

NATSAP NEWS

The National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs

1ST QUARTER 2006



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JARED BALMER, PH.D. - 2006 NATSAP LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

Kimball DeLaMare, Island View RTC



The National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs (NATSAP) honored Jared U. Balmer, Ph.D. with its National Leadership Award at the 2006 "Foundations for Tomorrow" Conference in Clearwater, Florida. Dr. Balmer, whose ongoing contributions in the field of therapeutic treatment of youth placed in out of home care,

was introduced by Rob Cooley, Ph.D, who received NATSAP's highest award the year prior. Dr. Cooley noted that Jared Balmer, known throughout the country as "Jared", is an individual who thinks nothing of putting on hold personal business in order to help others. Dr. Cooley noted that his "friend", was instrumental in helping the program Dr. Cooley directs become accredited nationally through generous sharing of information, and most importantly, through a personal visit to Rob's program. Dr. Cooley pointed out to the large audience of treating professionals, educational consultants, and others that his personal experience with Dr. Balmer was not unique, while giving examples of several other programs and schools that have benefited from Dr. Balmer's leadership and generosity. He further stated that "Jared" was a primary author of several of the key documents that guide NATSAP as it works to ensure safe, ethical, and professional practices in the schools and programs serving young people and their families.

In Dr. Balmer's acceptance remarks, he recognized many who had been instrumental in his professional and personal life. Starting with a neighbor in his native land of Switzerland who stated he "would never amount to anything", after having a watering hose sabotaged by a young Jared, to his experience as a microbiologist whose early discoveries were co-opted by senior staff who credited themselves with his breakthroughs while ignoring his contribution, Dr. Balmer let the audience know of the unique path that first led him to volunteer missionary service in England, eventual graduate studies in Utah, his marriage to his sweetheart Rosie, and finally, his work in residential settings. "Jared's" humor, coupled with his inimitable Swiss accent, kept his audience fascinated.

The following morning, Dr. Balmer delivered a keynote address in which he highlighted several issues related to out of home care. Among those issues, he expressed concern that this new, emerging profession did not always ensure that innovation "washed" with careful research and best practices. He urged those in attendance to become more research oriented, and to continue the NATSAP tradition of sharing information related to effective treatment among member programs and schools.

Dr. Balmer noted that the "transitions" between treatment settings and home communities can be more carefully engineered and proposed increased collaboration between settings and among the specialists entrusted with supporting families in treatment. Dr. Balmer cautioned those in attendance to not be swayed by attractive features of schools and programs, such as equestrian programs, art courses, or team sports to the de-emphasis of "core" issues such as the theoretical foundations, staff competence, admission criteria, etc. that a strong school or program must lead with. Dr. Balmer's thoughtful address concluded with a standing ovation reflective of the respect and appreciation those in attendance have had for him.

NATSAP VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Jan Moss

Each year the NATSAP Committee Chairs select committee members that have provided exceptional service to their committee. Dr. John Santa was pleased to present the Volunteer of the Year awards during our 2006 Annual Meeting in Clearwater Beach, Florida to:

Brent Hall (Discovery Academy)

Sarah Mack (Catherine Freer Wilderness Therapy Expeditions)

Sid Parham (Family Foundation School)

Audrey Peavey (New Horizon for Young Women)

Erick Scheiderman (Bridges Academy)

Jeff Smith (Logan River Academy)

We thank these individuals for contributing to the achievements of our committees during 2005.

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2006 "FOUNDATIONS FOR TOMORROW" CONFERENCE

Sharon Laney, Conference Chair

All of the planning and preparation for our 2006 "Foundations for Tomorrow" came together on February 2nd as almost 600 people gathered at the Sand Key Resort in Clearwater, Florida.

The theme of the conference "Foundations for Tomorrow" would not have been complete without honoring NATSAP's past. At the opening of the conference, Dr. John Santa gave a brief history of NATSAP and presented honors to the two men responsible for its beginning. John Reddan was honored for his vision and commitment that resulted in the foundation of NATSAP. In accepting the honor, John acknowledged the members of NATSAP for working together to save troubled children. Dr. Santa honored Len Buccellato for sharing John's vision and providing his support in the foundation of NATSAP. Our organization will forever be grateful for their early contributions and dedication to improving the Industry.

The conference was not only well organized, the content was excellent. We were fortunate to have Dr. Larry Brendtro, Ph.D. giving a keynote address on *Kids Who Outwit Adults* and Dr. Kevin McCauley, whose keynote address *Is Addiction A Disease? Shifting The Emphasis To The Occupation Model For Students And Their Families Who Are Struggling With Addiction* provided the audience with critical information in working with addictions. Dr. Brendtro appeared courtesy of Starr Commonwealth (Montcalm School for Boys and Montcalm School for Girls) for sponsoring Dr. Brendtro. Dr. McCauley appeared courtesy of Sober Living By the Sea. We deeply appreciate both organizations for their support of NATSAP in providing these quality presentations.

As the recipient of the 2006 NATSAP Leadership Award, Dr. Jared Balmer, Ph.D., provided the Friday morning keynote address titled *"When the Moon Hits Your Eyes like a Great Pizza Pie, It's Amore – Placing the Right Child in the Right Program for the Right Reason"*.

Over sixty Call for Papers were submitted for presentation at this conference. The review committee found it difficult to select the final presentations. Each submission was exceptional as was evident in the final selections that were presented at the conference. We are grateful for each and every one that was submitted and encourage you to submit for the 2007 Conference and for our Regional Conferences. Our profession has much to share and we urge you to contribute.

As Conference Chair, I received many compliments that ranged from "best organized conference ever" "great fun with the decorations and general atmosphere" to "excellent presenters". I had a wonderful team that included Jan Moss, Executive Director, Alicia Arteaga, Executive Assistant, NATSAP members that volunteered to work both the Hospitality table and Registration, and our dedicated Board Members. They made my job very easy, so I give all the credit for a successful conference to those much more deserving than I!

We appreciate your attendance and participation and look forward to seeing you at our 2007 NATSAP Conference at the Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines in La Jolla, California.

LET'S HAVE FUN

Those were the collective words of the Member Services Committee when they were asked to provide support for the 2006 Conference. Jackie Danforth immediately volunteered to find tropical accessories for decoration and distribution. The result were leis, funky beach sunglasses, paper flowers and, oh yes, grass skirts for the Board of Directors to wear during their presentations at the Annual Meeting. Thanks to Jackie and Sharon Laney for generously providing these funky, fun items. A special thanks to Jeff Anderson for the slide show of past conferences and candid shots of members as the kick-off for our Annual Meeting. And, to the Member Services Committee for their time and effort at the Hospitality Table.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

John L. Santa, Ph.D.

Defining NATSAP In Order To Advocate Effectively

I recently had the opportunity to attend a meeting of the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS). Elliot Sainer of the Aspen Corporation has been a long standing member of NAPHS and encouraged contacting them particularly with regard to important political issues such as the pending possibility of a federal regulatory bill (the Miller bill) that might have extremely adverse effects on all of our programs.

Rosemary Tippet, our new Director of Public Relations, contacted the NAPHS offices in Washington, and they were quite receptive to forming an alliance to help advocate on behalf of mental health care and in particular to mitigate the potential impact of ill conceived regulatory efforts such as the proposed Miller legislation. Rosemary was invited by Mark Covall (Executive Director of NAPHS) to attend their annual meeting and set up a time for their Youth Service Committee to meet with NATSAP representatives (including Rosemary Tippet, Jan Moss and myself). At this meeting we learned about the importance of forming relationships with other national behavioral health organizations.

It became quickly clear that as representatives of NATSAP we needed to explain who we were and how NATSAP might relate to them. It turns out that defining NATSAP to an interested outsider is not entirely simple, but I think it is essential to develop a succinct definition of who we are and what sets us apart in order to create an effective public relations effort for our profession. We began our attempt to introduce NATSAP by explaining that we are an organization of nearly 170 member programs serving over 15,000 young people and their families every year. Our programs primarily serve the private paying market. Most of our programs offer a level, scope, and length of treatment that has been defined as outside the responsibility of managed care insurance companies and school systems. We have come together both as a trade organization and a professional organization to define practice standards, support innovation in care, educate our employees, and to serve as an advocate and voice for all of our programs.

We explained that our programs are not acute care hospitals, or hospital based residential treatment centers. Our members come from a set of alternative approaches to psycho-social-educational treatment of disturbed youth. The approaches emphasize creating environments or communities that provide a safe containment of children who cannot be contained in their homes either emotionally or behaviorally.

Parents who place their children in NATSAP programs are desperate. Their children have been seen by outpatient therapists, psychiatrists, and school learning specialists. They typically have elaborate psychological workups, numerous DSM IV Axis I diagnoses, and a large percentage have tried to solve the diagnoses with multiple trials of medication coupled with months or at times years of therapy. In spite of all efforts by concerned parents these youngsters continue to struggle and fail in the tasks expected of normal adolescents. They are often failing at school, overwhelmed emotionally, and

exhibit ruptured social and family relationships. Conventional educational and mental health services have failed. Parents realize that these promising children are headed for a train wreck. If these youngsters continue on such disrupted paths they will fail to become functional adults.

Our children typically exhibit a serious lack of executive function, of emotional control, the ability to delay gratification and plan for a realistic future, and finally the ability to understand that they are not entirely the center of the universe. They exhibit many symptom clusters, but the common denominator is a gross lack of maturity. Such children need containment, nurturing and a non-pathological intervention that encourages them to develop a more mature, appropriate, and successful approach to life. Our schools and programs have evolved to offer an integrated, holistic, psycho-social approach to children and their families. NATSAP programs are committed to providing ethical and appropriate service to youth and their families. Our programs provide care that includes a range of competent professionals including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, educators, and wilderness instructors.

We put considerable energy into defining ourselves and setting ourselves apart by creating a consensus on ethical principles, common practice standards, and a collegial professional identity. This common definition and purpose make it possible to provide a description of NATSAP that hopefully applies to all of our programs. Such a definition is the first crucial and essential step in creating the ability to promote our organization and provide an advocacy on specific issues that effect all of us.

Our meeting with NAPHS taught us a number of things about how to go about advocacy projects. We realized that public relations and advocacy depends on establishing relationships. I have to say that NATSAP is incredibly fortunate to have Rosemary Tippet, MSW as our representative. She has a truly remarkable ability to form close relationships based on integrity, intelligence, and personal warmth. We must be proactive and cultivate a constant awareness of who we are and the good things we accomplish. Second, we are more powerful than we think, particularly if we enlist a broad grassroots effort from all members and as many of our satisfied parents and students as possible. Third, we must continue to create alliances with like minded groups that can broaden the impact of a professional association, and create an awareness of NATSAP. Finally, we must develop a clear focus for each advocacy effort.

We need the help of all member programs to create an effective public relations program for NATSAP. In a few months we will ask each program to fill out a detailed questionnaire that will help us create the data to allow politicians, and other organizations to understand our programs better. We need information that more completely describes who we serve, the positive impact and outcomes we create, the actual incidence of problems and risks in our work, and the economic impact we have in our communities. Personally, I hate filling out surveys, but if NATSAP is to become an effective voice and advocate for our profession we need someone in each organization to take the time to fill out the survey.

We also encourage all programs to invite community leaders as well as state and federal legislators to visit and see who we are. As you do this make certain to identify your program as a member of NATSAP, an organization that advocates for quality care for troubled youth. When you invite a guest to campus create a news release for your local papers and be sure to copy the release to NATSAP so that it can be posted on our web site.

Invite your local media to visit, interview, and write a story that highlights the positive impact of your program and make sure to note that you belong to NATSAP an organization composed of programs committed to high standards of care. Again, send us a copy of the story.

Finally, NATSAP needs to create a “grass roots” response plan. When we have an issue that demands action we need to create a clear, simple message and then programs must forward the same message to their respective legislators.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jan Moss

It is my pleasure to introduce you to the programs and schools that have joined us in the 2006 membership year.

Full Members

Buxmont Academy – A coeducational Home -Based Residential Treatment, Pipersville, PA – License and accreditation includes: State of Pennsylvania, Department of Health: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Public Welfare; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, State Board of Private Academic Schools; State of New Jersey, Department of Education, Out-of-State Provider - Founded in 1977, Executive Contact: Judy Happ

Chaddock – A coeducational Residential Treatment Center & Transitional Independent Living, Quincy, IL – Licensure and accreditation includes: State of Illinois, Department of Children and Family Services; Council on Accreditation (COA) and North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) – Founded in 1853, Executive Contact: Karen Doyle Buckwalter

Family Life Center – A coeducational Residential Treatment Center, Petaluma, CA – Licensure and accreditation includes: State of California, Department of Social Services; California Alliance of Child and Family Services; California Department of Education; Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) - Founded in 1978, Executive Contact: Tom Beigelbeck, LMFT

Granite Hill Academy – A boys only Therapeutic Boarding School, Newport, NH – Accreditation includes: State of New Hampshire, Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education – Founded in 1996 (formerly the Do-It School), Executive Contact: Dr. Alfred Allen

North Idaho Behavioral – A coeducational Residential Treatment Center, Coeur D’Alene, ID – Licensure and accreditation includes: State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare; Joint Commission (JCAHO) Accreditation; Idaho State Board of Education; Northwest

Association of Accredited Schools – Founded in 1999, Executive Contact: Claudia Miewald

St. Paul’s Preparatory Academy – A boys only Boarding School, Phoenix AZ – Accreditation includes: North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI); Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES) – Founded in 1961, Executive Contacts: Hal Elliott and Marti Weiskopf

Tamarack Center – A coeducational Residential Treatment Center, Spokane, WA – Licensure and accreditation includes: Washington State Department of Health, Residential Treatment Facility; Joint Commission (JCAHO) Accreditation – Founded in 1984, Executive Contact: Tim Davis

Wendigo Lake Expeditions – A boys only Wilderness Program, South River, Ontario, Canada – Licensure and accreditation includes: Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Childrens Residential Services; Association of Experiential Education Accreditation – Founded in 1998, Executive Contact: Stephen Glass

Associate Members

Ascent – A coeducational Wilderness Program, Naples, ID – Licensed by the State of Idaho, Department of Health & Welfare, Child Care License - Founded in 1992, Executive Contact: Denise Forbregd

Boulder Creek Academy – A coeducational Therapeutic Boarding School, Bonners Ferry, ID – License and accreditation includes: State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare, Child Care; Northwest Association of Accredited Schools – Founded in 1993, Executive Contact: Paul Johnson

Bromley Brook School – A girls only Emotional Growth Boarding School, Manchester Center, VT – Accredited by the State of Vermont, Department of Education – Founded in 2004, Executive Contact: Laura Mack

Echo Malibu Youth Treatment Centers – A coeducational Residential Treatment Center, Malibu, CA - Licensure includes: State of California, Department of Social Services – Founded in 2005, Executive Contact: Cole Rucker

Innercept – A coeducational Therapeutic Boarding School and Young Adult Program, Coeur D’Alene, ID – Licensure and accreditation includes: State of Idaho, Department of Health & Welfare, Child Care License; Northwest Association of Accredited Schools (candidate) – Founded in 2005, Executive Contact: George J. Ullrich, M.D.

Monarch Center for Family Healing – A single-gender group Outdoor Therapeutic Program, Georgetown, CO – Licensure includes: State of Colorado, Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care – Founded in 1996 (formerly Trailhead Wilderness School), Executive Contact: Dave Ventimiglia

New Leaf Academy – A girls only (ages 10 – 14) Emotional Growth Boarding School, Hendersonville, NC - Licensure and accreditation includes: North Carolina State Board of Education, Non-Public School Residential Exceptional Children Program; Southeastern Association of Colleges and Schools (candidate) – Founded in 2005, Executive Contact: Catherine Jennings

Northwest Academy – A coeducational Therapeutic Boarding School, Bonners Ferry, ID – Licensure and accreditation includes: State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare, Child Care; Northwest Association of Accredited Schools – Founded in 1994, Executive Contact: Ruth J. McKnight, Esq.

Santiam Crossing – A coeducational Outdoor Therapeutic Program, Scio, OR – Licensure and accreditation includes: Oregon Department of Human Services, Child Caring Agency; Oregon Department of Education – Founded in 2004, Executive Contact: Brian MacInnes, MA

True North Wilderness Program – A coeducational Wilderness Program, Waitsfield, VT - Founded in 2005, Executive Contact: Tyler Maves

Provisional Members

Provisional members must apply for Associate membership within 120 days of acceptance as a Provisional member. Please check the NATSAP website for current membership status.

Cherry Gulch – A boys only (ages 10 – 14) Therapeutic Boarding School, Emmett, ID – Seeking licensure from the State of Idaho – Founded in 2005, Executive Contact: Andrew Sapp, Ph.D.

Community Connection Services – A Home-Based Residential Treatment, Sandy, UT – Licensure includes: State of Utah, Office of Licensing, Department of Human Services, Child Placing Agency, Domestic Violence and Residential Treatment Licenses – Founded in 2000, Executive Contact: Samuel Brown

Montcalm Outdoor Challenge – A single gender group Outdoor Therapeutic Program, Albion, MI – Licensure and accreditation includes: Council on Accreditation; State of Michigan, Department of Education – Founded in 2005, Executive Contact: Rich Mattea

Open Sky Wilderness – A coeducational Wilderness Program, Durango, CO – Seeking licensure in Colorado and Utah – Founded in 2005, Executive Contact: Aaron Fernandes

Pine River Institute – A coeducational Therapeutic Boarding School, Toronto, Ontario, Canada – Founded in 2001, Executive Contact: Dr. Karen Minden

HEARTFELT GRATITUDE

January 15, 2006

NATSAP
Attn: Jan Moss, Executive Director
126 North Marina
Prescott, AZ 86301

Dear Jan and Board of Directors,

As my team and I were reflecting on the events of 2005, one overshadowing event was the devastation related to Hurricane Katrina. As a program located in Southwest Louisiana, we felt compassion for our neighbors to the East who suffered great loss, yet at the same time we were happy to offer help and to rush to aid in the help efforts. Our residents participated in several hundred hours of community service unloading trucks of food, working to help set up emergency shelters, sawing tree limbs, and pitching in wherever we could in local clean up efforts. We, as a program, felt a great sense of accomplishment, and we were very proud of our residents who rose to the occasion.

Shortly after Katrina's devastation, Hurricane Rita began making news. At first it looked like we would once again dodge the bullet, but as you may recall the projected path suddenly changed. We were supposed to be the helpers and those aiding in the efforts for hurricane victims, yet suddenly we found ourselves to be the ones in need of help. My team and I began working to evacuate our families, our operations equipment, our residents, and our valuables, knowing that evacuees from Hurricane Katrina had already filled our alternative sites of operation. We were loading trailers and trucks, yet we did not really know where we would end up.

As I sat down to begin making alternative arrangements, my phone rang before I could make the first call. To my delight it was the familiar voice of Jan Moss. She was calling to inform me that she was aware of our situation and that a fellow NATSAP program was offering accommodations for us. This offer included office space, school space, and dorms for our residents, along with housing for our staff and their families – free of charge for as long as we needed it. As a Category 5 hurricane, one of the top ten in U.S. history, was taking aim on my life's work and all that I have become responsible for, I experienced a profound sense of being small and helpless. However, in the moment that Jan called me, I took courage in knowing that I had friends out there. They were friends I had never met, but friends nonetheless because of the similar work that we do. At that moment I came to appreciate the deep sense of connectedness between programs that NATSAP helps to foster.

I would like to express heartfelt gratitude to Weaver Gaines and his staff for their offer, and to Jan Moss for her leadership. Road closures prevented us from ever reaching their program in the Austin Texas area, and we ended up riding out the storm in a church based shelter. We were able to return to our own badly damaged, but functional, facility and thankfully we did not need all that had been so generously offered. In spite of that fact, we are grateful for their consideration, generosity and the preparations made for a fellow program.

Sincerely,

Mark Barrentine, LCSW
Executive Director
Evangel House

IN A MOTHER'S WORDS: PROGRAM GRADUATE LIVES BY TEACHINGS

Spending time with her son was no longer enjoyable. They fought continuously. She was even afraid of him. But all that changed when her son Dan went to Eckerd Youth Alternatives' (EYA) E-Sun-Alee Outdoor Therapeutic Program in Deer Lodge, Tenn., where they both found help and hope.

Here's the story of one mother.

"I was in the kitchen one day last week and Dan came in. We discussed our work schedules and so forth and then he just stood there for a moment with a thoughtful look on his face. So, I said 'What?' He replied that the next day was his one-year anniversary to be home from the program. I was flooded with a million emotions and thoughts and didn't know what to say, so I replied with 'Wow.'

Wow that it had been a year, Wow that he remembered the date and Wow what a road we'd been on. I couldn't help but think that a year and a half ago, we wouldn't have even been having a conversation. I looked at him and remembered the angry, hurt and confused kid that he had been. I can't tell you how proud I am of the young man that stood before me.

Dan is planning to return to his original high school for his last semester. He wants to graduate from there, but largely he says, to let them see what he has become. He knows that many of the faculty had written him off, but he wanted to show them that a kid can turn around.

Dan has decided on a college for next year and is very excited about it. He is working on his application and entrance essay now. Before EYA, it was doubtful that he'd ever graduate from high school, much less go to college.

He got a job, and has never missed a day or been late. I overheard his boss the other day thanking him for always being the one they can depend on.

Dan and three of his best friends have a band. They have gone into the studio recently to begin getting some of their music down for a CD he will put out.

As for friends, he has many. I know them all and like them. He talked one kid into going to his parents and getting help for a drug problem, another to ask for help with emotional problems.

Placing him in the program was by far the hardest thing I've ever done and by far the best. Dan learned so much in his short time there and it was exactly what he needed. The people there taught him to like himself and have confidence. They taught him that he could succeed. I think he realized that his life would be what he made of it.

He also told me before he left, that he loved me for having sent him there and was proud that I had been strong enough to do it.

Dan has actually taught me a few things about settling matters by

talking them out...even if it took all night until we came to an agreement or compromise. That is straight from the program!

Without the EYA program he would not have found his way to becoming the man he is and will be. I am so very proud of what he has done and the way he has chosen to live his life. He is a success.

Warm regards,

Susan A.

AN EVENING WITH DR. LISA MACHOIAN

March 30, 2006 – Phoenix, Arizona

Alicia Arteaga

On March 30th I had the pleasure of enjoying a splendid Spring evening in the Valley of the Sun, and the fortuitous opportunity to dine al fresco with Dr. Lisa Machoian, author of *The Disappearing Girl: Learning the Language of Teenage Depression*, Jan Moss, Executive Director of NATSAP and Jean Courtney, Owner of Spring Ridge Academy.

Dr. Machoian was in town to present a talk later that night for the public on teenage depression and more specifically, how parents can recognize the behavioral patterns and symptoms associated with this disease.

As I sat across the table from Dr. Machoian and learned of her path to authoring this book, I could only think to myself "wow, we should all be so lucky to live and breathe the passion she has for her work." What I didn't realize was that in a few hours time, that same passion would have the ability to create a profound awareness for all who attended her lecture.

An online dictionary offers us this definition for depression: *a mental state characterized by a pessimistic sense of inadequacy and a despondent lack of activity.* Dr. Machoian's ability to speak from her heart and enthusiasm in sharing her extensive research translated this into a deep, meaningful understanding of depression, the impact it has on the lives of those suffering from it and how truly debilitating and yet invisible it can be.

Dr. Machoian began her talk by reading a passage from her book in which a young teenage girl [a subject of Dr. Machoian's studies] talked about the societal pressures from peers, television and magazines to "fit in." She spoke of her desire to please others, which meant she must quiet her own voice and become what "they" wanted her to be. This young girl found that she gave in to these pressures and believed that her self-worth was determined by what others thought of her ... she quietly succumbed to being a shell of a person, and slowly let her real being disappear.

Throughout the evening, Dr. Machoian identified the behaviors typical adolescents might exhibit and behaviors that might be indicative of depression. She also spoke of ways teenagers mask depression through acting out, defiance, and despondence. She offered tips to parents on ways to effectively communicate with their children and ways to intervene when the early signs of

depression are exhibited.

As the Question and Answer period began, the mood of the room shifted and frenzied hands looking for answers shot up in the air. It was as though the room came alive and parents and teenagers alike seemed relieved that somebody finally had insight, that somebody finally understood...that somebody finally *knew* them.

As I left the auditorium that evening, I realized that through Dr. Machoian's work, she is acknowledging this silent threat and she is giving its' sufferers the voice they are so desperately craving to be heard.

Spring Ridge Academy sponsored this talk, and when I asked Jean her purpose in doing so, she indicated she feels a need to educate parents so that hopefully they will be informed and become proactive in raising their children. I hope that our schools and programs will continue to adopt and promote community awareness events such as this. In my experience, it's worth was immeasurable to everyone present.

ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT

Gil Hallows, Chair

The topic of ethics continues to raise much interest among NATSAP members, as evidenced by the level of participation in both the Ethics Committee discussion and the community gathering and discussion on ethical relationships at this year's annual conference in Clearwater Beach. One of the reflections of this high level of interest is an expanded membership in the NATSAP Ethics Committee.

At a recent NATSAP board meeting held in Salt Lake City in early April, the current charge of the Ethics Committee was expanded to address some of the issues that are rising to the surface. One of the action steps that will move forward on the ethics agenda is for members of the Ethics Committee to facilitate discussions in each of the six regional conferences to be held this year. The objectives of these discussions will be raising awareness of ethics and current issues, educating on the difference between ethical principles and best practice standards and identifying ethical issues that should be addressed by NATSAP.

The committee will also conduct a review of the current NATSAP Ethical Principles, with the objectives of clarifying, determining if any principles need additional detail, determining if additional principles need to be added, and looking at how our principles interface with those of other organizations.. As a foundation for this review, the Ethics Committee has developed a survey to collect responses from members concerning any ethical issues that may currently not be addressed by the principles or any proposed modifications. Be watching for an email version of this survey. The survey will also be conducted at the regional conferences.

The Ethics Committee continues to work closely with IECA to define and raise awareness of the ethics involved in the working relationships between programs and referring professionals. The two committees will meet again to continue this theme at the upcoming IECA conference later this spring.

NATSAP WEBSITE

When was the last time you visited the NATSAP website? If it hasn't been recent, you will find a multitude of changes! We encourage you to visit us from time to time as we continue to add more value to the site.

Send It to Us! Has your program been featured in a local or national newspaper or magazine? Have you issued a Press Release about an important event? Do you have a publication that you would like to share? Send it to the NATSAP office for posting on our website. See what we have posted so far at www.natsap.org. Select News & Media, then view Press Releases and Statements under OnLine News Room and NATSAP Program Press Releases and NATSAP Program News Articles under NATSAP News.

Keep Informed! Did you know that you can view a summary of the Board Meeting minutes? find out what the committees are doing? view pre-audit year end financial statements? All of these and more can be found on the Member Resources page

Conferences! Information about our National and Regional Conferences can be found on this page – even registration forms are available at the same time we mail them.

Writing Policies and Procedures? The Member Resources page has policy templates for an Employee Handbook, Financial Policies and Procedures and HIPAA. Recently completed are Key Indicators and Examples of Policies and Procedures Based on the NATSAP Principles of Good Practice.

Want more brochures? The Proud To Be A Member brochure can be found on the Member Resources page and The National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs brochure can be found on the News and Media page under Artwork and Brochures

Journal of Therapeutic Schools and Programs - want to submit an article? subscribe? purchase a single edition? All can be found on the Journal page

Our most frequently visited page continues to be the Program Directory page - check out the SEARCH options and let us know if we need more!

NATSAP BOARD APPROVES INDIVIDUAL AFFILIATE APPLICATION

The NATSAP Board of Directors has approved an individual affiliation with NATSAP to provide a way for individuals associated with our profession to become a part of the vision and mission of NATSAP. This affiliation is available to staff of our member programs, referring professionals, psychologists, psychiatrists, licensed counselors and therapists, college and university professors and students who participate in our common mission of promoting healthy growth and personal well being of program participants.

We believe offering this affiliation will provide the opportunity

individuals in our profession to become more involved in NATSAP and the work that we do as an organization and as programs, schools and affiliates. It is an option for you to keep informed and up-to-date on the activities of the organization via newsletters and special announcements as well as providing cost effective access to our workshops and conferences.

It is also an opportunity for those involved in our new and developing profession to join with their peers to establish a professional affiliation specific to the work you do.

To demonstrate our appreciation for your commitment to the mission, principles and goals of NATSAP, we are pleased to dedicate a page on our website where we will list the names of our Individual Affiliates.

The membership fee is nominal at \$75.00 per year. An individual can apply for affiliation with NATSAP at any time during the year.

AN INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NATSAP NEWSLETTER

The Public Relations Committee developed a list of standard articles that will appear in the NATSAP Quarterly Newsletter at their last meeting in 2005. We will draw from our membership for many of these articles. We hope those articles appearing in this newsletter will inspire each of you to contribute to our future issues.

Standard Articles:	This Issue
Success Stories	In a Mother's Words:
	Program Graduate Lives By Teachings
In the Trenches	Heartfelt Gratitude

We are also seeking articles addressing Risk Management and are offering our members a standing invitation for comments.

We will also include the President's Corner, articles on national and regional conferences, profiles of our new members, updates from Member Services, and NATSAP Office News.

Articles can be sent to the NATSAP office at info@natsap.org

NATSAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS SETS GOALS

The NATSAP Board of Directors gathered in Salt Lake City to set the goals for 2006 with an eye towards the future. The committee structure, chaired by Board members, continues to be a strong component of NATSAP, which was evident in the accomplishments in 2005. Given this success, the Board continued their planning based on this structure.

New Committees

Outcome Research

Dr. John Santa was selected as Chair of this committee and was

chartered with developing the committee; conducting an Outcome Research Summit as well as conducting a survey to determine what research currently exists, developing a demonstration project and developing a workshop / presentation on research for the 2007 National Conference.

Public Policy

The Board recognized the need for, and established, a Public Policy Committee. We are fortunate to have Dr. Karen Fitzhugh from King George School and a new Board member as the Chair for the committee. Dr. Fitzhugh has spent many years in both clinical and administrative roles in the behavioral healthcare field and has a lengthy career as a mental health advocate. Dr. Fitzhugh was chartered with developing the purpose of the committee, determining committee members, identifying advocacy opportunities, and developing a workshop on "Legislation, Politics and Advocacy".

Staff Certification

Craig LaMont, Telos Residential Treatment, presented a proposal to the Board at the November meeting to establish a NATSAP staff certification program. The committee was established at this meeting with newly elected board member John Stewart as Chair. The committee will develop the core curriculum for individual certification; develop the certification process; develop a plan to implement the certification process; and to develop and present staff certification workshops at national and regional conferences. The committee begins with these members: Joel Agate (Telos Residential Treatment), Amy Jeppesen (La Europa Academy), Craig LaMont (Telos Residential Treatment), Ruth McKnight (Northwest Academy), Craig Smith (Discovery Ranch), and Dan Stuart (Island View)

Existing Committees

Education

John Mercer remains the Chair of this committee with plans to develop a comprehensive accreditation process that could be applied to a variety of different programs including both therapeutic schools and home based residential programs using the NATSAP ethics and standards; develop a written position paper about the need for educational ethics in NATSAP programs and how utilizing the existing standards helps NATSAP programs maintain ethical practices in relation to both curriculum and the awarding of credits; make a recommendation to the ethics committee about the possible inclusion of an ethical principle related to education; examine and develop ways to improve the quality of education across programs (furthering vs. fragmenting); and facilitate presentations at the regional and national conferences that would address the integration of therapy and education. Serving on the committee are Sharon Bitz (Mount Bachelor), Rick Buening (Academy at Sisters), Kirk Farmer (Logan River Academy), Joe Gubbins (Spring Ridge Academy), Brent Hall (Discovery Academy), Laurie Laird (New Haven), Kari Mayeski (La Europa Academy), Frank McDermott (Elan School), James Meyer (Oakley School), Pam Nielson (Cedar Ridge Academy), Renee Pancoast (La Amistad), Sid Parham (Family Foundation)

Carol Santa (Montana Academy), John Santa (Montana Academy), Ken Steiner (John Dewey Academy), and Glenn White (Dragonfly Adventures)

Ethics

Gil Hallows continues to chair this committee, which has expanded its members. Mr. Hallows will lead the committee in facilitating ethics discussions at regional conferences to raise awareness, identify issues, and educate our members. The committee will provide a guide to the use of the NATSAP Ethics and Principles of Good Practice and provide a written description of the process of managing ethical complaints. The committee will work in partnership with the Education Committee in developing ethics in education. Serving on the Ethics Committee are Lorri Hanna (Soltreks), Jeff Holloway (Hidden Lake Academy), Ken Huey (West Ridge Academy), Penny James (Explorations), Ed Levin (Spruce Mountain Inn), John Mercer (Mission Mountain), James Meyer (Oakley School), Paul Smith (Catherine Freer Wilderness Therapy Expeditions), Dave Ventimiglia (Monarch Center for Family Healing), Josh Watson (Hidden Lake Academy), Joe West (SunHawk Academy), and Will White (Summit Achievement)

Member Services

Craig Rodabough and his committee will be responsible for implementing tracks at the 2007 Conference; continuing to identify the needs, and improvement, of the Member Resources website; establishing a buying cooperative; promoting the Individual Affiliate to the staff of our member programs; and assessing the viability of NATSAP sponsored tours of our member programs. Serving on the committee are Jeff Anderson (Center for Change), Julie Brown (Gateway Academy), Jacqueline Danforth (New Horizons for Young Women), Cheryl Kehl (Second Nature), Sharon Laney (Three Springs), Paula Leslie (Aspen Achievement), Alan Misbach (Willow Creek School), Norm Ostrum (Montcalm School for Boys), Audrey Peavey (New Horizons for Young Women), Angie Senic (Alldredge Academy), and Adam Tsapis (Summit Achievement)

Membership

Amy Jeppesen, newly elected Board member, assumed the responsibilities as Chair of this committee with outgoing Chair, Will White, remaining as a committee member. The committee will continue to clarify and review the program type definitions and will provide a recommendation to the Board on membership categories. Others serving on the committee include Joel Agate (Telos Residential Treatment), Gretchen Boyer (Montana Academy), Jan Ellison (National Deaf Academy), Gay Jackson (Island View), Steve Nielsen (Willow Creek School), Sid Parham (Family Foundation School), and Jane Samuel (Three Springs).

Public Relations

Dr. Michael Berrett will lead his committee in educating affiliate industry professionals on NATSAP and the work of our members; contracting with a media specialist to develop and distribute a NATSAP media kit; increasing the visibility of the website; and creating a strategy to create articles on the website and newsletters with the goal of increasing information for families and professionals. Rosemary Tippet will join with the committee in support of these goals and continue her efforts in developing alliances with like/like-minded associations. Joining Dr. Berrett on the committee are Ken Allen (West Ridge Academy), Martha Chamberlain (Eckerd

Youth Alternatives), Kimball DeLaMare (Island View), Clinton Dorny (Discovery Ranch), Brad Gerrard (Academy at Canyon Creek), Penny James (Explorations), Sarah Mack (Catherine Freer Wilderness Therapy Expeditions), Chris Nadasi (Summit Preparatory School), Paul Smith (Catherine Freer Wilderness Therapy Expeditions), Mark Ward (Willow Creek School), and Richard Williams (Three Springs)

2007 NATSAP NATIONAL CONFERENCE

CALL FOR PAPERS

DEADLINE:

JUNE 16, 2006

DOWNLOAD AT:

www.natsap.org/conference.asp

ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

2006 NATSAP Conference Rate (*Expiration March 15, 2006 – Extended to June 15, 2006*):
\$10.00 each

Number of Journals _____ x \$10.00 = \$ _____

Shipping and Handling Charges Due (*see below*): \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Shipping Charges:

1 Journal.....\$ 2.07

2 to 3 Journals.....\$ 4.05

4 to 15 Journals.....\$ 8.10

16 to 30 Journals.....\$16.20

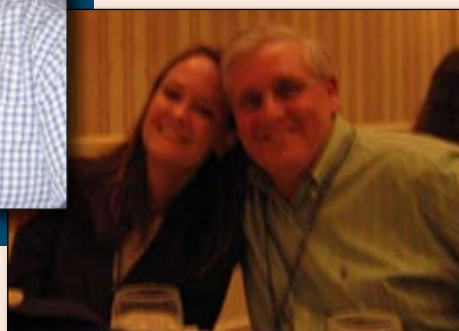
30 or more.....contact the NATSAP office

This form also serves as your invoice. Payment must accompany your order. We do not accept credit cards and we will not accept faxed orders. Thank you.

NATSAP
126 N. Marina, Suite 2
Prescott, AZ 86301
Questions? Call (928) 443-9505
Email: info@natsap.org



2006 NATSAP NATIONAL CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 2-4, 2006 *Clearwater Beach, FL*



"If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it."

Margaret Fuller



NATSAP

Vision Statement

Our vision is a nation of healthy children. We are the voice inspiring, nurturing, and validating the courageous work of our schools and programs

NATSAP

Mission Statement

The National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs serves as an advocate and resource for innovative organizations which devote themselves to society's need for the effective care and education of struggling young people and their families.

Very Important!
Please contact the
NATSAP office with any
changes in information
about your program so
we can keep the NATSAP
Website current.
Thank you!

NATSAP
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Prescott, AZ 86301
Phone: (928) 443-9505
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E-mail: info@natsap.org
Web: www.natsap.org

1ST QUARTER
2006

NATSAP 2006 Regional Conference Schedule

MAY 12, 2006
MONTANA REGIONAL CONFERENCE
KALISPELL, MONTANA

JUNE 15, 2006
UTAH REGIONAL CONFERENCE
SPRINGVILLE, UTAH

AUGUST 10-11, 2006
NORTHWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE
BEND, OREGON

SEPTEMBER 15, 2006
SOUTHERN UTAH REGIONAL CONFERENCE
ST. GEORGE, UTAH

SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2006
NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE
KENNEBUNKPORT, ME

OCTOBER 13, 2006 (RESCHEDULED FROM JUNE 9, 2006)
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE
DAHLONEGA, GEORGIA



National Association of Therapeutic
Schools and Programs
126 N. Marina
Prescott, AZ 86301

TO: