

Adam Natoli

Adelphi University

Position Running For: President-Elect

Hello, my name is Adam P. Natoli, M.S. and I am enthusiastic to be applying for the President-Elect position in the Society for Personality Assessment Graduate Student Association (SPAGS). I am a second year doctoral student studying clinical psychology at Adelphi University, where I am fortunate enough to be working with the current President of SPA, Robert F. Bornstein, Ph.D., on research investigating test score discontinuity between different methods of personality assessment (e.g., self-report and performance based). Last year I was awarded an SPA Student Research Grant to explore whether an individual's pattern of personality functioning impairment moderates implicit – self-attributed test score discontinuity and I am looking forward to presenting this work to the SPA community this year in San Francisco.

I have learned a great deal from serving on the SPAGS Board this past year as a Member-at-Large and I have greatly benefited from Dr. Bornstein's mentorship, both in research and leadership. It would be an honor to continue helping SPAGS support SPA's graduate student members, and I would heartily enjoy contributing to the continued efforts by SPAGS to provide us with exciting opportunities and foster our professional development. Some of my goals if elected include increasing communication between graduate student members and SPAGS Board members so that we can better serve SPAGS members, to create opportunities for those graduate students interested in collaborating with others on research and publications to do so, and to aid in the advancement of SPA's current initiatives at the graduate student level (i.e., increasing focus on multi-method assessment, and expanding the "reach" of personality assessment in applied settings like behavioral health, forensics, sports psychology, etc.).

Beyond my involvement in SPAGS, I have been an active participant in my academic department as a representative on the Student Action Committee. I have also served as a Student Representative for the Canadian Psychological Association and as an American Psychological Association Division 39 Graduate Student Scholar. Through serving in these positions and my time on the SPAGS Board I have gained valuable experiences that I believe cultivated skills that will facilitate my contribution to SPAGS as President-Elect.

In my time outside of academia I enjoy the outdoors, and playing and coaching ice hockey. I also like spending time with my family and friends, and taking time for myself to work on my painting and photography. I would like to thank you very much for your time and consideration in reviewing my autobiographical statement as an application for the President-Elect position.

Leila Wu

Pennsylvania State University

Position Running For: President-Elect

I am honored for the opportunity to be a candidate for the President-Elect position on the SPAGS board. I am currently serving the SPAGS member-at-large position, as a third year graduate student in the clinical psychology doctoral program at Pennsylvania State University, where I work with Dr. Aaron Pincus. I'm very enthusiastic on working for the SPAGS education board, which will offer three SPAGS panels in the upcoming 2017 SPA conference at San Francisco. As the education board, Emily Dowgwillo and I were excited to organize a statistical method panel focusing on personality dynamics over time for more advanced students, an introductory panel focusing on popular personality assessment measures for students new to the field, and a roundtable discussion on career trajectories including post-docs, academically focused paths, and clinically focused paths. We took consideration on students from different levels and tried our best to provide high quality panels from different perspectives. Taking the SPAGS member-at-large position encourages me to continue the leadership opportunity to serve students in bridging the leading research and practice on personality assessment.

I have a strong tie to SPA with my short academic career, and SPA has impacted me on making the decision to continue graduate school on clinical psychology. I first attended SPA as an undergraduate student in 2013, with a great honor to present a poster on my honor thesis and won the 2nd place awarded Honorable Mention at San Diego. Then, I completed the honor thesis and published the paper Chinese translation of Inventory of Interpersonal Problems Short Circumplex (IIP-SC) on JPA. The memorable experience of SPA conference opened a door to me as an undergraduate who was new to personality assessment. After taking a gap year worked as editorial assistant for Dr. Aaron Pincus for Assessment Journal, I decided to pursue Clinical Ph.D with Dr. Pincus, to stay closely with SPA and personality assessment field. Following that, I presented a literature review of personality assessments available in Chinese language as a part of my master thesis on SPA 2015 at Brooklyn, and a factor analysis of Chinese Personality Assessment Inventory-2 (CPAI-2) on SPA 2016 at Chicago. SPA conferences provided me a great opportunity to present my research and meet many researchers who share similar research interests in the field. The SPAGS community further provided me a unique opportunity to connect with many friends and future colleagues, and I look forward to continue serving the community and making my contribution to the 2017 conference at San Francisco.

My research interests are broad and in process of developing, including personality disorders, personality assessment and interpersonal problems. In particular, I am interested in interpreting personality assessments and interpersonal problems to better understand personality aspects of psychopathology in clinical research and practice. I enjoyed my numerous clinical practices and many research opportunities in clinical setting at Penn State, including the Narcissism Interview Study at Pincus's lab. I believe that working with clinical population allows research to be better applied in clinical practice. I am also interested in international extensions of clinical assessment methods for use with Chinese speakers, who constitute one

fifth of the world population. My current project is recruiting Chinese-English biligual participants to study the cross-culture use of the Inventory of Interpersonal Problems – Short Circumplex (IIP-SC) and The Personality Diagnostic Questionnaire - 4+ (PDQ-4+), trying to test out whether English IIP-SC and PDQ-4+ have the same construct validity as Chinese translated version of IIP-SC and PDQ-4+. I believe that applying personality assessment in a different culture needs to use norms in that specific culture. International extensions of clinical assessment methods are not simply borrowing the assessments with American norms, but altering the assessment methods to fit into a different culture. I would like to promote the more intergrated collaboration on clinical research and the clinical practice on personality assessment, as well as extending the research and practice to Chinese-speaking countries for a broader international impact. I believe that having the leadership opportunity at SPAGS will help me develop my identity in clinical psychology field and promote the intergrative cross-cultural perspective of personality assessment towards my career goals.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of me for the President-Elect position. In my free time, I enjoy good movies, variety of music, nice books and delicious food. I spend my time playing piano, singing karaoke, dancing Zumba, attending good shows and travelling to explore new places and tasty food!

William Bryant

University of Tulsa

Position Running For: Secretary

Hello, my name is William Bryant and I am currently a fourth-year doctoral student in the Clinical Psychology program at the University of Tulsa (TU). I would like to submit my candidacy for the position of Secretary for the Society for Personality Assessment Graduate Student Association (SAPGS) board. My experience in graduate student organizations and personal strengths make me a viable candidate to fill such a position.

For the past three years, I have been involved on the officers board for the Graduate Association for Students in Psychology here at TU. Starting as a student representative, I have also served as Treasurer and am currently the President for the 2016-2017 academic year. My responsibilities in this organization have consisted of organizing social activities, establishing volunteer opportunities for the community, managing the organization's budget, and serving as liaison between the faculty and graduate student body.

Additionally, I am currently serving as the State Advocacy Coordinator (SAC) of Oklahoma for the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students's (APAGS) Advocacy Coordinating Team. In general, this aspect of APAGS is focused on advocating for issues important to graduate students (e.g., mental health reform, human rights, minority issues in society). More specifically, I work together with campus representatives at accredited graduate psychology programs throughout the state. As SAC, my responsibilities also include serving as liaison between the APA, the Oklahoma Psychological Association, and the graduate students in the state.

Through these leadership positions, I have discovered how to serve my fellow students at the university and state level. I relish the opportunity to do the same for the students of SPAGS.

Regarding my research interests, I am generally interested in the study of individual differences through self-report inventories. My research to this point has focused on personality dimensions and substance use. Recently, my interests have shifted towards the behavior of personality inventories in transgender populations and the use of trait interactions in predicting clinically relevant variables (e.g., suicide).

I feel that the position of secretary is one for which I am particularly suited. There are two strengths of mine that lend themselves toward secretarial responsibilities: organizational skills and attention to detail. By maintaining order of my academic materials, resources, and time I am able to maximize my efficiency. This organizational capacity ensures that I produce the best work I can whether that be a presentation for class, a journal article for submission, or even collaborating with others to design a student social event. As for my attention to detail, I believe this manifests in my thoroughness to which I approach any task. My organizational skills and attention to detail have contributed greatly to my success as a graduate student. I believe that they will be especially helpful for organizing any materials, notes, or minutes for SPAGS.

Earlier this year, I was fortunate enough to attend the Society for Personality Assessment's (SPA) annual conference for the first time and present a research project. This provided the opportunity to discover current research and interact with individuals of similar interests from all over the world. This positive experience has encouraged me to want to give back in the form of serving as the Secretary for SPAGS. Furthermore, this position plays to my strengths and organizational capabilities (described above).

I feel that serving as SPAGS secretary could be an important component to my professional growth. Such a position would allow me to take my focus beyond the department, campus, and even state levels to the international scope. This also provides an opportunity to serve an organization that I consider significant to my future career as a psychologist. Thank you for your consideration.

Evan Good

Michigan State University

Position Running For: Member-at-Large

I am currently a second year student in Clinical Psychology at Michigan State University. Although I have a number of interests within personality assessment, my graduate research has primarily been concerned with the measurement of personality via interpersonal dynamics. I am particularly interested in using circumplex models to understand how experiences of self and other map onto the significant emotional moments of daily-life. This interest includes assessing how individuals relate to others within normal and pathological ranges of functioning, within and across interpersonal situations. In general, I am interested in using multi-method assessment -- employing momentary behavioral coding, ambulatory assessment, or informant reporting in combination with traditional self-report methods. I approach this research with the goal of informing theories of basic personality and psychopathology, as well as having applications to understanding interpersonal processes within psychotherapy.

In my free time I enjoy listening to music, keeping up with current events, cooking, and social commentary, in whatever form it may come.

Chloe Bliton

Pennsylvania State University

Position Running For: Member-at-Large

Hello! My name is Chloe Bliton, and I am privileged to be running for a Member at Large position in the Society of Personality Assessment Graduate Student Association. I am a Clinical Psychology doctoral student at Pennsylvania State University. I am working with Dr. Aaron Pincus. Broadly speaking, my interests include exploring deficits in interpersonal functioning due to personality pathology. In my undergraduate career, I had the opportunity to conduct a research study and publish findings discussing how specific factors of emotion dysregulation, a pervasive issue in personality disorders, intersect with the perpetration of intimate partner violence. As I develop and fine-tune my program of research, I hope to examine narcissism in particular by creating temporally diverse assessment tools that examine personality through the lens of interpersonal theory. I am currently working on a study in Dr. Pincus's lab using ecological momentary assessment to observe how pathological personality states vary throughout the day.

The use of assessment measures effortlessly bridges the gap between research and clinical practice. In my clinical work, I look forward to integrating personality assessment measures into my work to clarify and conceptualize clients' functional difficulties and create specialized treatment plans. I also look forward to using clinical work as an opportunity to identify areas of research that could improve treatment for clients struggling with personality pathology.

Being a Member at Large in SPAGS aligns with my aims to dive into the personality assessment community and enrich my training experience as a graduate student. I currently serve as the Clinical Training Committee Representative for my cohort. This position has given me the opportunity to facilitate communication between faculty and students. I hope that a position on the SPAGS Board will give me the opportunity to foster the exchange of research ideas among researchers and clinicians. By being granted the opportunity to bolster my knowledge and experience in assessment by serving as a Member at Large, I will strive to uphold SPAGS's mission of facilitating communication of ideas and advances in the field.

In my free time, however limited, I enjoy painting and competing in elite powerlifting.

Trevor Williams

University at Buffalo, The State University of New York

Position Running For: Member-at-Large

I am honored to be a candidate for the SPAGS member at large position for the upcoming year. Presently I am in my fourth year of the University at Buffalo clinical psychology doctoral program, where I work with Dr. Leonard Simms. Broadly, my research interests revolve around the assessment and diagnosis of personality pathology from a trait perspective. One component of this involves comparing contemporary trait models in terms of their content and operationalization, in order to reach a consensus on a descriptive model of personality pathology. Another specific, and emerging, interest of mine is connecting these descriptive models with process-based models that may serve as an important point of departure for the treatment of personality pathology.

I first attended the SPA annual meeting in 2012, where I presented a poster comparing the interrelation of self and informant reports of interpersonal style, as well as their ability to predict interpersonal problems. At the time I was a junior at Michigan State University working with Dr. Chris Hopwood. I left that meeting impressed by the atmosphere of scholarly cooperation and debate, as well as the diversity of research presented. The following year I applied for membership and presented another poster, this time on the relationship between informant-rated pathological traits and aversive interpersonal behaviors. The atmosphere continued to impress me, however, I also began to notice the richness of the opportunities afforded students. One paper session consisted entirely of graduate students! In the past two years I have been fortunate to present several papers examining structural models of personality pathology, focusing on interpersonal problems, self-other agreement, and the identification of a personality functioning dimension. I look forward to the same opportunity this March in San Francisco, where I will present data that shows the convergence between pathological personality traits and social-cognitive task data (e.g., emotion recognition).

Clinically, I am interested in using personality assessment to guide treatment planning and provide insight to clients about their difficulties in living. My training has thus far focused on cognitive-behavioral and acceptance and commitment therapy, with an emphasis on evidence-based practice. I find that my research and clinical interests often mutually inform one another and, furthermore, that SPA's annual meeting often stimulates me to integrate these domains of my training in new and interesting ways.

In many ways, SPA has influenced my decision to pursue clinical psychology, as well as focused my interests and provided an environment for meeting others with similar interests. As a SPAGS member at large I would like to continue to the organization's history of providing students with opportunities to interact with leading personality assessment researchers and present their own original research.



Snides Dawood

Pennsylvania State University

Position Running For: Member-at-Large

I am excited for the opportunity to be a candidate for a Member-at-Large position on the SPAGS board. Currently, I am a fourth year graduate student at Pennsylvania State University's clinical psychology doctoral program working with Dr. Aaron Pincus. I am also the Graduate Student Representative for the Society for Interpersonal Theory and Research (SITAR), which has been a wonderful experience as it has allowed me to collaborate with other members and the executive committee board to foster students' professional development, as well as promote and maintain a sense of community for students within SITAR. I have also served as the editorial assistant for the Journal Assessment during some of my graduate training.

Although my research interests are always evolving, I am particularly interested in using personality/interpersonal theory and measurement to better understand the phenomenological experience of personality disorders so that clinical research can better inform clinical practice. To this end, my research uses cross-sectional and longitudinal assessments to examine how personality pathology (e.g. pathological narcissism, borderline pathology) influences internalizing symptoms (e.g., depression) and externalizing behaviors (e.g., self-harm, substance use) concurrently and over time. I have also been involved in lab projects using ecological momentary assessment to examine how individual variability in personality pathology can impact functioning and behavior throughout the day.

My clinical and research efforts have also been aimed at demonstrating to clinicians and researchers the utility of conceptualizing and assessing the personality and interpersonal dynamics of clients in a therapeutic context (e.g., cognitive-behavioral or psychodynamic therapy). This can be used in the consultation room with individual therapy clients to help them better understand their dynamics, which provides a context to better understand their symptoms and helps inform treatment decisions in therapy. I was fortunate to have the opportunity this past SPA conference in Chicago, IL to present a talk that discussed how multi-surface interpersonal assessment could be useful in better understanding the split experience of schizoid personality disorder.

Overall, SPA has always proven to be a highly rewarding experience for me since I first joined in 2013. I am always appreciative and impressed by the diverse opportunities SPA has provided students, ranging from giving/observing a myriad of original presentations to being involved in workshops to having many opportunities to talk with and learn from experts in personality assessment. I remember being amazed the first time I learned that graduate students could attend workshops free of charge by volunteering! I have seized such opportunities several times and it has been gratifying to be able to implement some of the information/techniques I have learned from personality and therapeutic assessment workshops with my therapy clients. I have also learned so much from attending different presentations, including those outside of my area of clinical psychology, and have been thankful for the opportunities to interact with other graduate students and prominent researchers in our field. Furthermore, I have also obtained much valuable

feedback from others in terms of the projects I have presented at SPA, which has helped me grow and improve my way of thinking critically as a researcher! If elected as a SPAGS Member-at-Large, it would be my aim to help facilitate and continue these many wonderful opportunities and traditions that SPA has historically offered. Thank you for considering my nomination.

In my free time, I enjoy cooking or trying out new restaurants/recipes, watching TV series and movies (especially psychological thrillers), and reading fiction.