

# Insight

## CALENDAR:

### JUNE

June 6th - Ethics Salon discussion:  
"In Treatment" on HBO  
830 - 1030 Coro Bldg

June 6th - Summer After-Session  
Social Networking  
5-7pm DePasquale Sq.

### HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

Contact Jack Hutson, Exec. Dir. at  
(401) 736-2900



1643 Warwick Avenue/PMB 103  
Warwick, R.I. 02889

### APAGS

## Student Involvement

As future practitioners, I cannot stress enough the importance of graduate students joining RIPA and getting involved at the local level. In addition to their lobbying efforts on behalf of the field of psychology, their advocacy for quality mental health services, and their promotion of collaboration between various psychological disciplines and other mental health organizations, RIPA has a great deal to offer graduate students. Continuing education programs and other educational opportunities are offered to us at a discounted rate, free consultation is

provided when faced with ethical issues, and RIPA provides us with wonderful networking opportunities in this close-knit state.

If you have any questions, or would like to learn more about becoming a student member of RIPA, please do not hesitate to contact me through RIPA.

*Deanna R. Voisine, MA*  
APAGS State Advocacy Coordinator



# Insight

Newly-Elected RIPA President, Jim Campbell, Ph.D.

## Greetings from the President

Dear colleagues,

It was my honor to assume the presidency of the Rhode Island Psychological Association in January of this year. I confess, the job is a bit daunting. There are so many important issues to address, both locally and nationally. Fortunately, I get to work with the RIPA Board of Directors who bring so much experience and commitment to the issues we face. I am especially indebted to Dr. Lou Turchetta, our past-president. During his tenure as President, Lou worked tirelessly to energize the association. He reached out to new members and grad students and mentored psychologists into leadership roles in the association. Lou has been a wonderful source of support and advice for me personally as I have taken on the role of President.

During my previous year as president-elect, I got to observe the remarkable generosity and dedication that board members brought to their work for our

Rhode Island Psychological Association

Association. They quietly, and effectively, donate many hours of service to protect and advance the profession of psychology. Their work with legislators, insurance companies, and state officials has helped preserve access to care for consumers and gave voice to psychological science where it matters. Along with Jack Hutson, our Executive Director, and our lobbying firm, we are looking "over the horizon" at threats and opportunities that need our attention.

The Association, of course, can do so much more with the support and participation of psychologists in Rhode Island. Participation in the Association can be a wonderful way to build relationships, learn about challenges to the profession, and identify ways to contribute to the advancement of our profession in the state and in the nation. I encourage you to consider participation on one of the RIPA committees. Just contact the committee chair, introduce yourself and begin the conversation. If you prefer, stop by our informal gathering on the afternoon on June 6 (look for the announcement!). It will be a great way to meet or catch up with colleagues.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as RIPA president. Please let me, and other members of our board, know about your interests and concern.

Sincerely,

*Jim*

## RIPA Goes to Washington SLC 2008



This year's State Leadership Conference was held at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, D.C. from March 9 - 12. The SLC is organized by the APA Practice Directorate, and is an opportunity for leadership from State, Province and Territory Psychological Associations to come together to share information and ideas, and to appeal to Members of Congress to support the urgent issues of mental health care. This year's advocacy focused on: 1) restoring the Medicare reimbursement rate; 2) enacting Mental Health Parity in '08; 3) making patient privacy/security legislative priority; and 4) supporting MI appropriations

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# Insight

Peter M. Oppenheimer, Ph.D.

## Legislative Update

The major focus of concern at the State House this year has been the budget deficit. The Governor has proposed many drastic cuts to a variety of government activities and services in service of alleviating the deficit. These cuts would reduce human services,

### Smith Hill

ending or diminishing health insurance for many. Some of the cuts would not allow Rhode Island to take advantage of federal funds that are available to psychologists. The Governor's proposal is consistent with his governmental philosophy of reducing the scope of government. Right now the leadership of the General Assembly seems to be willing to sign on to these cuts as an immediate means of reducing expenditures. Members of the health care advocacy community are concerned proposed cuts will harm many Rhode

Islanders and the health care service infrastructure of our state.

This year we have introduced a revision to our licensing bill. The bill updates a number of provisions in our current licensing law. In particular it will change the renewal period to two years from one year and revise some of the provisions of the rules for supervision and temporary permits.

This licensing bill has made progress in the State House. The bill was voted out of the House HEW committee in early April, but the Assembly returned it to the House Finance Committee over our license renewal fee. The Bill has been heard in the Senate HHS. It is awaiting consideration. Hopefully it will receive the approval of the Senate and the Governor shortly.

## Capitol Hill

The two different versions of a Federal Mental Health Parity Bill have passed the Senate and the House. It is now necessary to for the House and Senate to conference in order to create a common version of the bill. We are aware that the House Sponsor (Representative Patrick Kennedy) and the Senate Sponsor (Senator Ted Kennedy) are working together. Director of Congressional & Political Affairs for the APAPO, Peter Newbold, tells us that Rep. Kennedy says he is optimistic that that a compromise will be worked out that can pass both houses.

We are continuing to monitor and advocate with CMS for improvements to psychologist's standing in the Medicare system. The APA Practice Organization is working to address the SGR and 5 Year Rule provisions that would reduce reimbursement for psychological services. We are also seeking to address our exclusion from using Evaluation and Management Codes.

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## Insurance Committee

On May 16, James Campbell and James Curran and I met with Ellie Lewis, United Behavioral Health Care's newest Sr. network Manager/Ombudsman. We discussed a number of issues our members are having with United. Again, we focused on the frustrations of dealing with a company that seems organized to evade responsibility for problems. (United Health Care of New England President Stephen Farrell has referred to United as a "matrix" of independent companies.) Ellie listened to our concerns and spoke of her desire to resolve problems and develop relationships with the provider community. Her approach was to offer assistance to resolve specific concerns. Her comments reminded me of many meetings we have had with many United representatives over the years. Action is what counts, not words or intentions.

Ellie can be contacted at 401-732-7110 and eleanor.lewis@phs.com.

If anyone has concerns or complaints about United or any insurance company please forward them to me so that the Board is aware - Peter Oppenheimer, Ph.D.



[www.ripsych.org](http://www.ripsych.org)



# Insight

Psychologists Reach Out

## APA Public Education Campaign

The American Psychological Association's Public Education Campaign was established both as a public service and to educate people about the value of psychology. It began in the mid-1990s when an APA study concluded that there was a significant gap between what the public understood about psychology and the realities and practice of psychological services. In response, APA developed Talk to Someone Who Can Help, a public education campaign designed to increase the public's knowledge of the field of psychology and the value of psychological services. Subsequent campaigns have:

- Targeted the increasing **violence in schools** following the 1999 Columbine shooting.
- Focused on building and maintaining **resilience in a time of crisis**, following 9/11.

- Focused on working to build **resilience in adolescents**.
- Developed resilience materials around **wartime stress**.
- Most recently, the Public Education Campaign focused on the connection between **mind and body health**.

The Public Education Campaign is a carefully orchestrated set of grassroots activities designed to systematically disseminate messages about psychology and psychological services for target audiences. Psychologists who work on the PEC help organize community outreach activities such as workshops, seminars, participation in a local health fair and distributing PEC materials to community venues, as well as media outreach and visibility.

RIPA is looking for members who are interested in spreading the word about psychology in our state.

Call Lou Turchetta 401-369-1472 or email at [Lturchetta@aol.com](mailto:Lturchetta@aol.com)

Dept. of Rules & Regulations

## Board of Psychology

Board Administrator Donna Dickerman has retired. Donna's expertise in the ins and outs of licensing has been a tremendous asset to us. Despite staffing issues, she improved the efficiency of the process and was able to complete an application in as little as ten days. We express our appreciation for her help and support, and for the entire staff of the Division of Professional Regulations. J. Michel Martineau has been appointed to replace Donna. We welcome him and are enjoying working with him. If you have questions about professional licensing, please address them to Mike at (401) 222-7883.

The Board of Psychology, the Department, and RIPA's Legislative Committee has recently completed the process of updating a new set of regulations. The new Regulations are posted on line at: <http://www2.sec.state.ri.us/dar/regdocs/released/pdf/DOH/5136.pdf>. When the new Licensing Law is passed and effective, we will be able to revise the Regulations to address the changes in the new law.

- Peter M. Oppenheimer, Ph.D.

## RIPA BOARD

- **Jim Campbell**, Ph.D., President
- **Lou Turchetta**, Ed.D., Past-President
- **Mary Ann Ford**, Ph.D., Secretary
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- **Deanna Voisine**, M.A., APAGS Representative
- **Peter Oppenheimer**, Ph.D., Council Representative; Legislative Chair
- **Marjorie Pelcovits**, Ph.D., Federal Advocate Coordinator
- **Committee Chairs** -
- **Leslie Feil**, Ph.D., Ethics Committee
- **Clifford Gordon**, Ed.D., Continuing Education
- **Jeffrey Hughes**, Psy.D., Disaster Response Network
- **Sally Mayo**, Ph.D., Early Career
- **Jack Hutson**, Executive Director

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## Summer After-Session June 6 5-7pm

Join us at Costantino's Restaurant (on Federal Hill, across DePasquale Square from Venda Ravioli) and meet with old friends and colleagues in the Rhode Island Psychological Community.



July 27, 2007 After-Session

[www.ripsych.org](http://www.ripsych.org)