



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**July 15, 2020**

**Passing the Gavel:**  
**Elected Officers to the NYASP Executive Committee Assume New Leadership Roles**

Get the scoop on your NYASP officers who will assume their new roles on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020!

**Beth Rizzi, MA**  
*President*

Beth Rizzi is a school psychologist at John Jay Senior High School in the Wappingers Central School District. Beth joined the NYASP Executive Board in 2008 as a Student Representative and since then, has taken on the roles of Chapter K Alternate Representative, Legislative Co-Chair, Newsletter Editor, and President-Elect. When asked what she likes most about being a school psychologist, Beth stated that she enjoys interacting with students and determining what students need to be successful. Being a member of NYASP has allotted Beth opportunities to interact with school psychologists across the state to share ideas and make her a more effective practitioner. As President, Beth is looking forward to continuing her work with a dedicated team of professionals.



*“Being a part of NYASP has made me a better school psychologist in every way. I have learned so much through professional development opportunities. I have amazing colleagues to consult with when I have questions. I have an extended family that is here for me in times of need. Being a member of NYASP and of the NYASP Executive Board has been one of the greatest honors of my personal and professional life.” – Beth Rizzi*



**John Garruto, D.Ed., NCSP**  
*Immediate Past President*

John Garruto has been a school psychologist for the Oswego City School District since 1999 and has served as an Adjunct Professor for SUNY Oswego since 2006. John also serves as the Co-Chair of the NASP Ethics and Professional Practices Board. Since joining the NYASP Executive Board in 2011, John has served as Research Chair, President-Elect, and President. As a school psychologist, John particularly enjoys working with students through individual counseling. As Immediate Past President, John is looking forward to orienting new board members to their roles and serving as a resource for the incoming President. Being on the NYASP board has allowed John to view membership through a different lens; he values being a part of the decision-making process for important matters in school psychology.

*“NYASP has helped me to advocate for advancing my role as a mental health practitioner. When I pay my membership dues, I know I'm supporting NYASP to do their important work, that in turn, helps me to be a better professional each day.” – John Garruto*



**Christopher Van Houten, M.A./C.A.S.**  
*President-Elect*

Christopher Van Houten has worked as a school psychologist in the Malone Central School District for eight years. He has served the NYASP Executive Board in the capacity of Chapter B Representative since 2013 and co-chaired the 2018 NYASP Annual Conference in Lake Placid. Chris' philosophy as a school psychologist is grounded in early intervention and prevention and those day-to-day examples of "this is why I do what I do." As President-Elect, Chris is looking forward to collaborating with the board in a broader capacity, reaching out to members to encourage involvement in NYASP initiatives, and growing our partnerships with like-minded organizations. As a NYASP member, Chris values the tools and resources that NYASP provides to support children, families, and school communities across the state.



*"Being a part of NYASP has opened up so many connections and lifelong friendships, both across the state and the country. To network with people who understand what you do and the daily 'a day in the life' is so powerful."*  
– Christopher Van Houten

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**Jennifer Arroyo, M.S. Ed. - CAS**  
*Secretary*

Jennifer Arroyo has been working as a bilingual school psychologist in the Newburgh Enlarged City School District for the past 14 years. She joined the NYASP Executive Board in 2008 and has served the board in the capacity of Culturally Responsive Chair and Early Childhood Chair. In her day-to-day work, Jennifer values working with children at their most vulnerable and empowering times. As Secretary, Jennifer is honored to document the history of the association and continue to work collaboratively to impact the field of school psychology. She values the collaborative nature of NYASP, as it assures her that she is not alone in any obstacles that she may face as a school psychologist.

*"Being faced with many challenges in a high needs school district, I feel secure and empowered knowing that there is a group of dedicated professionals that I can call to for support in the field. I know the advice and counsel will be sound and supportive."* – Jennifer Arroyo



**Stacy A. S. Williams, PhD., NCSP, LP**  
*Treasurer*

Stacy Williams began at Marist College eight years ago and is currently an Associate Professor of Psychology. Stacy began on the NYASP Executive Board in 2013 as the Chapter K Alternate Representative. Since then, she has held the roles of Student Liaison and Treasurer-Elect. As a school psychologist, Stacy values creating environments and opportunities for all students to reach their full potential. Stacy noted that she has big shoes to fill as Treasurer (kudos to Laura Spenceley!) and is looking forward to immersing herself in the NYASP Operations Handbook (she is up for the challenge!). The NYASP Executive Board has offered Stacy a professional family to lean on during the good and bad times, a wealth of professional development opportunities, and chances to grow professionally.



*“NYASP has taught me the importance of being at the table vs. being on the menu. Advocacy requires action, grit, and just showing up for those who do not have the ability to show up.” – Stacy Williams*

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**Sarah Shen, MS/CAS**  
*NYASP Treasurer-Elect*

Sarah Shen is a school psychologist in the Mexico Academy and Central School District. She is proud to be a Mexico Tiger! Sarah joined the NYASP Executive Board in 2018 as the Continuing Professional Development Co-Chair and is excited to serve as Treasurer-Elect for the new two years. As a school psychologist, Sarah enjoys how diverse her role is on the day-to-day and embraces the many hats that she wears, including crisis counselor, evaluator, and consultant. Sarah values the professional development opportunities and resources that her NYASP membership has to offer. Thanks to the guidance provided by the NYASP Legislative Committee at a recent Lobby Day, Sarah noted that she has felt more comfortable with advocacy and has engaged more with her local officials.

*“Being part of NYASP has allowed me numerous resources I would not be afforded without membership. I love receiving the newsletter and seeing what others are doing across the state. This challenges me to go outside of my comfort zone and expand my practices in ways I don’t think I would be able to without my NYASP family.” – Sarah Shen*



**Laura Spenceley, Ph.D.**  
*Fiscal Advisor*

Laura Spenceley joined the Counseling and Psychological Services Department at SUNY Oswego in 2012. In 2018, she was named Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. Laura has served on the NYASP board since 2013 in the following capacities: Chapter E Alternate Representative, Student Liaison, Treasurer-Elect, Treasurer, and as a Co-Chair for the 2018 Conference in Syracuse. As a member of the NYASP Executive Board, Laura appreciates her varied experiences related to advocacy, planning a budget for a not-for-profit, organizing a state conference, and developing relationships with compatible visionaries. As a trainer of school psychologists, Laura values the opportunity to witness graduate students emerging as confident school psychologists, ready to serve children, families, and school communities. Laura is looking forward to supporting the Treasurer and Treasurer-Elect as the Fiscal Advisor.



*"I believe strongly that it's important to find an opportunity to serve the field through leadership, whether it be mentoring students, volunteering in the school building, or serving on a board... Leadership isn't about the imposition of will or the collection of accolades; it's about building a set of goal-oriented actions that get people excited to do the work and connecting with people around these goals." – Laura Spenceley*

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Thank you to all of our NYASP members who voted.  
Our officers will serve a two-year term from August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2022.

Our officers can be contacted via email:

**Beth Rizzi, President**  
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**John Garruto, Immediate Past President**  
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**Christopher Van Houten, President-Elect**  
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**Jennifer Arroyo, Secretary**  
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**Stacy Williams, Treasurer**  
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**Sarah Shen, Treasurer-Elect**  
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**Laura Spenceley, Fiscal Advisor**  
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NYASP Secretary (through 7/31/2020) & Public Relations Chair  
Courtney Huguenin can be reached at courtney.huguenin@nyasp.org.