The Y2K Convention

Top 10 Reasons to Come to the NASP Convention

by the NASP Convention Committee,
Carl DiMartino, NCSP, Chair

Celebrating Our Success," the 32nd Annual NASP Convention, will be held at the Sheraton New Orleans, March 28-April 1, 2000. With a mind-boggling array of workshops, papers, posters, symposia, exhibits and events such as the Minority Affairs Reception and Childrens Fund Auction, the first convention of the Millenium will be a very special experience. Why should you plan to attend the 2000 NASP Convention? At its recent planning meeting, the NASP Convention Committee had much difficulty limiting this list to only ten reasons! Over the coming months, we will elaborate on the many activities, both professional and recreational, that await you in one of the most exciting, entertaining cities you will ever visit. So mark your calendars, put in that request for a few days' leave, and crank up some Zydeco to put you in a "N'Awlins" mood. As for the top ten reasons, consider:

1. Celebrate the successes accomplished by school psychologists.
2. Professional growth opportunities.
3. New Orleans has everything from alligator to Zydeco.
4. Find out why it's called The City That Diets Forgot — food/music/dancing like nowhere else.
5. Opportunity to network with people who really understand you.
6. What better venue to celebrate April Fool's Day?
7. Find out if the "Big Easy" is anyone you know.
8. Learn about the most recent professional practices, publications and technology.

Dealing with the Media in the Aftermath of School Shootings

by Philip J. Lazarus, NCSP, Stephen Brock, NCSP & Ted Feinberg, NCSP

In the weeks which followed the Littleton shootings, many school psychologists were asked by the media to participate in their coverage of this event. In this article we will provide information that we hope will assist psychologists with this difficult task. In doing so, we will discuss both the danger and the opportunity that such participation presents. Specifically, the purposes of this article are fivefold: First, it will explain how the media respond in the aftermath of any community crisis and highlight the negative aftereffects of Littleton on schools all across North America. Second, it will discuss what the media want following a large scale crisis, and how school psychologists can be effective communicators. Third, it will review some of the types of media activities that school psychologists may want to avoid. Fourth, it will provide some guidelines that school psychologists and media

Delegate Assembly "Celebrates Success," Adopts Budget in San Diego

by Kathy Plumert, NCSP
NASP Secretary

NASP Executive Council and Delegate Assembly held their first meetings of 1999-2000 in San Diego, July 22-25, 1999. Prior to the start of the meeting, new Delegates received an orientation led by Leadership Development Chair, Stacy Skalski. NASP governance now includes eight Delegate Representatives elected by their fellow state delegates to represent each of the four NASP regions on the Executive Council. (Two Delegate Representatives from each region replace the "Regional Director" positions that were elected by NASP members in the region.) In addition to their service on the Executive Council, these individuals serve as the NASP Delegate from their home state.

Highlighting this year's theme, "Celebrating Our Success," President Kevin Dwyer, Executive Director Susan Gorin and President-Elect Scott Poland noted the many opportunities NASP has had to participate in...
**President's Message**

**Celebrating Our Success**

by Kevin P. Dwyer, NCSP

My experience of observing hundreds of school psychologists, working with others to effectively serve children and families, makes me proud to serve as your President. Much of this knowledge has come to me through direct contact in your state, through your state’s Delegate and other leadership. The annual NASP convention also has given me that opportunity to learn. The NASP publication, *Exemplary Mental Health Programs: School Psychologists as Mental Health Service Providers* (Nastasi, Vargas & Bernstein, 1998), provides detailed examples of such successful practices. So many of you are doing equally innovative quality work and I want to devote my presidential year to celebrating your success.

Celebrating Our Success, my presidential theme, sets the goal of having every state, every community recognize its exemplary school psychological services. We *Celebrate Our Success* by sharing our successes with the community, with other school psychologists and with related professionals. The power of this communication is remarkable. The *Exemplary Mental Health Programs* book is now seen as a hallmark by the Health and Human Services’ Center for Mental Health Services branch and is posted on their website. Our published materials are used by thousands of teachers, administrators and families.

Our interventions are effective in changing systems, changing classrooms, changing children and families to become their best. Frequently, change involves no more than reinforcing the good things schools and families are already doing and helping people better see how to measure it. We, however, have not yet determined what needs to be modified. We are the experts in facilitating change and in backing up that facilitation with the consultation skills needed to effect change. My goal is to share our knowledge of what we are doing, to reinforce our effective skills and to diminish professional services that have minimal usefulness.

To accomplish this goal requires measurement of the results of our interventions and the communication of that information to others. For example, team consultation and problem solving has been shown to improve achievement and the behaviorally measured mental health of children and youth. Team consultation has improved the skills of school staff. If we can demonstrate this on the local school level and if we can show how such good ideas can be modified and molded to fit the variety of local ecologies, we will influence policymakers to sustain and institutionalize our systemic interventions.

So, celebrating our success requires the public information process championed by Alex Thomas and the utilization of community cultures highlighted by Deborah Crockett. It also requires the high standards of practice and skill structured under the leadership of Bill Pilpel through the Blueprint, and Mike Curtis’s decades of effort to ensure service quality. It is this strategic, planned effort that provides the foundation to move into the 21st century. We know when we are successful in serving children and families and helping teachers. We must celebrate our success, letting our public know what we are doing, letting all know that the success of public education is dependent upon our contributions.

Every time you read this, the first set of “Safe Schools, Healthy Students” grants will have been awarded. We anticipate that school psychologists’ grant applications will be accepted. NASP played a leadership role in securing the $180,000,000 for this violence prevention grant program. Our legislative efforts pay off! Many of you may not know how easy it is to participate in this legislative effort to get Federal funds for our services. Libby Kufiter and Larry Sullivan (NASP headquarters’ GPR staff) are working long hours to make your participation possible. And your participation is critical. Check their articles (pages 23, 25 and 30) for quality information and the easy-to-use system they have developed to enable your voice to be heard, to write to your congressional delegation seeking support for children and public education. Expect from each of you that I will visit your state I will be asking: What are you doing to help Celebrate Our Success? ❗

NASP President Kevin Dwyer, NCSP, retired from the Montgomery County Public Schools and served as NASP Assistant Executive Director for two years. During the past year, he has consulted with the American Institute of Research in Washington, DC and has been instrumental in the development and dissemination of Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools and its related “Tool Kit.”

**Delegate Assembly... from page 1**

events in the public forum and the media. Some of the most notable have included a White House Conference on Mental Health; a meeting hosted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to try to develop a way to identify violent student threats and a meeting hosted by Vice President and Tipper Gore during which NASP was recognized for its work. Media contacts have included participation in many television, radio and print interviews.

NASP’s ongoing commitment to leadership in the public policy arena was reflected by Assistant Executive Director Larry Sullivan, who reported on NASP’s work on grant-funded training projects in conjunction with the Council for Exceptional Children (CCE) and the United States Office of Education. (See Larry’s article on the ASPfIRE grant, page 25.) Work with other mental health coalitions and professional associations was also outlined, such as the distribution by the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) of our mini-issue of the NASP *Communique* re crisis and loss to their membership of 30,000. In addition, a “Tool Kit” designed to assist school districts in implementing the recommendations of the much published *Early Warning Guide* is in its final stages of development. This document is being piloted and its release is anticipated in September 1999. The Governmental and Professional Relations Committee reported that a new feature on the NASP web page will allow NASP members to send messages directly to their legislator. So, to celebrate being a Regional Representative, I encourage you to provide training in the areas of mental health and public policy advocacy for NASP and state association leaders.

NASP Professional Standards Program Area reported on its many activities including the process of revising and coordinating training, credentialing and practice standards. NASP members are encouraged to provide input via the NASP website. Other important news from this program area includes the revision of the school psychology examination required to obtain the NASP credential. A NASP advisory committee is working with the Educational Testing Service (ETS) to complete the test revisions.

NASP leaders also completed work on governance matters. The NASP Delegates approved a balanced budget of just over $3 million for Fiscal Year 2000. Jack Kamins, NASP Treasurer, reported that NASP is in very good financial health with regard to investments and overall operations. The Delegates also approved revised NASP nominations and elections procedures effective in FY 2001. Finally, NASP position papers on HIV/AIDS; Early Childhood Assessment; and Three Year Reevaluations for Students with Disabilities were approved; revisions of several others were discussed, and The Joint Committee on Testing Practices (JCTP) position paper on “Test Takers Rights and Responsibilities” was formally endorsed by the Delegates.

Post conferences, staff and other leaders learned about the many activities and concerns of school psychologists in California via a presentation from leaders of the California Association of School Psychologists (CASP), the largest state association in the country. The charming ensembles of San Diego’s Gaslamp Quarter, the multi-level greeneries and animal world on display at the famous zoo, trolleys, sailboats and Old Town’s Bazaar de Mundo also tempted NASP members once the day’s sessions were completed.

The next meeting of the NASP Executive Council will be held September 24-25, 1999 in Bethesda, MD. The Delegate Assembly meets again at the NASP Convention in New Orleans in April, 2000. ❗

NASP Secretary Kathy Plageman, NCSP, recently completed her doctorate at Loyola University (Chicago) and is a school psychologist with the Crystal Lake (IL) Elementary District #47.

**Editor’s Note**

by Andrea Canter, NCSP

I have to admit that I really have trouble getting in gear for the September *Communique*. In my former life, B.C. (Before Communique), I generally marked the end of summer when I could no longer escape "Back to School" tales, when I found myself closing windows in the evening, or when the giant ferns along the porch started to curl up and turn brown. Now it’s the September issue deadline that warns me that time has run out; again and again; I didn’t make a dent in the summer “to do” list.

I hope you all had a chance to rejuvenate this summer and that this first issue of volume 28 finds you enthused about the opportunities and challenges of being a school psychologist at the cusp of the Third Millennium. This issue provides some news and views of those challenges and hopes of their transformation into challenges into opportunities for professional growth and effective support for students, families, and communities.

News from the Delegate Assembly and from our GPR leadership helps to keep us informed of the policy issues facing our profession as well as the encouragement that NASP is well situated to influence those policies and effectively advocate for children. School psychologists are increasingly called upon to provide our expertise to Congress, government agencies and other organizations — during this volume year, we hope to highlight exemplary programs as part of President Kevin Dwyer’s effort to "Celebrate Our Success." Programs such as Project Brekshuk and the Syracuse “BCT” model are just two examples. We also will continue to provide resources for implementing "positive behavioral supports" in our schools, with most of the enclosed insert section devoted to practical suggestions and use of documentation forms.

Other articles in this issue remind us that our challenges continue, particularly in the area of reducing school violence and improving access to mental health services. The impact of the media can be critical, as noted in our page one feature from Phil Lazarus, Steve Brock and Ted Feinberg. In this issue we also begin a series of columns from Past President Alex Thomas regarding the data obtained from the recent demographic survey of NASP members. Please note the number of announcements and RFPs regarding grant opportunities, new publication ideas and opportunities for greater involvement in NASP, including the annual nominations ballot. September is a good time to consider how you can expand your role, not just as an interventionist or diagnostician, but as the world’s largest organization of school psychologists.

Andrea Canter, Ph.D., NCSP, is the Lead Psychologist for the Minneapolis Public Schools. If you have articles, comments or questions for the Editor, please note that her new computer system is up and running, fax successfully installed. Finally!
On the Road with Kevin

Summer was not a "vacation" period for new President Kevin Dwyer. Summer and early fall activities have included:
- July, Orlando, American Speech and Hearing Association Leadership Conference, speech on "future thinkers".
- July, Washington, DC, week-long meeting with the FBI re school violence, participant.
- July, San Diego, NASP Executive Council and Delegate Assembly.
- August 12, Orlando, NEA Safe Schools Conference, keynote.
- August 14, Bloomington, IN, "Positive Approaches to Violence Prevention: Peacebuilding in Schools and Communities," keynote.
- September 15-17, teleconference with Governors Teams, "What Works".
- September 21, Cincinnati, "Lessons Learned: Breaking the Cycle of Violence II," teleconference sponsored by the Hope Foundation.
- September 24-35, Bethesda, MD, NASP Executive Council Fall Meeting.
- September 27, North Carolina School Psychologists Association, keynote.

At NASP Headquarters

- NASP staff hosted the National Mental Health Consensus meeting in June, with over 25 allied organizations and government agencies represented.
- NASP Executive Director Susan Gorin and then President-Elect Kevin Dwyer attended a White House Conference on Mental Health in June, and were invited in July to the home of Vice President and Mrs. Gore where NASP’s efforts to support mental health in the schools were cited by Secretary of Education Richard Riley.
- NASP President Kevin Dwyer and Assistant Executive Director Larry Sullivan attended a meeting in July for the CEC/NASP IDEA grant (ASPIRE, see page 25) and for the development of "NASP" to accompany the Early Warning, Timely Response guide.
- Certification Director Anne Rood supervised development of the first NCSP logo, which will now appear on all official certification documents.
- NASP Assistant Executive Director Larry Sullivan has been working on the first stages of implementing the ASPIRE grant, a partnership project with CEC and the Department of Education to facilitate implementation of IDEA '97 (see page 15), as well as completing and submitting another grant proposal (jointly with the National Mental Health Association) that would provide technical assistance to projects to reduce school violence via the Safe Schools/Healthy Students grants.
- Welcome to Linda Morgan! NASP welcomes our new Publications Manager (Publications), Linda Morgan, who will be providing a variety of technical assistance roles to support the Communications, School Psychology Review and other NASP publications. Linda comes to NASP from a similar job at AARP and previously worked for Marvel Comics.
- Thank you to Vicki Stanhope: One of NASP's long-time staff, Victoria Stanhope, will pursue graduate study in social work at the University of Pittsburgh and reduce her staff work to part time. Vicki assumed a number of roles for NASP, most significantly as the first Director of the NASP Mental Health and Education Center for Children and Families. Vicki also provided technical support to the NASP Website, facilitated development of the "baby" (reprint) editions of the Communication and managed a variety of resources related to her position as Director of Public Information and Communication. We extend our thanks for Vicki’s many contributions to the growth of NASP, wish her well with her studies, and look forward to her ongoing but limited staff role.

National Mental Health and Education Center for Children and Families

- NASP collaborated with the National Association of Elementary School Principals to send out a special edition of the "Baby" Communique on Crisis and Loss for Educators to NASP's 30,000 members.
- In June, NASP exhibited at the National PTA Convention in Portland, OR. With the help of the Oregon School Psychology Association leadership, Karen O’Brien, Paul Bowser and Donna Warren, NASP was able to disseminate information to more than 2,000 teachers and parents attending the Convention.
- NASP has now available a Spanish version of the brochure, What is a School Psychologist? For copies, send a request to the NASP Center at 3450 East West Highway, Suite 402, Bethesda, MD 20814, or e-mail: <center@naspteach.org>.

NASP in the News

- NASP President Kevin Dwyer was busy this summer, helping the public learn more about the contributions of school psychologists to safe schools. Kevin’s summer media appearances included: answering questions about school violence on ABC.com (5/27/99) (see <http://www.naspteach.org/ark/>), appearing on Nightline (6/21/99), in an edition focusing on school-based mental health care; and publication of his article, "Troubled students lack easy access to adults and psychologists," featured in USA Today (6/30/99).
- Other media highlights: Ted Feinberg, new NEAT Chair, was quoted in a Time Magazine article on grief counseling (5/17/99).

Programs and Committees

Professional Standards (Michael Curtis, Program Manager)
- Professional Standards Revision (Mike Curtis, Chair): All NASP standards documents are currently undergoing review and revision, to bring them up to date and to improve consistency across documents. Members can help by reviewing these documents online (www.naspweb.org) - see page 41.
- State/National Credentialing (George Batchelor, Chair): The national credentialing exam as required for the NCSP is undergoing revision through collaboration between NASP and the Educational Testing Service. Many NASP members have provided input regarding content and will be reviewing specific content this fall.
- Training, Program Approval, Accreditation (Joe Prus, Chair): In the past year, the Program Approval Board reviewed 59 applications or rejoinders for NASP/NCATE accreditation, with full or conditional approval granted to 48 programs.
- Supervision, Evaluation, Accountability (Sueir Gorley, Chair): This committee is seeking to respond resources for supervisors of school psychologists through the internet and activities at the 2000 Convention. Final analysis of a survey of supervisors has been completed and will be reported to the membership in an upcoming issue of Communicator.
- Professional Development (Fred Downey, Program Manager)
- Convention (Carl DiMartino, Chair): The Convention Committee is hard at work to ensure a successful NASP 2000 Convention in New Orleans, with the President’s theme, “Celebrating Our Success.” (See page 1.)
- Site Selection (Deborah Crockett, incoming Chair): At its July 1999 meeting, the Delegate Assembly endorsed Dallas’ Adams Mark Hotel as the preferred site for the 2004 Convention.
- Professional Growth (Kathy Minke, Chair): The Speaker’s Bureau now has 17 volunteers presenting available. This fall, states will be able to make arrangements directly with speakers. Barbara Williams (New Jersey) will be coordinating this project.

Continued on page 5
Why GPR Needs Your Assistance and Support Now

by Jennifer Kitson, NCSP, Chair
Government & Professional Relations Committee (GPR)

In the coming year, the Government and Professional Relations (GPR) committee will continue its efforts to increase membership involvement and to shape public policy relative to the educational and mental health needs of children and families. We will continue to have crises, but we will also have many opportunities ahead. It is critical that, as school psychologists, each of you are actively involved, as well as encouraging others to become involved, in making differences in efforts that impact our profession and funding and services for children and families.

Make Contact

The upcoming year for GPR will encompass a number of important initiatives relative to education reform, school violence prevention and school-based health care. Mobilization of groups to respond and shape these initiatives at the local and state, as well as the federal, levels is critical. Your assistance and support is essential. The legislative alerts and the weekly legislative updates via the NASP-SPAN ISSERV and the NASP website are available to provide the information you need to contact legislators quickly and use your voice for a make a difference. To join the SPAN Listserve and obtain NASP's weekly e-mail legislative updates, send an e-mail request to Libby Kuffer at <klauffer@naspweb.org>.

To facilitate your efforts in advocacy and contact with legislators, we have added a new letter-writing link and advocacy page to the NASP website. NASP has teamed with Capweb.net to link NASP members directly to their US and State Senators and Representatives. It offers you an easy and fast method to communicate with your member of Congress. To send lawmakers a letter, all you need to do is go to the website at <www.naspweb.org>, click on advocacy and find the new Legislative Action Center. There you will find legislative updates, alerts and associated letters already created to respond to current federal legislative issues. You can edit these letters or create your own. Entering your name and residential address will identify your members of Congress. You can choose to directly send the letter via e-mail, or to print, mail or fax the letter to Congress. Advocacy has never been so easy.

Important Issues

The first session of the 106th Congress is already proving to be a busy legislative session for issues important to school psychology. Juvenile Justice legislation is on its way to conference, ESEA bills are being introduced almost daily and markups have responded to current federal legislative issues. You can edit these letters or create your own. Entering your name and residential address will identify your members of Congress. You can choose to directly send the letter via e-mail, or to print, mail or fax the letter to Congress. Advocacy has never been so easy.

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At Work... from page 3

Information Services: (Diane Smallwood, Program Manager)

• Publications Board (Leslie Paigc, Chair): Pubs enjoyed its best year ever, with FY '99 gross revenue topping $770,000. Helping Children at Home and School (Handouts), Best Practices III and Children's Needs II led the “best seller” list, with new products, Crisis Prevention and Response and the CD-ROM version of Children's Needs II showing strong beginning sales. Six new books are in production at this time, including Supervision (due spring 2000) and Technology Interviews for the position of School Psychology Review Editor-Elect were completed in San Diego, with appointment to be recommended for approval in September. This issue of Comma

• NASP has made a contribution to the ERT in memory of the

• NASP has also made a contribution to the ERT, Minority Scholarship Fund in memory of

• NASP revenue topping $770,000.

• Website (Chair TBN): There are a number of improvements scheduled for the NASP webpage in coming months — see page 22. See also the call for a new Webmaster to replace “retiring” Phil Bosner, page 22.

• Interest Group Development (Susan Videra, Chair): Many of the 10 Interest Groups now have a Leader for their members. Two groups have active web pages links on NASPWeb — Sta

• Contributions (Chair TBN): NASP has made a contribution to the Education and Research Trust (ERT) in memory of the mother of Delaware Delegate Kathy Minke, who passed away recently.

• NASP has also made a contribution to the ERT-Minority Scholarship Fund in memory of long-time leader (past Delegate, Parliamentarian) Liam Grimley, coordinator of the school psychology program at Indiana State University, who died of complications from cancer in May. (See page 28.)

Kudos

• To NASP Secretary Kathy Playmont, who recently completed her Ph.D. at Loyola University (Chicago).

• To NASP’s Training/Program Approval Chair Joe Pruz, who has been elected Chair of NCATE’s Specialty Area Study Board, and will be the second consecutive NASP member to hold this position (following Mike Curtis).

NASP Quick Stats

• Final membership total for FY 99: 21,488

• FY 99 Total Publications Revenue: $77,000

• FY00 Budget adopted by Delegate Assembly: Revenue: $3.9 million; Expense: $5.8 million

At the NASP Annual Convention in Las Vegas, GLB Issues Co-Chair, Barbara Irish, presented past Chair Joe Ridley with an award for his years of dedication in establishing the committee. For Co-Chair Mary-heading-Sears, not present, was given an identical award.

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