

NYASP is the professional organization representing school psychology in NYS.

NYASP exists to fulfill the following five purposes:

- *to serve the mental health needs of all children and youth.
- *to encourage and provide opportunities for the professional growth of members.
- *to actively promote the interests of school psychology.
- *to inform the public about the services and practice of school psychology.
- *to advance the standards of school psychology.

The following excerpt is from Gil Trachtman's article in 1984 Newsletter:

“The history of School Psychology in New York State is really three separate distinct histories, the history of upstate, the history of New York City and the history of metropolitan suburban Westchester and Nassau County. I spent the 50's and 60's as a school psychologist in Nassau County, but my life before and after that period was in New York City: Brooklyn in the 40's and before that, Manhattan.

As the sketchiest of overviews let me tell you that New York City began to license school psychologists independently of New York State in the 20's and New York State began to certify school psychologists in the 30's, and I think New York University probably had the earliest School Psychology program in the country. New York City is exempt from New York State Education Department Certification so New York City licenses its own personnel, usually with standards similar to or higher than the rest of the state and including licensing examinations developed by the New York City Board of Examiners. New York City also established the Bureau of Child Guidance attached to the city school system but separately funded with mental health not education money. The Bureau contained a staff of psychiatrists, psychologist and social workers and probably comprised the largest mental health clinic in the world long before Public Law 94-142. Now New York State has a strong commitment to special education through Boards of Cooperative Education serving suburban and rural districts which lacked their own programs and, with this, a long tradition of school psychologist employed throughout the state. The 50's were a period of great growth in our state but the growth took a different form in New York City, upstate New York and Nassau County where I began my career. Upstate developed a more educational and psycheducational model while New York City developed a more clinical model and Nassau County developed a clinical model but with greater room for diversity and exploration. It was my good fortune to participate in that exciting period.”

NYASP Time Line

1936 New York City Association of School Psychologists established

1950 School Psychologist of Upstate New York was organized.

1951 Nassau County Psychological Association founded.

1957 New York State Psychological Association organized a School Division.

1959 Raymond Salman authored “The Individual Psychological Evaluation” which was circulated by the Bureau of Psychological Services (SED).

1960 Albert Wimberly, President of SPUNY. Norbert Markert, Newsletter Editor.
1961 report authored by William Sivers & Raymond Salmon of the Bureau of Psychological Services (SED) identified 573 school psychologists working in NYS. The salary range was \$5,500 to 10,000. Cardon Kingler coordinated a SPUNY conference in Rochester with NYSPA. Wm. Seil elected president upon the untimely death of Ed. McCann.

Marsha Schaffer was the only person to hold an elected officership in NASP and Division 16 of APA.

1963 John Murray, President of SPUNY. Eight School Psychology training programs existed. Robert Johnstone and William Sivers at SED. Spring Conference, NYC in conjunction with NYSPA. Geographical representative from Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Albany, Finger Lakes and North Country were selected to bring news of events of interest to school psychologist for the SPUNY newsletter.

1964 Explanation of the Bureau of Psychological Services as having an informational, consultative role dealing with certification requirement, minimal standards and explaining laws. Spring Conference – Binghamton. Elizabeth Koppitz, speaker.

1965 Thirteen SP training program were in operation.

1967 State education law was amended to include emotionally disturbed and brain injured as handicapping conditions. SPUNY conference in Greece, NY.

1968 SPUNY Spring Conference in Binghamton; Fall Conference in Albany

1969 William Sivers (Bureau of Psychological Services) authored Parent Notification, Parent Consent and School Psychological Services. Founding of National Association of School Psychologists.

1971-72 Founding of NYASP, Kenneth Knowles President. Membership of NYASP, 130.

Marcia Shafer described the state of school psychology organizations as follows: “In New York State, the New York Association of School Psychologists (NYASP) is formally affiliated with NASP. Its chief purpose is to deal with legal/legislative issues.

SPUNY, the School Psychologists of Upstate New York, is a regional association affiliated with NYASP which offers particular attention to professional fellowship. Its annual conferences are informative, timely and friendly.

NASP, NYASP and SPUNY membership is open to persons holding state certification as school psychologists.

NYCASP is the association for New York City school psychologists. With SPUNY, it is the major supporter of NYASP.”

1971 The Biondo (Psychological Practices Act) bill was introduced into the legislature, separating school psychologists and other psychologist with a master’s degree from those with a Ph.D.

1972 Richard Hennesy, Pres. of SPUNY

1972-73 Robert Holland, president of NYASP

1973 Terrence Tyler, Pres. of SPUNY. The National Association of School Psychologists’ Convention held in March in NYC.

1973-74 Phil McInnis, president of NYASP

1974-75 Marcia Shaffer, president of NYASP. Bill Pfohl, president of SPUNY

1975 PL 94-142 enacted The Education of All Handicapped Children solidified the role of school psychologists in schools.

1975-76 **Francis (Frank) Plumeau**, president of NYASP. New members to SPUNY were sponsored by Board members. Marcia Shaffer appointed as liaison officer between NYASP and SPUNY.

In 1976 the SPUNY Executive Committee approved a motion to recognize on a yearly basis excellence in the field of school psychology.

1976-77 **Lee Wilcox, Pres.** **Phil McInnis** was recognized as the School Psychologist of Year.

1977-78 **Burton Weissberger**, president of NYASP; **Joan (Jody) Hororka**, President of SPUNY. NYS guidelines for identification of learning disabilities was published.

1978 “Early Educational Screening” disseminated by Bureau of School Psychological and Social Services. NASP convention in NYC. NYSPA introduced a licensing bill in legislature. SPUNY officers expressed opposition due to a need to protect the profession of school psychology and a need to define the practice of psychology.

Marcia Shaffer was School Psychologist of the Year.

The State Legislature amended the Mental Hygiene law to include “neurological impairment” to the list of existing disabilities.

1978-79 **Ted Bernstein**, President of NYASP; **Bob Burdick**, president of SPUNY.

Ted Bernstein died. SPUNY Traveling Road Show was unveiled. “A panel of three experienced and lively school psychologists can cover the uses and limitations of psychological testing. Panelists: Marcia Shaffer, Joan Hovorka Frank Plumeau, Bill Stott, Paul Nichel and Terry Tyler.

1979 **Linden Summers**, recipient of School Psychologist of the Year. An associate is the Bureau of Psychological Services: Frank Rhymer, Carl Pomroy and Esther Zinoman. United Nations Year of the Child.

1979 NYASP Continuing Education Committee organized and details of awarding certificates of continuing professional development formalized. Harold Keller, Chair.

1980-81 **Jacob Zegers**, President of SPUNY. Esther Zinoman wrote “*The Individual Psychological Examination*” under the auspices of Wm. Sivers, Office of Educational Finance, Management and School Services. Linden Summers was president of NYASP (80-81). Joint SPUNY/NYASP dues were \$35.00

1980 **SPUNY Conference in Canandaigua**. Marcia Shaffer working in Louisiana.

The Bert Friedman decision affirmed the right of school psychologists to maintain their positions as integral parts of school systems rather than as ancillary contractual service providers. **Frank Plumeau** named School Psychologist of the Year. Spring Hill Conference.

1981 Mt. St. Helens erupted. Olympic Conference (WA) Topic: Shaping the Future of School Psychology. **Robert Stewart**, **School Psychologist of the Year**.

1981-82 John Wagner was president of SPUNY. Doris Greene, President of NYASP.

1982 Muriel Forest was fired from her job as a school psychologist because she refused to change her recommendation regarding a student. Both NASP and APA wrote briefs in support of Forest because of lack of regard for legal and ethical standards.

Gil Tractman was delegate to NASP. NASP’s convention was in Detroit.

The doctoral-nondoctoral level of practice issue was cause for debate across the land.

Jose P case. In the city of New York a class-action suit was brought in behalf of a group of children whose parents claimed they were not being assessed and placed in a timely fashion.

NYASP Conference in Binghamton. Membership = 645. **Terry Tyler**, School Psychologist of the Year.

1982-83 Susan Leahy (Hildebrandt), President of NYASP. School Psychology Week proclaimed by Gov. Cuomo. **Gil Trachtman**, School Psychologist of the Year.

1983-84 Donald Johnson, President of SPUNY/NYASP. Howard Knoff, Delegate to NASP. Wm. Sivers, SED Bureau of Psych Services retired. Bureau of Psych Services subsumed under Division of Child Development, Office of Education. NYCASP's President was allowed to be a member of the NYASP Executive Committee for one year only. SPUNY & NYASP merged effective Oct. 14, 1983. Kenneth Knowles, first president of NYASP died.

1983 The membership of SPUNY and NYASP merged in a process that began in 1981. Combined membership = 500. 20 School Psych training programs.

1984 The general membership of the combined groups (SPUNY, NYASP, and NYCASP) ratified the By-Laws of NYASP in October. Jim Gallagher, Albany Conference Chair. Andy Doro held a position entitled Assistant to Conference Chair. **Frank Plumeau**, Newsletter Editor. Tax-exempt status gained by Kevin Bacher. Membership = 667. New officer year began in July, membership & fiscal year began in October.

Contracting for psychological services was a compelling issue in NYS with NYASP opposing the practice and NASP favoring it. Frank Rhymer (Bureau of Psych Services, SED) hoped to lay the issue to rest with this opinion. "The arguments from the Friedman Decision regarding contracting for psychological services is that school psychological services is an instructional service and responsibility for instructional services cannot be contracted out to a third party by a local educational agency. Therefore the local educational agency must provide school psychological services directly."

Evelyn Goldwasser, Ph.D., edits a new publication, Clinical Scope, from the Special Education Division of the New York City Board of Education.

Howard Knoff, Ph.D. surveyed the entire New York NASP membership to help identify pressing issues. Combating inappropriate subcontracting of out-of-district psychologist and advocating for non-doctoral licensing were weighty issues for the 700+ survey responders.

1984-85 Terry Tyler, President of NYASP. **Frank Plumeau**, Newsletter Editor. The year of dual membership between NYASP & NYCASP ended in June with NYCASP having advanced no slate of officers. The name of the School Psychologist of the Year Award was changed to Distinguished Service Award. NYASP applied for tax exempt status under the tutelage of Kevin Bacher. **Jacob Zegers**, School Psychologist of the Year.

Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale, Fourth Edition released.

Memo: Gerald Freebourne. SED The Role of the School Psychology Intern in the Evaluation of Children with Handicapping Conditions

1985-86 Evelyn Goldwasser, President of NYASP, '85 Conference at NYC's Vista Hotel (World Trade Center). Membership = 695. **Frank Rhyner** received the Distinguished Service Award. '86 Conference at Buffalo Hilton. Esther Zinoman, Delegate to NASP. **Bob Burdick**, Newsletter Editor.

Anthony Pantaleno (Fordham) and **Nancy Evangelista** (Syracuse) are Ted Bernstein Awardees. **Bob Burdick**, former Newsletter editor and staff photographer received a life service award.

NYASP's Board voted not to seek inclusion in the Mental Health Practitioner's (Seigel bill) coverage because the levels of training for many of the included professions were significantly lower than those of school psychologists.

The PR/PI Committee, under the leadership of Sue Leahy (Hildebrand) developed broadcast public service announcements to enhance the visibility of our profession. Rochester Institute of Technology initiates a master's degree program in school psychology.

1986-87 Jacob Zegers, President of NYASP. **Vinny Martin and Marcia Shaffer**, co-editors of the Newsletter. Judy Harwood, treasurer. Peter Danziger, attorney consultant advised on strategy to gain independent practice status. Membership was surveyed. 300 responses – most in favor of independent practice. Yancy Padget, Conference Chair – **Syracuse**. NYASP adopted NASP's position paper, "Advocacy for Appropriate Education for All Handicapped Children". Memorial fund for Frank Plumeau, who died in 1985. RTI began School Psychology program.

Educationally Related Support Services Assessment monies were appropriated by NYS for services of school psychologists, social workers and non-career related counselors to students being maintained in the regular classroom. This is the first state law mandating services for students who are not identified as handicapped.

Code of Ethics and Professional Standards Policy adopted by NYASP.

Preschool Special Education required by the Education of the Handicapped amendments (Public Law 94-142).

1987-88 Susan M. Leahy, President. Membership in NYSCEA (An organization of professional associations working together to promote quality educational policy for the students of NYS) began. Each year NYSCEA produced a monograph related to education with input from member organizations. '87 Conference in Syracuse. Esther Zinoman Karp, SED liaison to NYASP. Position Papers: Corporal Punishment & Rights Without Labels & Minority Recruitment adopted from NASP model.

Judith Kaufman conducted a survey via the 1986-87 Newsletter, with 250+ respondents giving a clear mandate to the Association's Board to pursue licensure for independent practice for non-doctoral school psychologists.

Alternative Model of Service Delivery, presented by the Professional Practices Committee to the committee assigned to select the new Chancellor of Education. NYASP proposed preventive interventions, alternatives to traditional assessment procedures as well as direct and indirect services to prevent the relegation of large numbers of students in NYC to special education services.

Gil Tracthman recognized as NYU Teacher of the Year

1988-90 Arlene Crandall, President. Two-year terms for elected officers began. The rise of School-based Support Teams in NYC created an ethical dilemma for NYC area school psychologists who were told to train teachers to conduct educational

assessments which heretofore had been done by school psychologists. NASP declined to take a position. First annual lobbying visit to Albany organized by A. Dirk Hightower. Two issues were discussed with legislators: (1) the desire of School psychologists to be able to practice independently and (2) Pre-school education for handicapped children. Operations manuals for The School Psychologist and Chapter Representatives developed.

Jose Sanchez, Associate for Psychological Services (SED) served as liaison to NYASP Board 1989 [Conference - Rye Brook, NY](#)

Nationally Certified School Psychology system is instituted. Many New York school psychologists take the ETS exam in order to be grandfathered into the system.

Code of Ethics and Professional Standards Manual adopted.

1990-92 Jack Kamins, President. [1990 conference – Rochester.](#) 640 in attendance.

Membership in NYASP tops 1000. 1991 – Syracuse. **Jonathan Lathey**, Newsletter Editor. Jose Sanchez, SED Associate. Position Paper “Effects of Neonatal Exposure to Crack/Cocaine”. And Independent Practice of School Psychology. 1990 International School Psychology Conference – Newport, RI. 1991 – WISC-III published. Summer Institute at St. Lawrence University.

Dues: \$55. for regular membership. Peter Danziger, Legal Legislative Consultant.

Jody Hovorka, protégé of Marcia Shaffer, retires from service in NYS and moves to Colorado

Gang of Four: Jack Kamins, Dirk Hightower, Arlene Crandall and Debra Handel made a presentation to the NYS Board of Regents in support of the New Compact for Learning: Special Education, Student Retention, Standardized Evaluation Procedures, School Psychology Certification and Psychological Evaluations. Legislation referred to as Mandate Relief threatened the jobs of NYS school psychologist. As a result of the governor’s reduction in the state budget of 240 million dollars in aid to education, school districts sought relief by reducing the duties of school psychologists.

1. It was proposed the school psychologist would be a sitting member of the CSE, by invitation only (similar to the way physicians are utilized)
2. It was proposed that the determination for the need for a psychological be determined by the CSE (minus a full-time school psychologist).
3. It was proposed that two member building subcommittees be established making CSE decisions throughout New York State (these subcommittees would consist of the child’s teacher and a supervisor of special education).
4. It was proposed that the mandate relief efforts outlined would save approximately \$36,000,000. The reality was that the only way these savings could occur would be through the elimination of about 900 school psychology positions, statewide.

As a result of NYASP’s actions:

1. The school psychologist remains as a permanent member of the CSE.

2. The school psychologist determines the need for and extent of psychological assessments.
3. Two-member building level subcommittees are limited to the “Big Five” cities in New York State. In addition, the involvement of the school psychologist is mandated anytime there is new psychological data and whenever there is a consideration of a change to a more restrictive program option (as defined in present regulations).
4. School psychology positions will not be disproportionately impacted in light of present budgetary reductions.

BOCES take-over of district school psychologists positions challenged. NYASP adopts NASP’s Position Statement: Children with Attention Deficits. Establishment of Job Information Network to assist school psychologist in finding positions in NYS.

Another threat to the role of pupil personnel workers was the influx of non-school based “counselors” funded by grants to combat drugs. NYASP decided to join school counselors in filing an appeal with the Commissioner of Education about the growing concern across NY state regarding the manner in which drug counselors, youth at risk counselors and community counselors work in school systems. As the number of grants increased the number of counselors increased. Questions about the qualifications of some counselors and the supervision under which they functioned arose. The school counselors appealed the Commissioner’s regulations which delineated the professionals allowed to work in schools. Counselors and school psychologist held that certified school psychologists, certified social workers or certified school counselors were the appropriately trained professionals to work in schools.

1992-94 **A. Dirk Hightower**, President, **1992 conference – Sagamore** Resort & Conference Center. 1993 conference - Melville, L.I. O’Connell & Aronowitz, Lobbyists. NYCASP briefly reappeared in NYC in a meeting held at Fordham. ’92 - **Rita Perlin, School Psychologist of the Year**. Staten Island Chapter organized. The role of Conference Advisor became an official board position. 1993 Summer Institute, Peek & Peak, Clymer, NY. Leadership in School Psychology Award established. Don Johnson received the first Leadership in School Psychology Award.

Board members deemed eligible for Frank Plumeau School Practitioner Award. Marist establishes a new training program for school psychologists. ’92 **Summer Institute: Children at Risk – South Hampton**. ’93- **John Trotta, School Practitioner of the Year**.

NYASP opposes the Mental Health Practitioner Bill: continued to lobby for independent practice rights for school psychologists. To this end, President Dirk Hightower appointed Marcia Shaffer to chair a subcommittee of the Legal/Governmental Action Committee whose thrust was development of strategies to accomplish independent practice for school psychologists.

1994. Children of Violence. Position Paper, authored by Helen Boehm-Morelli and James Lennon of the Children's Services Committee. Urban Issues Interest Group formed.

School Psychology Intervention Resource booklet produced by Research Committee, Joe DeMeis, Chair.

1994-96 Vinny Martin, President. Development of Survival Kits, aimed at impacting Gov. Pataki's budget which called for eliminating the MD, School Psychologist and parents from the Committee on Special Education. Carr Public Affairs was engaged to lobby for NYASP.

Two Positions Statements published: Children's Rights, James Lennon and The Use of Current Instruments of Assessment, Merryl Bushansky, Kevin Coats and Harry Lipton.

1994 Conference – Buffalo. The disagreement between the Executive Board and the editorial board of the Newsletter was resolved by granting the editor final judgment.

1994 conference in Buffalo picketed by NYPIRG due to opposition to giving kids Ritalin.

1995 conference in Saratoga Springs. Rocco Persico, Chair. **Kathy Gay and Mark V. Newsletter Editors**.

Position Paper: Mental Health Clinics in schools, Jim Tosto. **Summer Institute - Cornell**

The juried journal project was put on hold due to financial concerns.

Evelyn Goldwasser died.

Position Paper: Multicultural Assessment by Jose Sanchez and Ed Yansen

Position Statement: The Supervision of School Psychology Interns

NASP Convention in Chicago.

NYASP's **Summer Institute in Plattsburgh, SUNY's Valcour Lodge**

Dues: \$75.

1996-98 James Lennon, President. Carr Associates retained as lobbyist. **Ted Fineberg, School Psychologist of the Year**. Conference '96 – Rochester, Joanne Voulias, Chair. '97 Rye Towne Hilton. **Membership – 995**.

1998-2000 Lynn Thies, President. **1999 Conference** – Sagamore. 2000 – Buffalo. Sharon Dana, Conference Chair. Jim Lennon, NASP Delegate. **Christine Slisinski** Newsletter Editor. Position Paper on Flexible Assessment, a collaboration of SPECNYS & NYASP.

1999 SPECNYS and NYASP collaborated on position paper; School Psychological Services in Early Childhood Settings.

2000-2002 Thomas Kulaga, President, 2001– **Conference in NYC**. Roberts Wesleyan College developed School Psychology program. Reauthorization of IDEA brings the operational definition of LD into question once again. Peter Manella of Carr Public Affairs, Lobbyist

2001 Attorney General Eliot Spitzer created Students Against Violence Initiative. Conference was in Westchester. **John Kelly, Ph.D – School Practitioner of the Year**. **James Wright – Leadership in SP**. Peter Manella, Lobbyist.

2002-2004 Nancy Evangelista, President, Lynn Thies, NASP Delegate. NYASP joins SPEAK – public education campaign by the NY Office of Mental Health to raise awareness about suicide. 2003 Conference in Albany. 2004 Conference in Buffalo.

2004-2006 Robin Raphael, President, Lynn Thies, NASP Delegate. Pam Madeiros, Governmental Affairs Representative. 2006 Conference in Syracuse.

2005 Fiscal Year changed to August 1 through July 31. 3rd. Annual Early Childhood Conference at Fordham. [Randi Brown, School Practitioner of the Year, Karen Green, Psy.D., Leadership in School Psychology recipient.](#)

2006-2008 [John Kelly](#), President. Lynn Thies, NASP Delegate. Conference in White Plains.

2008-2010 [Thomas Kulaga](#), President

2010-2012 [Peter Faustino](#), President