

## Calendar of Events

- ✧ **September 9:** **SHOOTERS WATERFRONT CAFE SPECTACULAR!** Raffle with great prizes, PAC information, membership updates and so much more! This is an exceptional location and an exceptional event to network, enjoy, and win wonderful prizes. Please mark your calendar and join us at 5:00 p.m. on the Intercoastal Waterway, 3033 NE 32nd Ave., Fort Lauderdale, 954-566-2855.
- ✧ **September 23:** 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. : Regular board meeting and special agenda item of criteria for the Early Career Psychologist award, NSU Room 2052
- ✧ **September 30:** Continuing Education Program with Broward School Board. 9am - Noon. Location: Nob Hill Center on Sunset Strip and Nob Hill Road in Sunrise. Title and agenda to be announced through special mailing from Continuing Education Chair Robert Wernick, Ph.D.
- ✧ **November 11:** 9:00 to noon - Young Clinician Award Seminar, "The Psychologist as an Advocate for Social Change", NSU, 3 CEU. Dr. Lenore Walker and Dominic Callahan will be presentors. Contact Dr.Dominic Callahan for further details.
- ✧ **November 18:** HOLIDAY PARTY - SAVE THE DATE!
- ✧ **December 15:** Deadline for January BCPA Newsletter and Advertising.

**ADVERTISING RATES** Classified advertising rates are the following.

Businesscard: \$ 35.00 • Quarter page: \$ 65.00 • Half Page: \$ 100.00 • Full Page: \$ 175.00  
 Custom Layout available for additional charge.

**Please note that copy is sent to one location and payment is sent to a different location.**

Please mail advertising copy to the newsletter editors. Please mail the advertising fee to the Treasurer, Dr. Lawrence Levy, Child and Family Psychologists, 350 NW 70th Ave., Plantation, FL 33317. Florida. Payment must be received prior to publication.

**BCPA Newsletter**  
**c/o Center of Psychological Effectiveness, Inc.**  
**6950 Cypress Road, Unit 103 A**  
**Plantation, Florida 33317**

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# BROWARD PSYCHOLOGIST



**A Chapter of the Florida Psychological Association**

### Hispanic Women of Distinction Award



Dr. Monica Pedemonte will be honored on August 19, 2005 as a Hispanic Women of Distinction at a luncheon held at the Design Center of the Americas. Dr. Pedemonte is one of only twelve women to receive this honor. The luncheon is a charity luncheon which will benefit the March of Dimes of Broward County and the Light of the World Clinic. The Hispanic Women of Distinction luncheon is part of the Hispanic Heritage Month.

Dr. Pedemonte has been serving clients in Broward County for eighteen years. She has been practicing at 1881 University Drive in Coral Springs for five years. Dr. Pedemonte's award is a tribute to the diversity of psychologists in Broward County. Dr. Pedemonte has been actively involved in the Broward County community. The Broward County Psychology Association congratulates Dr. Pedemonte on her award and applauds her contributions to maintaining a presence of psychologists in the local community.

### BCPA Lifetime Achievement Award Given to Robert Wernick

*By, Maureen Kenny*



On February 28, 2005, I was honored to present Dr. Robert Wernick with the BCPA Lifetime Achievement Award. Many BCPA members were on hand at the cocktail reception at the Seminole Hard Rock Casino in Hollywood. Dr. Wernick came to Florida in 1985 and shortly thereafter opened his private practice, Behavioral Health Institute and joined FPA/BCPA at that time. He has a distinguished career in psychology specializing in behavioral medicine. His accomplishments include serving as the first Clinical Director of Renfrew Center from 1989-90. From 1995 to 2000, he served as a Clinical Associate Professor, University of Florida, Department of Community and Family Medicine, and Department of Clinical and Health Psychology. Along with his wife, Dr. Ellie Nelson-Wernick, (also a psychologist), he was the co-director of the Behavioral Science Family Practice Residency Program at Coral Springs Medical Center.

Bob's involvement with BCPA has been extensive and he has held a number of Executive Board positions including President (1998), Past President (1999), Chapter Representative (1990-2000), Continuing Education Chair (1988-present) and Convention Chair for FPA from 1995-1999. He has not limited his involvement to the state level. He is currently serving on the board of Division 42 (Independent Practice) of APA as Member at Large and is the Continuing Education Chair for Division 42 as well as Past Program Chair (1998). Bob has also represented the division at the APA State Leadership Conference for 2 years and served as the division representative to the APA convention for cluster programming for 2 years.

As an active member and committee chairperson, Bob has helped with the functioning of BCPA on many levels. His leadership has helped the organization meet its goals. His work at the state level has enhanced his ability to serve the local chapter. Bob serves in part as the unofficial BCPA historian. Due to his longevity in the organization, he is aware of long standing policies and procedures as well as general protocol. It is always helpful when he shares how things have been done and what has been successful in the past. The fact that Bob continues to be so active in the local, state and national organizations for so many years demonstrates his dedication to the profession of psychology. I am sure I am leaving out many more of his contributions to BCPA and FPA. However, one thing is clear, Bob has already provided a lifetime of service to BCPA and for this the members have honored him with the distinction of the BCPA Lifetime Service Award.

#### 2005 BCPA Executive Board Members

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## BCPA CREATES EARLY CAREER PSYCHOLOGIST AWARD

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My name is Matthew Simon, Psy.D., and I am a licensed psychologist working at the Center of Psychological Effectiveness (COPE) in Plantation. I am delighted to announce the inception of the BCPA "Early Career Psychologist Award". This award has been created by the board to recognize excellence in early career development for psychologists just starting out in private practice. Its spirit is rooted in providing recognition to a psychologist whose early career efforts enhance the field of psychology and to honor those that serve as a role model to beginning psychologists and to the community. The board wants to be able to draw attention to the fact that BCPA is invested in enhancing our professional future by acknowledging an early career psychologist. In conjunction with my colleagues, I will be serving as the chair of a committee that will decide and award this prestigious honor in 2006 to its first recipient. Three board members will serve as the selection committee.



**The proposed criteria for the award are the following: (criteria are to be voted on by the board and its members at the September 23<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting, all members are encouraged to attend)**

- A) Must be a Florida Licensed Psychologist
- B) Must be a member of the Florida Psychological Association
- C) Must work in Broward County Florida in a private practice setting for a minimum of twenty hours per week.
- D) Must have no history of any legal or ethical sanction by FPA, APA, or the Florida board
- E) Must be in the first three years of practice as a fully licensed psychologist in Broward County.
- F) **The candidates for this award are required to write an essay to be no more than 1000 words, double spaced and typed, on the following topic:**
  - Describe the future of psychology and the role the psychologist will play in the community. Explore the impact of managed care on private practice and how this influences treatment in our county. Also, describe your personal philosophy as a psychologist and how this impacted your decision to be in private practice. Consider your influence on the community, your profession and colleagues, and how this impacts growth in these areas.

Essays are to be submitted to the following: Dr. Matthew Simon: 6950 Cypress Rd, Suite 103-A Plantation, FL 33317

- The deadline for essays to be submitted with CV attached is March 15, 2006.
- All candidates are required to submit their curriculum vita with their essay.
- Candidates whose essays are selected will move on to the final selection process and undergo a group interview by committee members. Upon completion of the interview process the candidate will be selected.

**The candidate who is chosen is to receive a distinguished honor from the board and will be recognized as the 2006 Early Career Psychologist Award.**

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## BROWARD COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

By Laura A. Cohen, PhD, Legislative Representative

In April, I went to Tallahassee with legislative representatives from other chapters of The Florida Psychological Association, key psychologists, and students for our Annual Legislative Day. The goal was to meet with our legislators and educate them on the issues that are important to us.

Most of the Broward County legislatures seemed to be interested in a particular topic that was in committee meeting that day. Two stars were in town to speak on the issue: Kirsten Alley and Kelly Preston. They are scientists and some say they dislike psychiatry. There was some confusion at first about the bill they were sponsoring.

The subject was psychotropic medications and children. However, the point of the bill was to stop teachers in the public school system from pressuring parents to put their children on medication or "Do not come to school." There was some wording in the bill that was not in our best interests. One of our psychologists spoke on this at the committee meeting and was able to get some of the wordage changed. The bill passed out of committee.

The confusing part of the issue to me was that Kirsten was holding up pictures of children one by one in her presentation and stating, for example, "This is Johnny, he is 13, he took Zolof for 8 weeks and then killed himself." Not knowing much about Scientology I went on the web site to explore. I found that one of the things they believe in is eliminating toxins from the body, which is why psychiatric medication is a taboo. Also, psychiatry does not accept Scientology as mental health. With the latest talk on Tom Cruise's comments about psychiatry, I wanted to reply and say: "Everything in moderation. For example, not all children with behavior problems have ADHD and need medicine, but some do. It takes a mental health professional to make this determination through evaluation and standardized testing." (Tom said there were no tests for it). Go Brook Shields!

In other legislative news, we focused on two main issues: Medicaid and Clinical Lab ordering privileges. Most of the legislators I spoke to about psychologists gaining or regaining the right to bill Medicaid emphasized that Medicaid clients can now choose an HMO through which psychologists are providers. Examples of Medicaid HMOs are Amerigroup and Staywell which typically pay a mere \$50 a session with no copay. In addition, some psychologists hoped that we could order labs on our patients. It would be particularly useful for drug and alcohol dependency clients and sexual offenders. After all, employers can order labs. These issues were seen as a way to streamline into prescriptions privileges and were therefore seen as threatening to legislators who had an alliance with the FMA, as well as the FMA itself. We were asked some difficult questions and often put on the spot. "What would we do if we found something wrong?" Refer them back to their doctor?! We stressed the importance this would have in making decisions in our treatment and interacting with other professionals. And finally, we discussed the need for donations to the Political Action Committee (PAC) and possible openings for Key Psychologists.



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## The Editor's Corner

By: Hilary W. Glasser, Psy.D.

I am a young psychologist, licensed and in practice for almost two years now. I've certainly learned a lot about building a practice, managed care, patient care and business in the past two years; but most of you have had much more experience than me in this area. So in thinking about what I could write for my first editor's column that would be of interest to other psychologists, I thought it would be interesting to share some of my observations about our profession, from the point of view of someone who is eager to build connections with my patients, and just as importantly with my colleagues.

I consider myself to be a social person, and I frequently emphasize the importance of having a strong social support system to my patients. However, I've noticed that outside of the professionals in my group practice, I rarely spend time with other psychologists. I've spent much more time trying to meet other professionals to develop possible referral relationships, than I have trying to get to know my colleagues. And I don't know many psychologists who socialize often with other people in our field. I'm puzzled by this, because it seems that many other professionals around me including doctors and lawyers seem to socialize much more frequently with members of their own group. They seem to regularly attend association meetings, happy hours, and network functions and enjoy their collegial relationships. I have also noticed that they regularly refer patients or clients to each other and look to one another for information and expertise.

In noting these observed differences between psychologists and other professionals, I am left feeling confused and somewhat hypocritical. After studying so much about the importance of relationships and a balanced life, why don't we utilize some of our most important principles? Why do we emphasize the importance of reaching out to others to our patients, but we don't take our own advice? Why don't we make it a practice of referring patients to each other, to help our colleagues build areas of specialization? Why don't we take the time to enjoy each other's company on a social level? Why does there seem to be an air of competition between us? Why do we spend such little time with other people who share our similar interests?

There are many possible answers. Are we too emotionally depleted by our therapeutic work that we don't want to talk about psychology outside of work? After a day of seeing several patients in a row, are we too tired to engage in a social activity with other therapists? Since most of us in practice work alone or only with a few others, have we learned to isolate? Has all the one on one time with our patients, led to a depletion of social skills? Do we avoid putting ourselves in possibly uncomfortable situations? Have all the years of competition (getting into graduate school, getting an internship, passing licensing exams, finding a job, getting on insurance panels, finding patients) made us too competitive to enjoy each other's company? Or are we simply putting so much time into balancing our work and our families, we aren't able to commit the time to get involved with one another?

The answers are probably different for each of us and some of you may not even agree with my observations. But I encourage all of you, to spend more time engaging with other psychologists. Even if you don't need more friends or more referrals, share your time with a fellow therapist. Help a new psychologist, help a struggling psychologist, reacquaint yourself with an old friend! We are in a profession to help others. Why not help ourselves by sharing professional expertise, business strategies, or just time spent relaxing and being with other similar people! Help make the occupation of psychologist to be a well balanced profession. One of the first steps we can all take is to join an organization, attend a meeting, join a committee, attend a conference, attend your alumni function or sponsor an event. You can simply get more involved in BCPA. Please join us for exceptional fun and a unique opportunity at **SHOOTERS WATERFRONT CAFE SPECTACULAR** on September 9 in Ft. Lauderdale. I am looking forward to meeting you.

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## BCPA HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SECRETARY

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An updated BCPA website is coming soon.

- **Palm Beach Psychological Association combined with BCPA to present a continuing education workshop. Topics covered included a legislative update, domestic violence, and forensic use of the Rorschach.**
- **The Young Clinician Award will be presented to a psychology student from Nova Southeastern University on November 11.**
- **Become a Key Psychologist. Psychologists are needed to interact with legislators to inform them of issues of importance to psychologists. If you are interested, contact Laura A. Cohen, Ph.D.**
- **This year's legislative session addressed the issue of school's requiring students to be medicated in order to attend school. FPA played an important role in the wording of this bill.**
- **Contribute to FPA's Political Action Committee. The PAC funds are used to support candidates who will promote FPA's views of important issues. Attend our September 9 meeting at Shooter's to learn more.**
- **BCPA and Broward County Schools will present a continuing education workshop in September. While the topic is still being developed, the workshop will focus on issues relevant to psychologists who provide assessment and treatment of children regarding issues of school performance.**



*"The Broward Psychological Association is a Chapter of the Florida Psychological Association, and is solely responsible for the content of this newsletter. The thoughts, opinions, and positions expressed in this publication are solely those of the individual authors and are necessarily endorsed by the Board of Directors or general membership of the FPA."*