



# The Psych Report

## A Message from the President

### Fellow Orange County School Psychologists,

summer came and went quickly this year. I hope that you were able to spend time with family and friends. Most of all, I hope that you were able to relax and rejuvenate.

Orange County Association of School Psychologists (OCASP) has been working diligently and steadily this past summer. As you may or not be aware, Christian Marsden will be passing the presidency baton to me (Pedro Olvera). Don't worry, she will continue to work with OCASP as Past President/Treasurer. I would like to publicly recognize and thank her for her diligent and faithful service to OCASP these past years. She served as a strong foundation and made OCASP what it is today! On behalf of OCASP, thank you Christine!!!

Vhenus Belisle will become President Elect. You can meet the rest of your OCASP board on page 2.

This year, OCASP will be going green. All our correspondence with our members will be via e-mail. All our newsletters,

workshop flyers, and member letters will be distributed via e-mail as well.

Part of OCASP's mission is professional development. Our goal this year will be *professional development delivered in a practical and informative manner*. We intend to bring you the best possible workshops that you can apply in your practice. Here is a glimpse of what OCASP has in store for you this Fall & Winter:

**1. October 10th 9:00 AM- 2:30 PM:**

- Dr. Randy Busse: *Psychopharmacology with School Age Children*

Location: See Page 4

**1. November 14th: OCASP and Greater Long Beach ASP will co-host:**

- *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*

**Location:** The Grand in Long Beach (see page 4 - Future Workshops)

We have a great line up for the Spring as well! We will keep you informed.

We hope that you are as excited about these topics as we are. Make sure to go to [www.ocasp.net](http://www.ocasp.net) for the latest information.

Pedro Olvera— OCASP President 2008-2009

### School Psychology Awareness Week

Lets face it, people really don't know what a school psychology does. Right?? November is our chance to let them know. **School Psychology Awareness Week** is scheduled for the week of **November 10-14**. The theme this year is *Making a Difference, Ensuring that all Children are Ready to Learn*. Log onto [www.nasponline.org/communications/index.aspx](http://www.nasponline.org/communications/index.aspx). This site offers great ideas to let our profession be known.

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#### OCASP— Board of Directors

- Pedro Olvera, PsyD, LEP - President
- Vhenus Belisle, Ed.S. — President Elect
- Christine Marsden, Ed.S. — Past President & Treasurer
- Sandi Kato, MA — Secretary & Membership
- Veronica Olvera, PsyD — Editor & Web Designer
- Claudia Medeiros, MA— Marketing
- Linda Herrick, MS, LEP—LEP Representative
- Diane Wheeler, EdD – National University Representative
- Libby Barnish—Chapman University Representative
- Vivien Phan, MA, LEP– Community Liaison
- Kate McClain—University Liaison
- Jennifer Feeser—Private School Liaison

## MEET THE BOARD

### • Pedro Olvera– President

Pedro has been a member of OCASP for 3 years. Professionally, he is the newly appointed Director and Assistant Professor of the School Psychology program at Azusa Pacific University (APU). Prior to joining APU, Pedro served as full time School Psychologist specializing in Bilingual Assessments for the Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD). He also served as a Behavior Intervention Case Manager (BICM). He continues to serve SAUSD on a part time basis. Pedro is also a Licensed Educational Psychologist (LEP). Pedro enjoys mentoring students and seeing them grow into professional school psychologists.

### • Vhenus Belisle– President Elect

Vhenus Belisle has been a member of OCASP for over 4 years. She is a school psychologist in the Los Alamitos Unified School District. She studied psychology and English at CSULB before furthering her education at Chapman University, receiving a Master's degree in Educational Psychology and Educational Specialist degree. Vhenus has research experience at the UCI Pediatric Cancer Division, experience with at-risk populations, and worked as an ABA therapist. In addition to her participation in OCASP, Vhenus also holds membership with CASP and NASP. On her spare time, she continues her training for future marathons.

### • Sandi Kato– Secretary

Sandi has been a member of OCASP for the past year. She has been a school psychologist for that past 24 years. Sandi is currently employed in Paramount (High School) and Newport Mesa Unified School Districts (K-6). Her past experience includes teaching in both the General and Special programs in Culver City. She has 2 sons, ages 24 and 25. Her younger son teaches English in Japan, and her older son works and is pursuing a degree in higher education. Sandi enjoys pilates, tennis and quilting. Sandi likes to interact with fellow school psychologists and meeting new folks in the field.

## MEET THE BOARD - Con't.

### • Veronica I. Olvera—Editor

Hi folks, I thought to make my section a bit more personal as I work mostly in the background and hardly get to meet many of you. I'm a bit different in that I am not a school psychologist, but I appreciate the work that you all do in improving the quality of life of children, who have some form of learning disability, and their families. I graduated from a program in Clinical Psychology in 2006 and went on to complete a post-doctorate fellowship in Adult Clinical Neuropsychology at Harbor-UCLA Medical center. I just

finished my year as an assistant professor at APU. And now, I am studying for licensure. This is my second year as Editor for OCASP. I create flyers for workshops and edit the quarterly newsletters that are distributed. Last year, I was in charge of membership certificates, letters to members, and membership cards. However, Sandi has taken over this responsibility for the new year. Thus, if you have membership questions, do not hesitate to contact Sandi. She will be happy to assist. We are excited about all the new and upcoming events that OCASP has to offer this year!!! Join in on the fun!

### • Vivien Phan– Community Liaison

Vivien is currently a school psychologist at Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD). She is also a licensed educational psychologist (LEP) and nearing her completion of her doctorate program at Alliant International University.

Her area of specialty include bilingual assessment (Vietnamese) and adolescent self-injury assessment and intervention.

## Joining OCASP

Still pondering on whether to join OCASP this year? Here are some reasons to join:

- Network with other professionals
- Discounts on cutting edge workshops that also satisfy CEU's
- Be part of a innovative & dynamic professional organization
- Stay on top of current trends

## OCASP Districts Needing Representatives

OCASP wants to ensure that it is meeting the needs of the entire county.

With this in mind, the call is out for OCASP district representatives!

Please contact us at  
**[polvera@apu.edu](mailto:polvera@apu.edu)** if you are  
interested in becoming a district  
representative.



# Commentary

## September 2008

*By*

*Linda Herrick, M.S., LEP*

*LEP Representative / OCASP Board*

The following is an excerpt from a President's Message I prepared fifteen years ago during the time I served as the OCASP President. At that time, working with advocates employed by parents was a relatively new experience for most school psychologists, and working with attorneys regarding special education issues was rare for Orange County school districts. The "inclusion" of significantly disabled children in general education was just emerging in local districts during the early 1990s.

A few years ago, I was introduced to an individual prior to an IEP meeting who told me her name and gave me her title as an "advocate for children". I introduced myself and gave my school district title—school psychologist—and indicated to her that we must be in the same business as I considered myself to be an advocate for children also! Everyday, the typical school psychologist engages in the business of advocating for students in the public school system through Student Study Team participation, IEP development, appropriate evaluation techniques, communication skills, consulting on problem – solving strategies and professional interface with school administrators, teachers, community professionals and parents.

Long before "inclusion" became a "new" trend in special education, school psychologists sought everyday to include special needs students in "the system" by working with school staff to understand these children and to develop appropriate programs to meet the needs of students with unique learning patterns. It is my belief that school psychologists are the original advocates for special needs students! School psychologists have a unique and important role to play in the public education system. Most school psychologists came into the field to help students who learn differently – the learning disabled, the physically or emotionally challenged or just simply the student easily rejected by "the system". Each day we assist students in having a successful school experience.

As practicing school psychologists entering a new school year, OCASP members can remind themselves every work day that they are providing a unique and invaluable service to children in the public school system. There is no finer "advocate for children" than the school psychologist who performs his/her duties well on a daily basis. Best wishes for a positive and productive school year ahead!

## Region IX Representative CASP Report by *Christine Marsden*

I am happy to be serving all of you in my second year as your region IX representative to the CASP board. I will continue to be your liaison to the state organization, which provides continuing education and training, legislative representation at the state capital and direct access to professionals in specific disciplines. At each of the five board meetings throughout the year, I will have the opportunity to voice your needs and concerns, and move policy in a direction that is beneficial for the profession. Additionally, your opinions can be heard through many of the needs assessment surveys distributed by the CASP office. Please feel free to email me with any ideas and/or concerns that you might have. I will do my very best to bring them forward to be heard. Please email me at [cmarsden@pylusd.org](mailto:cmarsden@pylusd.org).

### —Events—

Affiliate Days comes later this year, October 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. Affiliate presidents are encouraged to bring a laptop computer with Wifi access as well as affiliate publications. Representatives from your local organization, OCASP, will be attending this event. This is a time when affiliates come together to share and brainstorm ideas for a more successful affiliate year.

The CASP Convention will be in Southern California this year! We are

returning to Riverside to the Mission Inn. **This is the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and begins March 12<sup>th</sup>.** I hope to see all of you there!

### -Award Nominations Due Dec. 9-

It is once again time to get those nominations in for the Nadine Lambert award for Outstanding School Psychologist. The Lambert award honors practicing school psychologists who provide direct services to students, teachers, parents or community agencies. Recipients must also be CASP members. You must fill out the nomination form (available at [www.casponline.org](http://www.casponline.org)) and submit a minimum of three letters of recommendations. There are many deserving school psychologists out there —**the local affiliates may nominate a person, but each of you could also nominate a person and submit the needed nomination form and letters of recommendations.** I look forward to seeing many Region IX school psychologists nominated this year. And, don't forget the Sandra Goff Award, which honors distinguished service to the profession of school psychology in California and to CASP. This highly regarded award is given to only one school psychologist a year and is CASP's highest honor.

### —Legislative Update—

Two bills from the legislature that may be of interest are (1) CA AB 2717, & (2) CA AB 2783.

- (1) CA AB 2717 would change the Burden of Proof requirement for special education proceedings. Currently parents must prove that the district is not providing a Free and Appropriate Public Educational. If passed, it would move the responsibility from the parent to the district.
- (2) CA AB 2783 would require school districts educating children in level 12-14 group homes to complete assessments within 30 days.

*CASP opposes both bills for their cost as well as the additional burdens placed on school psychologists.*

As a final note, CASP has experienced a decrease in overall funding. At the July Board meeting it was decided to cut the 2008-2009 CASP budget by 10%. We were able to do this without eliminating any member services. We will still publish the CASP Today, the Journal as well as maintaining our online programs and services. These cuts will clearly make it difficult on our office staff, which has been asked to do more with less. Although this concept is not foreign to any of us, CASP has made it our commitment to put at least 80% of our revenue toward services for our members.

*Christine Marsden, Ed.S.*

Region IX Representative

## ~~Future Workshops~~

OCASP has scheduled the following exciting and informative workshops:

<u>WORKSHOP</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
1. Child & Adolescent Psychopharmacology	October 10, 2008 (Fri)	Azusa Pacific University 1915 Orangewood Ave., Ste. 100 Orange, CA 92868
2. Framework: Understanding Poverty	November 11, 2008 (Fri)	The Grand @ 4101 E. Willow St., LB, CA 90815

**Be sure to mark your calendars and arrive early. Seating is limited!!!**



**Orange County Association of School Psychologists**

**MAILING ADDRESS:**

Orange County Association of School Psychologists (OCASP)  
650 N. Rose Dr. #303  
Placentia, CA 92870

Visit us on the web for the latest news:

**[www.ocasp.net](http://www.ocasp.net)**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*The Orange County Association of Psychologist (OCASP) is an organization of credentialed school psychologists, persons practicing in allied fields, and graduate students in school psychology training programs. OCASP offers its members effective in-services, newsletters to disseminate current information on educational/psychological issues, and a channel for discussion of improvement of professional practices within the school organization of pupil services.*

**Stay Informed**

Stay informed with the latest news and events at [www.ocasp.net](http://www.ocasp.net)

You can find the following information at our website:

- Calendar of OCASP Events
- Newsletter Archives
- Membership Registration
- Upcoming Workshops
- List of current Board Members and their Contact information
- Links to Affiliate Organizations

Also, don't forget to check out:

- [www.casponline.org](http://www.casponline.org)
- [www.nasponline.org](http://www.nasponline.org)



**More from The President**

Before I end, I'd like to say to all of you to feel comfortable e-mailing me at [polvera@apu.edu](mailto:polvera@apu.edu) if you have any comments or suggestions.

You can also feel free to email any of the following board members below if you have any questions:

- **Vhenus** -  
[vbelisle@gmail.com](mailto:vbelisle@gmail.com)
- **Christine** -  
[cmarsden@pylusd.org](mailto:cmarsden@pylusd.org)
- **Sandi** -  
[skato2@socal.rr.com](mailto:skato2@socal.rr.com)
- **Veronica** -  
[dr.veronica.i.olvera@gmail.com](mailto:dr.veronica.i.olvera@gmail.com)

I wish you the best as you begin the 2008-2009 school year.

Sincerely,  
Pedro Olvera

**Future Board Meetings**

Please join us at Z-Tejas (South Coast Plaza) @ 3333 Bristol St. Suite 1876, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 for our monthly board meetings. Meetings will be held:

<b>9/4/08</b>	<b>@</b>	<b>5:00 P.M.</b>
<b>10/2/08</b>	<b>@</b>	<b>5:00 P.M.</b>
<b>12/4/08</b>	<b>@</b>	<b>5:00 P.M.</b>

Board meetings are a great way to meet other colleagues, learn what's up and coming, share your ideas, and lastly, enjoy food and drinks on OCASP.

Stay tuned for future board meetings. Or log on to [www.ocasp.net](http://www.ocasp.net) for further news and information.