



TOPNEWS-Online

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Special Elections Issue

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Send inquiries or news items for upcoming issues to stp@teachpsych.org

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The STP Elections & Appointments Committee is pleased to announce the candidates who will appear on the upcoming ballot for STP offices.

President-Elect (2020; will serve as President in 2021 and Past President in 2022)

David Kreiner, Ph.D.
Susan A. Nolan, Ph.D.

Vice President for Recognition & Awards (three-year term, 2020 through 2022)

Keli Braitman, Ph.D.
Megan Sumeracki, Ph.D.

APA Council Representative (three-year term, 2020 through 2022)

Yadira Sanchez, Psy.D.
Randolph A. Smith, Ph.D.
Jodie Ullman, Ph.D.

All STP members are eligible to vote for President-Elect and the Vice Presidential position. APA membership is required to vote for the Council Representative. The following pages contain brief statements from each candidate. Please vote in the upcoming elections!

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT

David Kreiner, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair, School of Nutrition, Kinesiology, and Psychological Science, University of Central Missouri, MO



This is my third time running for President, so evidently I have not yet learned my lesson. I am honored to be on the ballot with the amazing Susan Nolan.

I am running again because I am confident that I would be effective, based on my knowledge of STP and my leadership experience as an academic chair. I want to share our welcoming culture, so central to my career, with others.

One of my initiatives would be to increase engagement of later career individuals in STP, using the excellent work of GSTA and ECP as a model. Experienced faculty who are interested in focusing more on teaching could benefit from our resources and strengthen our organization.

Another initiative would be to apply research on time to improve the lives of teachers and students. Numerous teaching resources are available to us, but how can we find the time to add that great demonstration, assignment, or activity to an already full class? How can we balance all of our responsibilities when there are only 24 hours in a day? The rich literature on how we perceive and allocate time could help us answer questions like these.

My experience in STP includes service as a Project Syllabus team member, consulting editor for Teaching of Psychology, coordinator of the Departmental Consulting Service, Fellows Committee, Fund for Excellence board, and two terms as Treasurer. STP means a lot to me and I would be thrilled to be able to give back by serving as President.

Susan A. Nolan, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Psychology, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ



I honestly can't remember when I joined STP; I feel like I've always belonged! But I do remember when I decided that I needed to give back. In 2011, I began serving in a series of committee and leadership roles; I served on presidential taskforces (PTs) on model teaching competence and international outreach, and chaired a PT on statistical literacy. For the last six years, I had the honor of serving as Vice President for Diversity and International Relations where our work ranged from developing diversity language for all calls for applications/awards to implementing a regular STP presence at international conferences.

If elected President, I would pursue three primary goals related to my previous STP work. First, I would prioritize the active inclusion of those who are underrepresented among our members, leaders, award/grant applicants, and invited speakers at our events. Second, I would explore how to more fully integrate our diversity and international initiatives into all we do. Third, I would spearhead a much-needed update of the statistical literacy guidelines to ground them in Open Science and data ethics.

Beyond the above, I would aim to continue the exceptional work of previous leaders and committee members, including assessing the status of prior Presidential Taskforces to see whether an infusion of energy or resources is needed to sustain or strengthen their outcomes. I would also actively support those of you who are fostering relationships between STP and regional, national, and international psychology organizations important to our work.

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

Keli Braitman, Ph.D.

Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Psychological Science, William Jewell College, Liberty, MO



When I returned to teaching after having worked in non-profit research, STP provided a community that inspired me to be innovative in the classroom. It is also where I found “my people” – the ones who care passionately about quality teaching, are constantly striving to learn more, and, importantly, collaborate with others to work toward these goals.

This year I have the opportunity to serve a one-year appointment as VP for Recognition and Awards, and I previously served on the Partnerships Grants Committee for five years, in the role of chair for three of those years. Through these experiences, I have learned more about the awards and grants that recognize excellence in teaching, and support the mission of STP.

I would like to develop additional awards for faculty who champion efforts toward diversity and inclusion. This desire was underscored by a recent experience teaching a course called Identity and Society, where we discussed issues of race, class, and gender. The students’ engagement in these important conversations reinforced for me the importance of pursuing these aims.

An immediate priority would be to convene a workgroup to identify potential areas for recognition – both in terms of promoting the work of faculty with marginalized groups, but also efforts within the classroom to encourage and appreciate diversity and inclusion. These may include student-centered initiatives, teaching that expands our understanding of inclusiveness, innovative programming, or community outreach activities. I would look forward to advancing these initiatives, and serving STP in this way.

Megan Sumeracki, Ph.D. (formerly, Megan Smith)

Assistant Professor of Psychology, Rhode Island College Providence, RI



It is with great gratitude and excitement that I submit my candidacy for the VP for Recognition and Awards. I consider Society for Teaching of Psychology to be my home division because of my passion for teaching and my research program aimed at improving learning and instruction. I am currently on faculty at Rhode Island College, an institution that values both teaching quality and research. Thus, I am constantly working to improve my courses and integrate the newest evidence-based practices, and running a research lab overseeing many student projects applying cognition to education. I am also extremely passionate about bridging the gap between research and teaching, and to that end co-founded The Learning Scientists (www.learningscientists.org). The common theme across all of

my roles is a focus on improving student learning. I know I am joined by many STP members who share my passion, and are doing phenomenal things in the classroom to promote student learning. I feel very strongly that those who dedicate themselves to promoting effective teaching of psychology deserve recognition, and that we as a field should highlight teaching practices that represent excellence. I have experience in APA governance; as a PhD student I was the Chair of the APAGS Science Committee. In this role, I was responsible for reviewing student grants and other awards. Now as a faculty member, I am excited to continue serving the field in governance and promote the teaching of psychology. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

CANDIDATES FOR APA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Yadira Sanchez, Psy.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

I have great passion and commitment to the teaching of psychology. I have been involved in the teaching of psychology from high school to graduate level. I am committed and enjoy psychological science education at all levels. I have been involved with different committees focused on teaching psychology as well as the APA Summit on High School Psychology Education as chair for the diversity strand. I have served as VP for Division 16 (School Psychology) and member at large for TOPSS. These experiences have given me exposure, experience, and knowledge on the APA structure. I would not hesitate to advocate and voice Division 2's priorities. I would be honored, eager and looking forward to bringing the Division 2 priorities to the larger APA government structure representing STP at Council of Representatives.



I truly believe in all STP strives to accomplish:

- *advance the scholarship of teaching and learning*, collaborating in several local and national conferences to bring the need of advancing knowledge with best practices and psychological science
- *advocate for the needs of teachers of psychology*, I have been engaged in advocating for teachers of psychology and continue to voice the needs; through professional development and advocating at school settings.
- *foster partnerships across academic settings*, having taught psychology at the high school level and now at the university level has helped me understand both academic environments being able to bridge between both and have created high schools collaborations.
- *increase recognition of the value of the teaching profession*, serving in and collaborating in several APA committees involved in psychology and education has provided the experience and awareness to continue providing support and recognition to teachers, not only by providing consulting or professional development but also by presenting administrators the importance of the teachers role and recognizing their efforts.
- *another area I find of importance and advocate and work* is diversity; in teachers, awareness and students enrolled in psychology courses.

Randolph A. Smith, Ph.D.

Adjunct Professor, Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA

I am interested in representing STP on APA Council because I have always thought that teaching has played second fiddle in APA, despite the fact that Division 2 (now STP) was created so early in the history of the Association. I would like to represent the interests of teaching and teachers across the country in the primary organization for professional psychologists. Other people who have served on Council have told me that serving in this role is difficult in light on the predominance of applied interests on Council, so I go in with eyes wide open and am prepared to "fight the good fight." It is vitally important to keep the interests of teachers alive in Council and remind Council representatives just how important teaching is to the future of our discipline.



I have been heavily involved (and invested) with STP for quite a while, although not as much in the past few years. Unfortunate family circumstances and a move to adjunct teaching took me away from STP for a period of time. When I attended the recent ACT in Phoenix and reconnected with the teaching community, I realized just how much I had missed that group—I am ready to get involved again on a new level.

Prior involvement with STP:

- Chair, Fund for Excellence, 2009-2014
- Editor, Teaching of Psychology, 1997-2008
- Chair, Fellows Committee, 1993-1995
- Chair, Program Committee, 1990-1993
- Chair, Membership Committee, 1988-1990

Jodie Ullman, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychology, California State University, San Bernardino, CA

The Society of Teaching Psychology is a vibrant organization. As a Fellow of APA Division 2, I consider this division to be my "home". People make organizations great, hence the sustained success of STP and my interest in serving STP. I have been a professor of quantitative psychology at California State University, San Bernardino for over 20 years.



I am interested in serving as an STP representative to the APA Council of Representatives because this position is an excellent fit with my skills and abilities. I have a wide range of experience in governance leadership positions including Chair of APA Board of Education Affairs, President of Western Psychological Association, University Faculty Senate Chair, CSU Statewide Academic Senator/Executive Committee member, Chair of APA Task Force on Master's degree guidelines, and Co-Chair of CSU Statewide Task Force on General Education. In these roles, I have developed leadership skills and knowledge of organizational functioning. I have also had an opportunity to work with "big picture" issues in psychology. I believe that these experiences will help me be a strong advocate for STP.

The role of the STP representatives is to be persuasive voices on issues concerning psychological education from high school through doctoral programs. APA is a large organization with diverse interests, key to the discipline's success is education: we represent education. I have both the educational experience and governance skills to be a strong advocate for education and a strong voice for STP. Thank you for considering my candidacy.