

# Candidate Statements for the 2017 Upcoming Board Election

## **PRESIDENT-ELECT:**

**John McNulty -**

First, I'd like to thank Ron Ganellen and the nominating committee for recommending to the SPA board both Jed Yalof and me as candidates for President-Elect. Jed and I overlapped on the board for several years and while speaking about myself is a bit gratuitous here, I do believe we both understand our organization, both want to serve its best interests, and either of us would work very hard to accomplish its mission.

I joined SPA as a student member in the mid 1990's and migrated to regular membership in the late 1990's. Over the years I've functioned as a consulting editor for JPA and conducted a workshop or two as well as numerous presentations at the annual convention, often with Al Harkness and a slew of graduate students. I was elected Treasurer in 2010 and served on the SPA Board of Directors from that fall thru the spring of 2016 (term limited). Back home, I joined The University of Tulsa's Psychology faculty in the fall of 1999, and have served as the department's chair since January of 2014.

From day one of my academic career, my interest and focus as a researcher and teacher has been on personality and personality assessment. As such, JPA's March-April special section on J.D. Smith's edited "Teaching, Training, and Supervision in Personality and Psychological Assessment" was a very interesting read. SPA members and nonmembers contributed target articles about status, approaches, problems, solutions, recommendations and thoughts about the future of our discipline, followed by two excellent commentaries. As an academic I couldn't help take note of how the training program at my university was similar to or different from those reflected in the articles or foreshadowed by the commentaries. Further, I kept thinking about an informal survey a colleague of mine conducted a few years ago. Her basic question was about the effort it takes to teach graduate assessment courses compared to other topics. The sample was small (faculty she knew around the country) and not particularly representative (primarily science/practitioner programs). But the respondents were consistent and clear: assessment-relevant content and skills are broad, dynamic, and take a disproportionate amount of time to teach; and everyone wished they could do more to prepare their students. They simply didn't have the resources, couldn't squeeze an additional assessment course into a completely full graduate curriculum, or some combination of both.

Assessment training has been key to SPA's mission through its journal's articles and reviews, its workshops and convention programs, and most recently the assessment proficiency program. Particularly in light of the JPA special section, my question is whether there are other opportunities to provide training and whether we are covering content as we might. Certainly these are not new issues as the board and membership have discussed alternatives and promoted ideas in the past, often implemented via annual convention programming or content enhancements to the Journal. However, is there more we can, or ought to, do? We have done well, can we do better?

An issue that might not be unrelated is the slow but steady decline in membership over the last several years. To what extent does SPA meet the needs of graduate students, early career professionals, and those of us a bit longer in tooth? Is the decline simply a consequence of a shrinking demographic, of fewer students in the college "pipeline" and a generally aging membership? A key issue with colleges and universities around the country is the struggle to attract a declining population of potential college students, and maybe that's what we're feeling, too. Has the importance of professional society membership changed, particularly among college graduates and early careerists? Is there a perception issue; are we successful in telling college students and new professionals what SPA can do for their careers? And if there is a programming issue, what opportunities can we pursue?

For me, training/programming/education (t/p/e) and membership are two areas I am most interested in focusing on if elected president. This doesn't mean that research support, championing assessment reimbursement, or

continuing to develop relationships with other professional organizations won't be pursued; they will as they influence t/p/e and membership. SPA's board and membership are diverse in their interests and needs, and are very active. In my experience, no important issue is forgotten or ignored by this organization. With a strong board, active membership, a central office and professional staff that work hard to implement our services, and an extremely healthy financial balance sheet, SPA is in a very strong position to continue serving our membership's interests, current and emerging. I would like the opportunity to serve as its president.

## **Jed Yalof -**

I am delighted to accept the nomination for President of the SPA Board of Trustees. I have been a member since the early 1980s, served on the Board as Editor of the SPA Exchange from 2003-2015, and presented regularly at the convention. Following a postdoctoral fellowship in clinical psychology with an emphasis on traumatic brain injury, I was hired in 1984 as Director of Counseling and Diagnostic Testing Services at Immaculata University. I received a faculty appointment in 1990 and, for the past 27 years, have been Chair of the Department of Graduate Psychology and Counseling, and Coordinator of the PsyD program in Clinical Psychology, where we have an APA-accredited clinical program and APA-accredited predoctoral internship consortium. Our curriculum is assessment heavy, with separate courses in test-measurement, cognitive, performance (TAT, Rorschach), advanced (e.g., MMPI, MCMI, PAI, NEO, therapeutic assessment, etc.), neuropsychology, advanced neuropsychology, and forensics, in addition to extensive assessment practicum training. I am board certified in assessment psychology, clinical psychology, adult psychoanalysis, and school neuropsychology; and certified as a school psychologist. I am also on affiliate staff at the Austen Riggs Center as a neuropsychologist. So, between my academic appointment and private clinical work, I am immersed, literally, in the assessment culture as teacher, writer, and practitioner.

I decided to accept the nomination because I wanted to contribute at the highest level. SPA's mission has been so essential to the development of my professional identity and direction. Roy Schafer's works on the Rorschach got me started, but this was just a beginning, as I returned to school three times post-graduate (i.e., school psychology, neuropsychology, and analytic training) while integrating a diverse set of assessment and intervention skills.

I would like to bring this viewpoint to the presidency. SPA is in good shape financially. Monica Tune and Sam Richardson do wonderful work in managing the central office with all of its constituent parts. The SPA Board does tireless work in advocating for personality assessment and uses its decision-making authority to serve the best interests of everyone. Having served on the Board, I have seen this first-hand.

Moving forward, there are three goals that I'd like to see us accomplish; these goals will be the focus of my presidency. (1) First, an organization's vibrancy requires new members. I will study the membership issue and investigate ways to increase in students and psychologists from affiliated disciplines (school, neuropsychology, forensic psychology) whose work engages personality assessment. (2) My second goal will be to increase public and professional awareness of the value of "proficiency" status in personality assessment. This will require surveying membership for input, studying the process as it now stands, and promotional activities to enhance public awareness and interest. (3) In a recent article in the *Journal of Personality Assessment*, Drs. Barton Evans and Stephen Finn encouraged the development of Specialty Guidelines related to assessment. I support this initiative and would study the processes by which this idea could become a reality.

Thanks very much for considering my nomination.



## **REP-AT-LARGE**

### **Carol George, PhD**

I am honored to be nominated to serve as Representative-at-Large on the Board for SPA. Len Handler invited and sponsored me to join SPA in 2005, at which time the SPA Board invited me to give a Master Lecture. Len's invitation opened a new professional door for me. I wondered when that door opened what the role of a developmental researcher might be in SPA. Since that time, I have made SPA my professional home. My background was not originally in personality or clinical psychology. I received my doctorate at the University of California, Berkeley in developmental psychology, which led to the path of international attachment expert. My professional leadership experiences include being an academic Dean and editor, but most prominently a student mentor. What is unusual in my professional path has been my involvement in assessment. I have developed and validated with my colleagues the largest number of attachment assessments in the field. My work in adult and child assessment has led to collaborations in areas the scope of which ranges from infant mental health to neurophysiological assessments in psychiatric settings. Many of these collaborations are with international SPA members. My work in the field of infant mental health keeps me attuned to the assessment models and proficiencies required for working with families, including the complicated webs of maladaptive family systems seen in our clinics and courts. My background in attachment and developmental psychopathology has been a tremendous fit with SPA's commitment to assessment in clinical practice and models of intervention. In serving on the Board, I would hope to advance the mission of this organization continuing to support collaborations to promote conversations about the intersections of research and psychotherapy grounded in the full pallet of personality assessment that includes developmental and attachment models. My "day job" is as a full time college professor and researcher at a small college in California immersed in the breadth of diversity that is quickly becoming the hallmark of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The collaborations that develop when teaching and mentoring undergraduate and graduate students in this interpersonal environment evidences the importance of these conversations and the role an organization like SPA can play in moving these conversations forward. And SPA has generously welcomed my students and I look forward especially to working with a Board that continues to encourage student contributions and membership. I will be proud to contribute if elected to the scope of research, teaching, and advocacy of this organization.

### **Chris Hopwood –**

SPA is a natural home for me, given that I research, conduct, edit, teach, and supervise personality assessment. My research has primarily involved assessment, personality disorders, and interpersonal processes. I am licensed in Michigan and have a small practice which includes psychotherapy, collaborative assessment, and forensic assessment. I am currently an Associate Editor at the Journal of Personality Disorders and Journal of Personality and Social Psychology.

Having attended every meeting since 2005, I have a strong personal connection to SPA. I have presented research at the meeting and in the journal, served in editorial roles for the Exchange and JPA, served on the SPAGS and SPA boards, learned personality assessment from the very best, and made many many good friends.

During my time on the board, I have chaired the Student Matters Continuing Education committees. I was pleased to work with the board to significantly increase funding for student travel and research, and am proud of the professional workshops sponsored by SPA, both at the annual meeting and during the interim. My main goal for the next term would be to oversee a revised application to sponsor CE workshops, which would include webinars. My more general goal as a board member would be to continue to maintain, build, and ultimately leverage SPA's strong current foundation to promote personality assessment in research, practice, and training.

## **Jan H. Kamphuis-**

To me, one of the most rewarding pursuits is to apply our knowledge from psychometrics and personality theory to derive clinically useful conceptualizations of individual patients. It is an area for a lifetime of (humble yet exciting) constant and never ending improvement; a notion I try to infect my students with. My mission in this field is to contribute to the *clinical utility of personality assessment* – through instrument development, research on empirical treatment selection, and therapeutic approaches to assessment – and to make this incremental value evident to various stakeholders. Although my clinical work and research rely most heavily on Therapeutic Assessment and the MMPI, I am not wedded to one particular instrument or approach to assessment, and strongly advocate judicious use of multi-method assessment.

I am honored to be a candidate for representative at large for SPA. Over the years, visiting the annual event of SPA has brought me so much joy and inspiration, and I consider SPA my professional home. I care deeply about the future of clinical personality assessment, and would relish the opportunity to actively pursue its interests in collaboration with our excellent board. Generally, I believe I am good at forging connections and building bridges.

In terms of qualifications, I submit the following. In 1991, supported by a Fulbright fellowship, I joined the Clinical Psychology program at the University of Texas to do my graduate studies, where Steve Finn, my teacher for this course, cemented my fascination for clinical assessment. Currently, I work as a full at the University of Amsterdam, where I have served as the chair of the Psychology department (currently in the top 20 of the Qs rankings) since 2016. I also have a clinical appointment at the Viersprong clinic for personality disorders, and have been teaching clinical personality assessment at the undergraduate, graduate, and post-doctoral levels for about 20 years. To date, I have (co-)authored > 100 international publications. I am on the editorial board of the *Journal Personality Assessment*, *Assessment*, and the *Journal of Psychopathology and Behavioral Assessment*. In terms of experience as a board member, I have been treasurer of the Dutch Institute of Psychologists (NIP; Dutch APA counterpart) between 2002-2009, and have served as chair of its Committee on tests and testing (COTAN) between 2011-2015.

## **Nancy Kaser-Boyd-**

I am running for Representative-at-Large in the current Board Elections, and I am asking for your vote. I am currently serving on the board, and I would like to continue so as to achieve continuity with the plans of the Board and my individual responsibilities. I have been Chair of the Fellows Committee, which has advanced five SPA members to Fellow status. I have also served as Chair of the International Committee. One of the most exciting developments from the members of this committee is a discussion of forming a European chapter, which would open collaboration and discussion among European members who find it difficult to travel to our SPA annual meeting. I also served on the board four years ago. At that time, I served as chairman of the Student Affairs Committee, a committee which made decisions about student and new-career grants. I also served as co-chair with Virginia Brabender of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in San Diego, and in the creation of the historical video presented at the celebration. I am a consultant to SPA student members regarding postdoctoral training. I have also been co-facilitator for the Forensic Interest Group of SPA and a mentor for students who wish to obtain forensic training. Also, in the past, I wrote an article for the *SPA Exchange*, called “Psychologists Giving Back,” where I outlined ways to gift SPA with bequests. If elected for a new term as your representative, I will continue to work to implement your ideas for a vibrant and challenging professional group that feeds your interests in psychological assessment and puts you in touch with wonderful colleagues.

I joined SPA in 1988. Over the years, I have grown professionally and personally from colleagues at SPA, continuing education programs, and the many thoughtful presentations and discussions. SPA is my primary professional organization, and I will continue to make it a high priority. If elected, I will work to continue efforts in fund-raising, as well as in the recruitment of new students who will become the life-blood of SPA. I will continue to support conference presentations that are balanced, that acknowledge the richness of assessment and assessment tools, and hold to high academic and research standards.

Outside of SPA, the knowledge base and ethics of SPA infuse my professional activities. I teach advanced assessment and supervise assessment cases at the Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior [formerly the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute]. I also serve on the Voluntary Clinical Faculty Committee. I am a Diplomate of the American Board of Assessment Psychology. In the community I serve on psychological expert panels for the Los Angeles County Superior Courts (Dependency, Delinquency, Criminal, Competency), conducting evaluations and serving as an expert witness, and conduct other more generic assessments surrounding issues such as fitness for medical practice, parental fitness, and the effect of trauma on mental impairment. I have co-authored a number of chapters and two books with members of SPA on assessment topics. deRuiter, C. and Kaser-Boyd, N. (2015). *Forensic Assessment in Practice: Case Studies*. New York: Routledge, illustrates the use of personality assessment, combined with other forensic instruments, to conduct a variety of criminal mental health evaluations. Kaser-Boyd, N. (2016) Psychological assessment of the effects of sexual harassment. In V. Brabender & J. Mihura (eds.), *Handbook of gender, sex, and psychological assessment*. New York: Routledge, illustrates the use of psychological assessment tools to measure the effects of sexual harassment. Kaser-Boyd, N. & Kennedy, R. (in press), in J. Mihura, G. Meyer, & P. Erdberg's *Applications of the Rorschach Performance Assessment System*, illustrates the use of the R-PAS in a case of domestic violence.

It would be fair to say that many of my achievements in assessment psychology, particularly the opportunity to publish, are due to relationships that formed with SPA colleagues. I hope other members, particularly young members, have this same opportunity, and I will work to keep SPA an open and growth-inducing organization. Please consider giving me another term on the Board. I would very much appreciate your vote!