



NEP/15

Spring 2017

Educational Psychology

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Edited by David Morris

Message from the President



This year has been an exciting time for Division 15, and we have made great strides in carrying out recent changes and working on new initiatives. Our membership has held steady at recent heights near 2,000. One excellent development focuses on the results from the APA Apportionment Ballot for the composition of council representation in 2018. Division 15 is one of five APA divisions with an

increasing number of seats on the APA Council of Representatives. This is important because the council votes on memberships to APA Boards and Committees. Division 15 APA members will be voting for our second council representative on the spring ballot along with openings for secretary, treasurer, vice-president, and president-elect. The new council representative will join our current representative, Avi Kaplan.

This additional member on council comes at a good time for us because we recently established an ad hoc committee to promote greater Division 15 representation in APA governance. The committee includes Division 15 representatives, monitors, and liaisons and is headed by Michele Gill and Tim Curby, Co-Chairs for Strategic APA Efforts. This year the committee identified procedures of governance for APA boards, coalitions, and committees relevant to interests of our members, such as the Board of Educational Affairs, Board of Scientific Affairs, Committee on International Affairs, and Committee on Division/ APA Relations. The ad hoc committee nominated potential candidates for openings on boards and committees as well as for other APA opportunities for our members (e.g., speakers for national or regional APA conferences). Our inter-division collaborations continue through joint conference efforts and sessions, the CODAPAR (Divisions 7, 15, 16, 37, 43, 53, & 54) collaboration effort for InfoAboutKids.org, contribution to Psychology

in the Schools Summit, and representation on the APA Coalition for High Performance. The frequently updated [Division 15 Committee Roster](#) provides a quick look at the breadth and vitality of our division.

“Division 15 is one of five APA divisions with an increasing number of seats on the APA Council of Representatives.”

Another new initiative is headed by the Chair of the Division Membership Committee, Serena Shim. Division 15 “Graduate Student Ambassadors” will soon serve as liaisons between the division and students’ graduate programs. They will help to provide Division 15 news to fellow graduate students in their programs. Serena is enthusiastic about this great opportunity for more graduate students to be involved with Division 15. To read more about this opportunity or apply, view the full call [here](#).

Also highlighted at the moment is our call for doctoral students to apply for the [Claire Ellen Weinstein Annual Graduate Student Seminar](#), to occur before and during the 2017 APA Annual Convention in Washington, D.C. The deadline for seminar applications is on Sunday, April 9, 2017 (5 pm EST). Three separate documents, including a three- to five-page dissertation proposal and a letter of recommendation, need to be sent to Co-Chair [Matthew Irvin](#), so start gathering your application materials or encouraging your graduate students to apply. This seminar is always a stellar opportunity.

Our dedicated Executive Committee and members of 17 active committees volunteer to select award winners, monitor budgets and long-term investments, plan webinars, organize the annual conference, nominate new APA Division

Message From the President, cont'd.

15 fellows, recruit members, further publications, engage in international outreach, mentor graduate students and early career faculty, honor past colleagues and mentors, and promote educational psychology and Division 15. Our division places emphasis on intergenerational mentoring and the development of new professionals in educational psychology. Mentors play an important role in professional development. We were recently saddened with the news of the passing of Dr. Martin Maehr in Ann Arbor, Michigan on January 10th, 2017; his memorial service is on Saturday, March 18th, 2017 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor, MI. Dr. Maehr was a leading voice in the field of achievement motivation research for roughly five decades. He will be greatly missed by his students and colleagues. For more details, please see [a tribute to Marty Maehr](#) written by his students or Kaplan, Karabenick, and De Groot's (2009) *Culture, Self and Motivations: Essays in Honor of Martin L. Maehr*.

The Executive Committee hopes to decide on the best way to honor former mentors and colleagues. Currently, whenever a former member or colleague's death is brought to the attention of the Executive Committee, Wade George makes announcements with short tributes from colleagues via the *Weekly Digest*, social media, and our website. We would like to continue this for all former mentors and colleagues referred to us, and also provide yearly tribute sections in the fall NEP as well as on our website.

[The Memorial Award](#) is a less frequently used vehicle started in 2010 to honor recently passed educational psychologists through a supporting member's formal application to the Division 15 Memorial Award Committee, chaired by Terri Thorkildsen. Recipients are selected by a majority vote of the [Memorial Award Committee](#) based on the following criteria: The deceased is a prominent, widely-published scholar in the field of educational psychology who either held one or more leadership positions in Division 15 during his or her career or was the recipient of another Division 15 award.

The Awards (Thorndike, Snow, & Pintrich) and Fellow Committees have efficiently completed most of their efforts this year. However, there are two important research grant awards with spring deadlines. One is the [Early Career Research Grants program](#) (up to \$6,000 in funding) with a deadline of June 2, 2017 (11:59 pm EST). The other is the [Dissertation Research Grants Award](#) with a deadline of May 1, 2017 (11:59 pm PST); two grants are usually awarded, each including a \$1,000 stipend to be applied toward the student's dissertation research.

Further education and outreach are offered for members by our proficient, interconnected and complex network of scholars serving on Division 15 committees. The enthusiastic Webinar Committee, chaired by Anastasia Kitsantas, offered in January the first of the two Webinars scheduled for this year entitled, "[Situating Cognition and the Recognition of Learning](#)," led by Dr. Daniel Hickey.

Additionally, the Division 15 Program Co-Chairs for the 2017 APA Annual Convention, Pui-Wa Lei and Kay Wijekumar, energetically and diligently served the division by planning the upcoming program in Washington, D.C. The Division 15 conference will be another exciting event with over 200+ excellent submissions, 192 dedicated volunteers who reviewed all the submissions in a timely manner, and a program full of excellent research that can inform a wide audience interested in learning. Our division and this conference can be powerful tools to promote successful learning and instruction, and our contributions make a powerful impact.

For further outreach I have encouraged members at various career and life stages to submit pieces for the *Psychology Today* blog. The first blog in my presidential series started in January 2017 with [Kay Wijekumar's article](#) about her observations working with large intervention grants using technology in schools that varied in student SES, resources, and effective use of technology for learning. In the February blog, Jacqueline Maguire, a graduate student, [drew applications from learning theories](#) to improve the use of collaborative strategies in STEM college classrooms. Joanna P. Williams, a

Message From the President, cont'd.

past president of Division 15, will soon blog about her intervention work with second graders using trade books and carefully constructed materials to teach about text structure for improving reading comprehension. Another submission is in process from international scholars. The Division 15 editors of the *Psychology Today* blog, Robert Klassen and Sarah Keifer, are fantastic in helping authors with clarity for this audience. In fact, Jackie, the graduate student author, exceeded records after mentoring by the editors and Wade George. [Jacqueline Maguire's post](#) was selected by *Psychology Today* as an "Essential Read." This is the highest honor given by their publication, and helps to promote Jackie's contribution. Please consider reaching out to the public and fellow scholars through Division 15's *Psychology Today* blog.

Division 15 also appears to be financially sound in this challenging era. After several years of research, and on advice from the Finance Committee (Terri Thorkildsen, Chair), the Executive Committee approved in 2016 a new long-term investment advisor (TIAA) and strategy for long-term sustainability and advancement of the division. The Finance Committee and the Executive Committee approved ways that a member may donate toward building an endowment in this long-term TIAA account. One way is estate planning and/or direct charitable contributions to the TIAA long-term investment account; this can be made at any time by contacting [Holly Suwannakam](#) at APA Central and asking her for the account information needed to transfer money to the Division 15 account. Another way to contribute includes tax-free IRA transfers; these are also possible for those members who must take retirement distributions (age 70.5 or older) and would like to offer a charitable deduction to Division 15. Again, Holly Suwannakam will serve as the contact person for assisting in this sort of funding transfer.

Division 15 is fortunate to have so many committed and talented people who are willing to give time and effort to our organization. Please consider becoming an officer, committee chair, committee member, mentor, reviewer, editor, ambassador, or some other active role in our vibrant division with its outstanding history of scholars in educational psychology.

Bonnie J. F. Meyer
APA Division 15 President

Division 15's Endowment Fund

To better secure a long and impactful future for our organization, Division 15 recently established a dedicated "Endowment Fund" which accepts charitable contributions from members, institutions, and estates. These include tax-free IRA transfers, and are also possible for members who must take retirement distributions (are age 70.5 or older), and would like to offer a charitable deduction to Division 15. Those interested may contact Holly Suwannakam (divacct@apa.org) at APA Central and state that donations should be made to Division 15; please also copy Finance Committee Chair Terri Thorkildsen (thork@uic.edu) for our organization's internal tracking.



Executive Meeting Highlights

APA Central Office, Washington, D.C.

October 21st and 22nd, 2016

Full minutes may be found [here](#), and the compiled committee reports can be found [here](#).

- The Division 15 Graduate Student Seminar has been renamed in memory of Claire Ellen Weinstein, who was instrumental in establishing and maintaining the seminar. Her contributions to the seminar, division, and field of educational psychology are described in Appendix A of the minutes.
- Three Division 15 committees (Membership, Graduate Student Affairs, & Early Career Educational Psychologist) are developing plans to create student ambassadorships for educational psychology programs across the country. These volunteer ambassadors would be responsible for promoting awareness and growth of Division 15 at their campuses.
- The Executive Committee is discussing several changes to the Policies and Procedures Manual so that it is better aligned with current practices in terms of award amounts, number of awardees, and roles and composition of various committees.
- The Webinar Committee provided guidelines for preparing future webinars, added President-Elect Michael Nussbaum as an ex-officio member, and discussed future directions and potential speakers. Recorded webinars will remain accessible to nonmembers unless cost recovery is necessary.
- The Executive Committee examined and approved the annual budget. New items include a secretary transition fund, vice presidential travel budget, communication director bonus, and a donation to the Summit on High School Psychology. Unused presidential funds were allocated to support the 2016-2017 webinar budget. The approved 2017 budget may be found [here](#).

Share Your Division 15 Affiliation

If you've benefited from Division 15's diverse offering (including journal access, news, award eligibility, and more) please consider recommending affiliation to a colleague, student, or mentor! If every current Division 15 member brought one individual into the fold, membership would soar to its highest point in the history of our organization—and, the larger we are, the more positive of an impact we can have on the field.

Note that new enrollees' first year is free, and that APA Central affiliation is not required for Division 15 membership!

Those interested may learn more (and apply for membership) [here](#).



Solicitation for APA Division 15 Committee Service For Openings Commencing in 2016-17

by Michael Nussbaum, President-Elect

Division 15 will have the following committee openings in August. Early career professionals and graduate students are especially encouraged to apply as a way of obtaining national service. More experienced members, fellows, and affiliates are encouraged to apply as well.

Please send me an email about any openings that interest you (in priority order, if more than one) at nussbaum@unlv.nevada.edu. If you can, send me a copy of your CV as well. I will begin making committee appointments on April 15, 2017.

Committees that will have openings are:

- Membership (1-2 members, 2 students) – This committee examines ways to increase and retain membership in the division and oversees member services.
- Awards:
 - Dissertation Awards (2 members and 2 fellows) – Reviews applications for dissertation awards.
 - Snow Award Committee (2 fellows) – Oversees the Richard E. Snow Award for early contributions.
- Graduate Student Affairs (1 member) – Conducts the Claire Ellen Weinstein Annual Graduate Student Seminar at the APA annual convention.
- Early Career Development Committee (2 members) – Seeks to recruit early career psychologists into the division and to support their active participation.
- Early Career Research Grants (2 members) – Committee solicits and reviews early career grant applications.
- International Committee (1 member, 2 students) – Promotes an international perspective within the division, for example by maintaining international affiliations and overseeing the international student travel award.
- Editor for the *Newsletter for Educational Psychologists* (1 person).
- Finance (1 member, 1 past president) – Oversees the division's financial investments and revenue stream.
- Fellows Selection Committee (1-2 fellows).
- *Psychology Today* Blog Ad Hoc Committee (1 member, 2 students).
- Webinar Committee (3 members). Organizes webinars for the division.

I am also considering creating an Ad Hoc Educational Policy Committee that would explore ways of involving division members more in educational policy analysis, decision making, and advocacy.

Upcoming Opportunities

Apply for an Early Career Grant!

Division 15's Early Career Research Grants program is intended for early career professionals or researchers who are working in educational psychology and who are members of Division 15. The purpose of this grant is to provide financial support for valuable research activities. The grant provides a monetary award of \$6,000 each for up to two selected applicants each year.

The deadline for applications is June 2, 2017. More information—including an official call and instructions for submitting—may be found [here](#).

Dissertation Research Grants Available

Division 15 invites graduate students who are members or affiliates of the division to apply for a Dissertation Research Grant. The purpose of the grant is to provide financial support for educational psychology doctoral students preparing to collect their dissertation data. Two grants will be awarded, each including a \$1,000 stipend to be applied toward the student's dissertation research. Announcement of the grant award winners will be made during the APA convention.

All applications must be submitted no later than May 1, 2017. For a formal call and application instructions, please visit the Division 15 website, [here](#).

Submit Your AERA Contributions for Division 15 Recognition!

As we prepare for [the 2017 AERA Meeting](#) (Thursday, April 27 – Monday, May 1, 2017 in San Antonio, TX), we'd like to highlight the contributions of any attending Division 15 members via our annual "Division 15 at AERA" program.

We encourage any who will be presenting work to share details via [this form](#). **Please note that all contributions must be received by April 15th to be included.**

Prior to the meeting, we will publish these contributions through Division 15's website, social media, and *Weekly Digest*. If you will be presenting with other members, please coordinate responses so that information is sent only once. You may submit multiple sessions.

Call for Applications – New Division 15 Graduate Student Ambassador Program

Division 15's Membership Committee is currently soliciting applications for its newly created Graduate Student Ambassador program. The purpose of this program is to create a community of graduate students who will serve as liaisons between Division 15 and their institution. Ambassadors will typically serve two years (all terms will end no later than students' graduation).

Those interested may learn more about responsibilities (less than one hour per month anticipated) [here](#). Applications may be submitted online in a few moments by using [this form](#). The deadline to apply is April 14, 2017.

Five Years With the Ed Psych Community

by Wade George, Director of Communications



At the close of 2011, I was privileged to have a brief, but important, discussion with then-President Martha Carr. At the time, Division 15 had seen [10 consecutive years of membership decline \(2000 - 2010\)](#) and was having difficulty attracting young enrollees, many of whom saw APA as a legacy brand which had been outpaced by new online tools. As a result, Division 15's leadership sought an updated digital presence: social media accounts, an improved website, new communications frameworks, etc. I was brought on with a tentative contract and began one month later.

My initial – and still lingering – sentiment was surprise at the dedication and talent of Division 15's volunteer base. Within months, we had already achieved a great deal, thanks in large part to the patience and explanation of those who helped acquaint me with this field. Flash forward to 2017, and we are among the most successfully represented of all APA Divisions – with roughly 7,500 total [social media](#) connections, a dedicated [job board](#), a [Weekly Digest](#), a best-in-class [newsletter](#), and a field-leading [journal](#). We've launched a [webinar series](#), a [Psychology Today blog](#), and are in the process of building a podcast. Virtually nothing seems outside the realm of possibility for this incredible organization.

And yet, there's still a tremendous amount left undone – as I've learned will always be the case in education. Translating high-impact research to practice remains a chief priority, as does refining pipelines for strong education policy (where political powers unfortunately often yield more impact than empirical research). It remains the solemn responsibility of this field to continue fighting for positive educational outcomes for [learners of all backgrounds](#) – a responsibility which I've consistently seen our members embrace.

In my career, I've helped launch a \$100M venture capital fund, created content and strategies for emerging tech giants, and even led a handful of campaigns featuring A-List celebrities. None of this work has been even remotely as rewarding as the time I've spent with Division 15. From the bottom of my heart, thank you all for an incredible five years. I look forward to many more!

Best,
Wade George