitude change in the profession. Mailings to all graduating and newly licensed psychologists would be appropriate, but even more important is the establishment in the minds of psychologists that professional growth and development beyond licensure are expected and that paths of growth and development have been mapped out for them (by ABPP). The greatest amount of personal “marketing” is likely to occur by those motivated toward Board Certification by wanting to grow professionally, since they will be the most personally involved in the extended concept of Board Certification.

Summary

Several approaches to expanding ABPP’s influence and public image have been described. An enhancement of ABPP’s public image is critical, which can occur through expanded functions of value to practitioners or to health care payers. The greatest emphasis in this article was on the idea of making ABPP into an agent for comprehensive, post-licensure, career-long professional development, including education, consultation, and examinations for several levels of post-licensure competence.

It is hoped that this proposal will be considered seriously by the BOT and by the various boards and academies, since even if it is not adopted, it may spur further creative thinking about how to make Board Certification more valued and valuable. Others with additional ideas about future forms of Board Certification and activities of ABPP are invited to join the discussion.

Christopher Ebbe, Ph.D., ABPP, FAACP, has had a long career in intern and post-doctoral training. He worked on the clinical exam revision of 1992, served as regional exam coordinator for ABClinP, and is the incoming president of the clinical academy. (Comments are invited at cebbe@alum.mit.edu.)

Attestations are due
March 31st, 2009

go to www.abpp.org

complete the process online or download a form to print out and submit via fax or mail
American Academy of Clinical Psychology

Christopher Ebbe, Ph.D., ABPP

President Larry Schoenfeld is leaving the Board after serving in that capacity for the past two years. He has contributed to ABPP and APA matters for many years and has left his mark on ABPP (the “senior option” and application during graduate school, among others). His knowledge of organizational history and of “what works” and “what doesn’t work” helped the Board to orient itself to the primary task at hand, which is to clarify (even 16 years after 1992!) the mission and role of the Academy. In addition, though, the Board is focusing on additional member benefits, such as “by name” local advertising.

Our greatest concern is the continuing increase in the average age of Fellows, indicating the lack of replenishment by younger diplomates. We are trying to face the fact that efforts to promote Board Certification have not worked for clinical (perhaps because it is not a clear specialty), so it would appear that after a few more tries (an annual solicitation to every clinical psychologist in the country?), either the ranks of Board Certified clinical psychologists will continue to dwindle, or Board Certification will need a new twist or face (additional levels of certification?, a lifelong learning approach?, ?). We are currently establishing greater ties with the clinical examining board, in a final effort toward promotion.

Newly elected members of the Board are Lisa Grossman and Fred Alberts. Roger Brooke was elected to a second term on the Board. Bob Yufit, Lawrence Donner, and myself will continue our terms. I hope to continue our recent history of greater communication with members and greater involvement of members in the workings of the Academy. We welcome inquiries and suggestions from all clinical Fellows (cebbe@alum.mit.edu or contact@aacpsy.org).

American Academy of Forensic Psychology

Mary Alice Conroy, Ph.D., ABPP

For the past 20 years, the American Academy of Forensic Psychology has offered a series of workshops for professionals interested in honing their skills in the forensic arena. In addition to the workshops, we are now collaborating on a book series published by Oxford Press. The Oxford Forensic Assessment Series, edited by Kirk Heilbrun, Tom Grisso, and Alan Goldstein, is aiming to publish 20 small volumes over the next several years. The first volume (Foundations of Forensic Mental Health Assessment) covers basic principles of all forensic evaluations. The remaining 19 volumes each address an area of specialization. The books are each to be less than 200 pages, published in paperback, designed to be inexpensive, and aimed at outlining the best practice in a particular area.

A central objective for AAFP is to offer basic education in all aspects of forensic assessment to candidates for the Forensic Diplomate, as well as to other professionals who may aspire to ABFP standards.

The series presents approaches to assessment that are empirically supported, relevant to the legal community, and consistent with guidelines for professional practice. Authors for the books were selected for their expertise in the particular assessment area. Once a draft is drafted, it is then reviewed by one or more additional experts recommended by AAFP before the final editing process by Heilbrun, Grisso, and Goldstein. It is hoped in this way to present as “best practice” methods that are generally accepted in the field.

The books follow a common format presenting the legal context, empirical foundations and limits, preparation for the evaluation, data collection, data interpretation, and report writing and testimony.

The first two volumes currently in print are the initial foundations volume (Heilbrun, Grisso, and Goldstein) and one addressing the evaluation of sexually violent predators (Witt and Conroy). Works relating to competence for trial (Zafp and Roesch), juvenile competence (Kruh and Grisso), and criminal responsibility (Packer) should be published soon, and the entire series should be in bookstores by 2011. In addition to mental health professionals, judges and attorneys may find the information presented in this concise format helpful.

Couple and Family Psychology

The Board (ABCFP) and the Academy (AACFP) of Couple and Family Psychology have had an eventful year. First, we would like to give a hearty congratulations to two of our very best. Dr. Florence Kaslow was awarded the gold medal for lifetime achievement in the practice of psychology from the American Psychological Foundation. Many of us, including her whole family, attended the APA/APF ceremony and the dinner that her family gave in her honor. Dr. Nadine Kaslow gave a touching tribute to her mother and colleague. Dr. Nathan Turner was awarded a certificate of appreciation from the American Board of Professional Psychology for his contribution to the couple and family specialty and he was later awarded the American Academy of Couple and Family Psychology’s President’s Award for his significant contributions to ABPP and to the field of couple and family psychology. Dr. John Northman was elected to the chair-elect position of the Council of Presidents of Psychology Specialty Academies (CPPSAs). ABCFP held an election of board members which resulted in the retention of Michele Harway, John Northman, and Mark Stanton along with the addition of new board member John Thoburn.

The American Board of Couple and Family Psychology completed the Periodic Comprehensive Review (PCR) during the past year. ABCFP updated its manual with a particular focus on establishing clear criteria for prospective diplomates qualifying for candidacy. Areas that were reformulated included the requirements for applying for the senior track and the structure for strong mentoring of candidates. Reaccreditation feedback from ABPP confirmed the high professionalism built into the ABCFP; the value of board certification in couple and family psychology and the vast potential for developing diplomates in the discipline. Kudos go to Dr. Karen Prager, Dr. Frank Ezso, Dr. Florence Kaslow and Dr. Rodney Nurse for all their hard work in securing successful reaccreditation.

The interest in board certification in couple and family psychology from prospective candidates has not been this high since the early days of the Board. Several of the officers of the AACFP and ABCFP spent considerable amounts of time nurturing and encouraging potential applicants to the couple and family specialty. By
American Academy of School Psychology

A primary goal of the AASP this year has been to increase the visibility and awareness of the ABPP credential among school psychologists. Although there are over 31,000 school psychologists in the U.S., the number of those who are board certified is quite small. One explanation for this is that only about 30% of school psychologists hold doctoral degrees and many work in settings that do not require licensure by state boards of psychology.

Although the number of potential candidates is limited, the AASP has made strong efforts to reach out to eligible colleagues. As part of our efforts to promote awareness of the value of board certification, the AASP has awarded scholarships on an annual basis (i.e., Irwin Hyman and Nadine Lambert Memorial Scholarships) to doctoral students. These scholarships are funded through corporate sponsors and AASP Fellows and, over the past four years, we have awarded 16, $1000 scholarships. Six scholarships were given in 2008. (See http://www.theaasp.org/scholarships.html and accompanying photo).

AASP President Bill Erchul’s main presidential initiative was to recruit from the pool of APA Division 16 members who are licensed but not board certified. For example, in May 2008, e-mails were sent to approximately 650 individuals so identified. Replies were received from 15 individuals who expressed high interest and potential for follow through with applications.

Further efforts to expand the pool of potential candidates have included breakfasts and cocktail hours, hosted by AASP, to allow individuals who are board certified to meet with colleagues who are considering board certification. Board eligible individuals are invited to attend and current academy members are encouraged to bring guests to these events. Other efforts have included attendance and presentations at national conventions held by professional organizations such as the National Association of School Psychologists. The AASP co-sponsors an information/exhibitor booth with APA Division 16 and regularly holds a panel discussion session on “Obtaining Board Certification in School Psychology.”

The AASP has published an annual newsletter since 2004 and AASP Fellows have written two white papers addressing issues relevant to the field of school psychology as a whole (See http://www.theaasp.org/publications.html).

Although the AASP retains the primary responsibility for recruitment efforts, continued coordination and collaboration with the ABSP has proven quite helpful. Although we face challenges in the recruitment process, we will continue these efforts in 2009 and beyond. The ABSP has also been working with the AASP toward the development of the mentoring program, and specifically a training program for mentors of current candidates.

William P. Erchul, Ph.D., ABPP
Shelley F. Pelletier, Ph.D., ABPP
Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology

John E. Lochman, Ph.D., ABPP
As one of the newest specialty boards, the American Board of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology (ABCCAP) has continued to develop and evolve during the past year. There have been two ABCCAP Board meetings this past year, both in conjunction with conferences conducted by key APA Divisions whose members are potential (or current) candidates for Board certification by ABCCAP. On April 11th the ABCCAP Board met in Miami while the APA Division 54 sponsored conference on child health psychology was occurring, and on October 17th in Lawrence, Kansas, while the Division 53 sponsored conference on clinical child and adolescent psychology was being held. Having Board meetings during these conferences has permitted the Board and the Academy to engage in a set of other relevant activities at these times, including (1) conducting oral exams, (2) providing co-sponsorship of these conferences (and of another regional pediatric psychology conference in Kansas City, Kansas), (3) briefly presenting about ABCCAP and about advantages and procedures for Board certification during the opening sessions of each of the meetings, (4) presenting an hour-long presentation on Board certification during the Miami conference, and (5) providing and staffing information tables at these meetings.

The Board and the Academy continue to work closely together, with Academy board members participating in the ABCCAP Board meetings. The Board and Academy work together on initiatives such as: (1) mentoring for applicants in the pipeline who have already submitted applications for Board certification, as well as for psychologists identified to be likely potential applicants for Board certification, (2) providing informational sessions to psychology interns and postdoctoral trainees, and (3) providing a professional clinical workshop in the preconference at the Kansas conference, with the revenues going directly to the Academy. If you know of persons who are interested in board certification in the clinical child and adolescent area, have them contact one of our Board or Academy members, or check our web page (www.clinicalchildpsychology.com). Anyone interested in becoming involved in advancing the specialty or improving the exam process can also contact the listed Board and Academy members.

BOARD (American Board of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology):

President
John E. Lochman, Ph.D., ABPP
Phone: 205-752-6973
Fax: 205-348-8648
Email: jlochman@ua.edu

Past President and Representative to BOT
Philip C. Kendall, Ph.D., ABPP
Phone: 215-204-1558
Fax: 215-204-5539
Email: PKENDALL@temple.edu

Pres. Elect & Practice Sample Coordinator
John Piacentini, Ph.D., ABPP
Phone: 310-206-6649
Fax: 310-871-5284
Email: jpiacentini@mednet.ucla.edu

Secretary/Treasurer
James Johnson, Ph.D., ABPP
Phone: 352-273-6144
Fax: 352-273-6156
Email: jhj@phhp.ufl.edu

Credential Reviewer
Mary Fristad, Ph.D., ABPP
Phone: 614-293-4572
Fax: 614-293-4949
Email: mary.fristad@osumc.edu

Alfred J. Finch, Jr., Ph.D., ABPP
Phone: 843-953-5320
Fax: 843-953-6797
Email: fincha@citadel.edu

Michael Nelson, Ph.D., ABPP
Phone: 513-745-3298
Fax: 513-745-4380
Email: nelson@xavier.edu

Lynne C. Hardy, Ph.D., ABPP
Phone: 816-234-3584
Fax: 816-346-1382
Email: lchardy@cmh.edu

ACADEMY BOARD (American Academy of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology):

Academy President
Kathleen Hart, Ph.D., ABPP
Phone: 513-745-3278
Fax: 513-745-4380
Email: hartk@xavier.edu

Academy President-Elect
Michael C. Roberts, Ph.D., ABPP
Email: mroberts@ku.edu

Academy Secretary-Treasurer
Ric G. Steele, Ph.D., ABPP
Email: rsteele@ku.edu

Academy Past President
Fred L. Alberts, Jr., Ph.D., ABPP
Email: fred@dralberts.com

American Academy of Counseling Psychology

Ted Stachowiak, Ph.D., ABPP, President
Congratulations to Recently Board Certified Counseling Psychologists! Please join the American Academy of Counseling Psychology (AACoP) in congratulating Dr. Adrienne Barna, ABPP, Dr. Wayne Hunt, ABPP, and Dr. Sylvia Marotta, ABPP, for successfully completing Board Certification in the Specialty of Counseling Psychology. The Oral Examination was hosted by Dr. Jeff Pollard, ABPP, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services, George Mason University, on November 8, 2008. These successful candidates have distinguished themselves for their commitment to excellence by undergoing a formal, voluntary peer examination of their competence as Counseling Psychologists. In addition to distinguishing themselves individually, they have strengthened Counseling Psychology’s presence as a Specialty within the profession of Psychology.

SCP creation of ABPP STG
We were very pleased to learn that the Society of Counseling Psychology (SCP) has established an ABPP STG (Special Task Group), chaired by Dr. John Westefeld, ABPP, President of SCP, to study the importance and desirability of Board Certification, and ways to promote Board Certification among Counseling Psychologists. Dr. Jeff Pollard, President Elect of the American Board of Counseling Psychology, and previous President of this Academy, is a member of the STG. The combined efforts of the SCP’s ABPP STG, ABCoP, AACoP, and ABPP are an unprecedented and creative effort to infuse Board Certification into the culture of Counseling Psychology as the standard post-licensure phase of professional development. Helping graduate students to know about Board Certification is an
important part of their training. That is likely to happen more often when those teaching and training are themselves Board Certified.

“Board Certification and the Future of Counseling Psychology.”

In the Fall 2008 Student Affiliates of Seventeen (SAS) Newsletter, Dr. Jeff Pollard, ABPP described for Counseling Psychology graduate students the history and role of ABPP; the ABPP Early Entry Program and the advantages it can offer in their graduate training, application for internship and potentially further postdoctoral training, and as early-career professionals as they work toward Board Certification. He outlined the benefits of Board Certification, and emphasized the importance of seeking Board Certification to preserving the identity of Counseling Psychology as an independent Specialty.

Multiple Efforts to Encourage Counseling Psychologists to Obtain Board Certification

The Academy is in the process of engaging in multiple efforts to encourage Counseling Psychologists to obtain Board Certification. Dr. Steve Eichel, the Academy’s Past Present, is a member of the SCP’s STG on independent practice and will promote Board Certification in that forum. In addition to the efforts with SCP’s STGs, the following are being considered: Significantly updating the Academy’s website; placing a PowerPoint/Podcast of the new exam on the website; allowing ABCoP candidates access to ACoP Continuing Education and specifically ethics in preparation for the oral exam; placing a student representative on the Board; funding the student representative’s application for Board Certification; providing scholarships for Board Certification if recipients agreed to be nominated and if elected serve a minimum of a two year term on ABCoP or ACoP within five years of Board Certification; providing CE for preparing for the examination; providing temporary loans to selected applicants to increase the affordability of the fees.

American Academy of Counseling Psychology

Bylaws Revision

We are in the process of revising our bylaws to update language, such as replacing references to “Diplomate” with “Board Certification.” We are also considering language that would accommodate our retired/retiring members.

Supporting Board Certification

To those of you who are already Board Certified, I encourage you to take a non-boarded colleague to lunch, or visit with a graduate student, and share your perspective on the importance of Board Certification and the professional growth you experienced as part of the certification process. If you are associated with or have access to a Counseling Psychology academic department, we encourage you to talk to faculty about the importance of Board Certification, and arrange meetings with graduate students to talk about the importance of Board Certification and the Early Entry Program. Refer students and potential applicants to http://www/abpp.org, to learn more about the Board Certification process. For information about the Practice Sample and Oral Examination, invite your non-boarded colleagues to contact Dr. Charme Davidson, ABPP, President, ABCoP (charmedavidson@earthlink.net), or Dr. Jeff Pollard, ABPP, President Elect, ABCoP, (pollard2@gmu.edu). For questions about how the Academy can be involved in facilitating the preparation of the Practice Sample and the Oral Examination, contact Dr. Ted Stachowiak, ABPP, President, AACoP, (ted@scs.tamu.edu), Dr. Sherry Benton, ABPP, President Elect, ACoP, (Benton@counsel.ufl.edu), or Dr. Steve Eichel, ABPP, Past President, ACoP, (steve@dreichel.com).

Become Involved. The Academy has many opportunities for Academy members to become involved. Immediate opportunities include the development of a mentor’s manual, procedures for keeping better track of our membership, nominations for serving on ABCoP, and the development of awards criteria. Please contact me (Ted@scs.tamu.edu) with your interests in these opportunities, or other ideas you have to improve achieving the Academy’s purposes.

Counseling Psychology

Jeffrey W. Pollard, Ph.D., ABPP and Charme S. Davidson, Ph.D., ABPP

For the past 5 years, insufficient numbers of individuals have sought Board Certification in Counseling Psychology. In response to the reduced numbers in counseling as well as in other specialties, the Board of Trustees (BOT) of the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) took steps to deal with the financial reality created by the low numbers.

The BOT established the “Boards with Low Numbers Workgroup” and created a new standard to the effect that Boards will examine 21 candidates within a three year period. The BOT would take “constructive action” when a specialty board did not meet this standard. “Constructive Action” was not defined; however, verbal communications made it clear that the status of “underperforming” boards would change and could include their elimination as stand-alone boards. The underperforming specialty boards were identified and notified by letter when they failed to meet the standard.

This action created concern within the American Board of Counseling Psychology (ABCoP) as well as the American Academy of Counseling Psychology (AAcoP) because Counseling Psychology was one of the specialties unable to attract the required 21 candidates within three years. In virtually every venue where psychology specialties are discussed, defined, and supported, ABPP members represent their respective areas of specialization. The potential detriment to the specialty of Counseling Psychology should counseling lose its status as a distinct stand-alone board within ABPP could be greater than the loss of the doctoral programs in Counseling Psychology at Ohio State University and Michigan State University.

In order to increase the numbers of applicants, ABCoP undertook a number of strategies that included: creating space for information inter-
views at the Society of Counseling Psychology (SCP), APA Division 17 hospitality booth at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association (APA), making presentations at APA and the Association of University and College Counseling Directors (AUCCCD), and writing letters to Fellows of APA in SCP. ABCoP sent a representative to APA's annual meeting in Boston, in 2008 to meet with the leadership of the SCP. At that meeting, the SCP established a Special Task Group (STG) whose primary purpose is to identify strategies for increasing participation in the board certification process by Counseling Psychologists. The STG members are Jenny Cornish, Dan L. Jones, Jeff Pollard, and Mike Scheel. SCP President-Elect John Westefeld, agreed to serve as chair. The STG has been meeting via conference call and email and will present a preliminary report at this year's SCP mid-year meeting.

The minutes of the December, 2008 BOT meeting reflect the Board eliminated the "constructive action" phrase and the following sense of the Board (which has to be written by the standards committee) substituted: "a board is administratively incorporated into another board and is unable to give any new exams in that specialty area if the following is true: (a) no exams are given in two successive years, and (b) there is no new applicant/candidate in the pipeline." The yet-to-be-determined wording will effectively move the criterion from 21 candidates in three years to zero in two years before action is taken. At the December 2008 meeting, "The Boards with Low Numbers Workgroup" recommended to the BOT combining Specialty Boards (e.g., Clinical Health and Rehab, Clinical and Counseling, Child Clinical and School).

Although the BOT has yet to finalize the wording, the action taken by the BOT in eliminating the "constructive action" phrase has reduced pressure on ABCoP. The Special Task Force of the SCP and ABCoP will devise strategies that will contribute to the definition of the specialty of Counseling Psychology.

ABCoP asks Counseling ABPPs to recruit new applicants to the specialty. New initiatives have created five areas of examination for potential new examinees: Psychotherapy, Administration, Instruction, Career, and Supervision. New applicants will be given a mentor to guide them through the process and the Board has agreed to travel to any location where three applicants are prepared to be examined. ABCoP has also initiated a scholarship program which is designed to reduce the financial impact on applicants. Of course, reduced cost of insurance, mobility, supporting the specialty, and the knowledge that one has achieved the highest credential within their specialty remain as powerful incentives for those considering board specialization.

---

**News from the Specialists**

On behalf of the American Academy of Forensic Psychology, President Mary Conroy announced that Randy K. Otto had received the Academy’s Distinguished Contribution to Forensic Psychology Award and that Kirk Heilbrun had received the Beth Clark Distinguished Service Contribution Award.

Robert Fein was the recipient of the annual Harold Hildreth Award, the highest award of the APA Division of Psychologists in Public Service (Division 18).

Scott Meit received two awards at the 2008 APA Convention. The Ivan Mensh Award for Distinguished Achievement in Teaching was given for innovation in teaching and training in medical school and healthcare settings. The Timothy B. Jeffrey Memorial Award recognizes outstanding commitment to health psychology.

Louise Evans has been appointed by the American Biographical Institute as a Founding Member of its International Women’s Review Board. Dr. Evans will serve as an advisor representing the United States to recommend outstanding women worldwide for recognition of their achievements. Dr. Evans’ biography will appear in 2000 Outstanding Scientists of the 21st Century and Great Women of the 21st Century, as well as several other ABI titles.
Robt. W. Goldberg, Ph.D., ABPP

At its December meeting, at my suggestion, the BOT appointed me as the first Historian of ABPP. The desirability, perhaps even need, for a historian came to my mind over a period of time. I have attended BOT Meetings as newsletter Editor since 1990. From time to time at these meetings, Trustees have inquired as to how and why some decisions had been made and what the thinking of past BOT’s were with respect to particular issues. I realized that I had been the only consistent presence at these meetings to provide some of the context of ABPP activity. I also was coauthor, with Russell Bent and Ted Packard, of a 1999 “history of ABPP” article published in the journal Professional Psychology in which I chronicled the earliest years.

I was particularly sensitized to the need for an ABPP Historian through my role as Historian of the APA Division of Public Service Psychologists (18) since 2006. In that role, I interacted with Dr. David Baker of the APA Archives of the History of American Psychology (housed at the University of Akron) and made some visits to the Archives. Since 1992, I have deposited the historical Special Anniversary and Archival Issues of the newsletter with the Archives. In my visits, examining material from several files, I have been amazed at how seemingly inconsequential documents and ephemera have gained historical importance over time. For example, a generic boilerplate VA psychologist job description from 1955 highlights the comprehensiveness of services which the journeyman psychologist was expected to provide as well as, indirectly and by implication, the striving for psychologists’ parity with physicians in the VA system. As some of you know, I have taken photos of ABPP Convocations and BOT meetings for years. I now feel guilty at how much of this material I have lost or intentionally discarded as passe’ over the years. And at how much more may have been lost in the successive moves of ABPP Central Office.

At all events, I am going to do what I can during my term to preserve ABPP’s heritage through its materials. As one facet of this, I am again requesting that any of you who retain copies of The Diplomate from the 1980’s (the old buff and brown issues) either send them to ABPP Central Office or fax those materials to us. Thanks very much in advance.

One bittersweet aspect of this role, and the role of Editor and de facto necrologist, is to inform you of deceased Diplomates in each issue. Since the last issue, among others, three specialists particularly significant to the history of ABPP have passed away: Russell J. Bent, John H. Jackson, and Jacquelin Goldman. Special sections in this issue memorialize them and their contributions.
Newly-certified specialists
July ‘08 - December ‘08

Clinical
Jeffrey M. Benware, Ph.D.
Steven F. Bucky, Ph.D.
John Dsurney, Ph.D.
John Porter Evans, Psy.D.
John M. Fabian, Psy.D.
Scott L. Johnston, Ph.D.
Christopher J. Ketchman, Psy.D.
Michael D. Lynch, Ph.D.
Gary A. Taylor, Ph.D.
Robin J. Wilson, Ph.D.
Matthew S. Zimmerman, Psy.D.

Clinical Child
& Adolescent Psychology
Rogiros T. Flevotomas, Ph.D.
Greta Francis, Ph.D.
Margaret M. Richards, Ph.D.
Kathleen M. Sullivan, Ph.D.

Clinical Health
Shawna L. Ehlers, Ph.D.
Linda Garcia-Shelton, Ph.D.
Rebecca S. Hawkins, Ph.D.
Philip L. Knowles, Ph.D.

Clinical Neuropsychology
Amy A. Alderson, Ph.D.
Scott D. Bender, Ph.D.
Steven Douglas Bodin, Ph.D.
Dominic A. Carone, Ph.D.
Travis G. Fogel, Ph.D.
Michael R. Greher, Ph.D.
Adelle H. Haber, Ph.D.
Lori E. Holt, Ph.D.
Michelle L. Imber, Ph.D.
John W. Kirk, Psy.D.
Brian J. Leahy, Ph.D.
Catherine L. Leveroni, Ph.D.
Christine Mathiesen, Psy.D.
Sarah K. Miller, Ph.D.
James P. Mullin, Psy.D.
Marsha J. Nortz, Ph.D.
Arlin Pachet, Ph.D.
Otto Pedraza, Ph.D.
Anthony M. Podraza, Ph.D.
Lauren E. Pollak, Ph.D.
Matthew R. Powell, Ph.D.
Deborah K. Sokol, Ph.D.
Sarah Tomaszewski Farias, Ph.D.
E. Ryann Watson-Stites, Ph.D.

Cognitive & Behavioral
Kelly R. Ilsley, Psy.D.
Jerome Yoman, Ph.D.

Counseling
Wayne P. Hunt, Ed.D.
Sylvia A. Marotta, Ph.D.
Adrienne Moesel Barna, Ph.D.

Couple and Family
G. Andrew H. Benjamin, Ph.D.
Deborah L. Cox, Ph.D.

Forensic
John M. Fabian, Psy.D.
Daniel J. Neller, Psy.D.
Randall Rattan, Ph.D.
Candyce Shields, Ph.D.
Andrew W. Wisch, Ph.D.
Gordon Zilberman, Ph.D.

Rehabilitation
Natalie J. Dong, Ph.D.
Pamela J. Fitzpatrick, Ph.D.
Robert L. Karol, Ph.D.
Timothy D. McManus, Psy.D.
Sheila M. Saliman, Ph.D.
Thomas E. Witty, Ph.D.

Deceased specialists
June ‘08 - December ‘08

Donald Rossi - Clinical
Russell Bent - Clinical
Jacquelin Goldman - Clinical
Convocation 2008

From left: Christine Maguth Nezu, Alan Kazdin, Art Nezu, Philip Kendall, Dan Rohe
Becoming Board Certified by the American Board of Professional Psychology

Edited by Christine Maguth Nezu, A.J. Finch, Jr., and Norma P. Simon

Specialty board certification by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) is a valuable credential that has long been a gold standard for competency for practicing psychologists. The value of an ABPP remains a well-known and significant aspiration for competent psychologists who want to provide reassurance of their competencies to their colleagues as well as the public. However, many psychologists are hesitant about applying for board certification, because they believe the process to be too daunting, or are misinformed about certification requirements.

This book provides comprehensive information and a hands-on, practical guide for anyone seeking certification from any of the 13 specialty boards of the American Board of Professional Psychology. In addition to providing a brief description of the history and mission of ABPP, the book offers step-by-step information concerning the ‘where, what, and how’ of the board certification process. Included throughout are answers to frequently asked questions to demystify the process, and never-before offered information such as common pitfalls to avoid and how to get further involved in the profession after certification.

Edited by three recent presidents of ABPP, with contributing authors from across the various specialty boards, this book is the ultimate “insider’s guide” to board certification.

Special pre-publication offer:
SAVE 25%!

July 2009 240 pp. 978-0-19-537243-4 $35.00 $26.25

CONTENTS
1. Who We Are: A Brief History of the American Board of Professional Psychology, Ted Buckard, Russell J. Bent, and Robert W. Goldberg
2. Why Seek Board Certification? Christine Maguth Nezu
3. Board Certification: A Competency-Based Perspective, Nadine J. Kaslow and M. Victoria Ingram
4. When to Start the Process, David R. Cox
5. Finding the Right Board Certification for You, Thomas J. Boll
6. How to Prepare for the Written Examinations in Clinical Neuropsychology and Forensic Psychology, Gregory P. Lee and Randy K. Otto
7. Preparing the Practice Sample, Charme Sturkie Davidson
8. Working with a Board-Certified Mentor in the Specialty, Joseph E. Tidley
9. How to Prepare for the Oral Exam, Florence W. Kaslow
10. The Oral Exam Experience, Virginia DeRoma
13. Professional Development and Lifelong Learning, A. J Finch, Jr.
14. Pitfalls to Avoid, Arthur M. Nezu

4 EASY WAYS TO ORDER
Phone: 800.451.7556 Fax: 919.677.1303 Web: www.oup.com/us
Mail: Oxford University Press, Order Dept., 2001 Evans Rd., Cary, NC 27513
PROMO CODE: 27594