

NATSAP NEWS

The National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs

1ST QUARTER 2007



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2007 LEADERSHIP AWARD



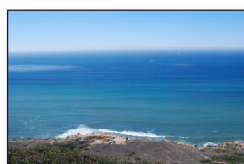
Dr. John L. Santa, PhD, co-owner and Clinical Director of Montana Academy, a therapeutic boarding school in Marion, Montana was presented with the 2007 NATSAP Leadership Award at a dinner held at the National Conference on February 1st in La Jolla, California. Dr. Santa served as the president of NATSAP from 2004 through 2006 and served on the board of directors since its inception.

In nominating Dr. Santa for the award, Craig Rodabough, NATSAP board member, wrote the following: "He and his partners at Montana Academy have created a warm welcoming environment that facilitates success in the change process. Students and parents alike report their time at Montana Academy made their lives better. John has also contributed countless hours and dollars to the success of NATSAP as an organization. He has moved NATSAP past moment to moment challenges to a vision for the future."

Dr. Santa is credited with helping NATSAP to create the Journal of the National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs and for leading the organization in the formation of an outcome research program. He received his PhD from Purdue University and has undertaken postdoctoral studies at Stanford University, the University of Montana, and the University of California San Diego Medical Center. Before becoming the director of the Montana Academy, Dr. Santa served as a tenured faculty member in the department of psychology at Rutgers University. He has published numerous articles in the fields of psychology and education and is a licensed clinical psychologist.

NATSAP'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE CONTINUES ITS SUCCESS-AND GROWTH!

Craig Rodabough, 2007 Conference Chair



Hmmm – notice anything different about this year's conference. The answer is in the picture on the left. You got it! It rained before the conference started!!!! While we were greeted with somewhat cooler weather than expected, we did have sunshine and lots of opportunities to enjoy it.

Close to 750 NATSAP members and their colleagues gathered at the Hilton Torrey Pines in La Jolla, California for the 2007 Exploring Our Profession Conference.

Andrea Barthwell, M.D., former Deputy Drug Czar, joined NATSAP in announcing its intent to preserve and protect programs for children and families in need of specialized educational and treatment services and its commitment to work with Representative George Miller (D-CA) in developing a bill that will eliminate the bad programs and implement best practices in the rest. Dr. Barthwell encouraged attendees to join forces with others who devote themselves to families' needs for effective care and education of its young members.

John McKinnon, M.D., Montana Academy, offered insight into the misplacement of a golden understanding of maturation and – when maturation gets disrupted – psychological immaturity and how this understanding has been preserved implicitly among the programs in NATSAP.

John Santa, PhD, recipient of the 2007 NATSAP Leadership Award, spoke on personality development in contrast to the diagnoses of psychopathology and symptom based treatments offered by outpatient psychiatry. Dr. Santa outlined the categories of adolescent problems from the perspective of a general model of personality development and raised the challenge that none of the current evidenced based practices capture the complexity or fundamental purpose of residential treatment.

John Seita, PhD, told the story of his own life and his odyssey to overcome difficulties he faced. The attendees gained insight into the four building blocks of healthy family functioning and learned additional strategies to help children and families at risk.

The conference was altered to provide more time to individual presentations, which was widely praised in the conference evaluations. Comments ranged from "The content of the sessions I attended was exceptional" to "Great topics – all the presenters were well prepared – each workshop was a good length of time so the topic could be covered thoroughly".

Thank you to all who attended this conference – you set the tone of collegiality, education and fun. We hope to see you all in Savannah in 2008!

NATSAP STRENGTHENS MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

The National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs ("NATSAP") Board of Directors, having reviewed the importance of ensuring a therapeutic program or therapeutic school has appropriate oversight, amended the requirements for membership in their association. Effective May 1, 2007 all programs applying for membership in NATSAP must

1. be licensed by the appropriate state agency authorized to set and oversee standards of therapeutic and/or behavioral healthcare for youth and adolescents or accredited by a mental health accreditation agency
2. have therapeutic services with oversight by a qualified clinician
3. be in compliance with NATSAP Ethical Principles and NATSAP Principles of Good Practice

A program with Full membership status will be required to be open for more than two years. Those programs not meeting this criteria will have Associate membership status.

The current members of NATSAP will be required to be in full compliance with the new membership criteria by January 1, 2009.

To continue their commitment to providing assistance to new programs, the Board of Directors agreed to continue Provisional status for those programs that will open within six months of seeking Provisional membership in NATSAP. These programs must agree to meet the requirements established for Associate membership status.

As is evident in the history of NATSAP, the Board of Directors remains dedicated to NATSAP's leadership role in the industry and their ongoing commitment to continually improve the standards of our profession.

THE LAST BEST PLACE: SPEAKING OUT FOR REGULATION

*Rick Johnson, MSW, Executive Director
Summit Preparatory School
Kalispell, Montana*

Originating as the title of a well-known anthology and now part of common speech, "The Last Best Place" sums up many Montanans' fondness for the state they call home. This simple phrase speaks not only of the beauty of the countryside, but of a place where there is still room to be an individual, to be creative and different from the norm. So it should come as no surprise that Montanans were angered at a resort developer's recent attempts to gain sole trademark

rights to the phrase "The Last Best Place". How can someone tell Montanans that they can no longer use a phrase, which is so near and dear to their hearts? This restriction is an affront to their way of life, and perhaps speaks to a deeper fear that Montana could also lose the spirit that this phrase captures.

For a few Montana therapeutic programs mandatory licensing has represented a similar affront. How can programs maintain the innovation that makes them unique and vital if the state begins to dictate what they can and can't do? Seem a far-fetched concern? Here are a series of recent quotes from a Montana Senator received in response to a letter Summit Preparatory School submitted supporting licensure: "I frankly do not believe every group needs to be licensed by the government—we have too much licensing which is another word for keeping out innovative competitors... We hear from numerous parents who appreciate the opportunity to have alternatives that are not run by government bureaucrats... If you want to be regulated, that is your option, but do not dictate how other programs work." Obviously the concern is that innovation and regulation are mutually exclusive. (While many programs are currently actively lobbying for licensing at the Montana Legislature in Helena, Montana remains one of the few states without licensure.)

So, as a Montana based program, why is Summit Preparatory School so zealous about the need for licensing and meaningful professional oversight? The first reason is, perhaps, the most obvious - to protect the health and emotional wellbeing of children. Most parents are not mental health or educational professionals and make decisions about placing their child in a program, usually in another state, during a time of crisis with no prior exposure to these types of services. In these circumstances parents are not equipped to determine the quality of a particular program, or even if a program provides the services it advertises. While the use of an Educational Consultant by a parent can significantly lessen this risk, the lack of oversight still leaves the door open for sub-standard or abusive programs to operate without restraint as long as they can continue to attract referrals. Clearly this is an untenable risk, not only for children and families but also for educational consultants and programs themselves, one that cannot be ethically tolerated.

Beyond the safety risks, however, we are also concerned by the "professional vacuum" that can exist in a system without meaningful oversight. Without being held to professional standards programs are free to do almost anything under the guise of innovation. We believe true innovation lies not in just doing something different but in "standing on the shoulders of giants". Programs need to base their approaches on solid clinical and educational theory and research, and be answerable to

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other professionals in justifying new approaches. Novel approaches must hold up to professional scrutiny, otherwise they may be the equivalent of therapeutic “snake oil” – at best, harmless, at worst, dangerous.

So, as a proud Montana-based program, we believe innovation is not crushed by meaningful regulation, but rather is directed; and we believe all programs should work to support the creation of professional standards, oversight, and dialog with other professional organizations. We believe this is the best scenario for all programs, including Montana programs, and support NATSAP’s ongoing efforts to increase meaningful professional standards and oversight. Finally as an individual who now calls Montana home, it can only remain “the last best place” if the children served in therapeutic programs receive safe and effective therapeutic care.

NATSAP RESEARCH PROJECT SET TO LAUNCH

John Santa, Ph.D., NATSAP Research Committee Chair

The NATSAP research committee has been busy indeed. In September 2006, the National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Program’s (NATSAP) Executive Board invited a group of researchers and program executives to participate in a research summit with the purpose of devising a plan to create a NATSAP research program. The research summit resulted in the NATSAP board appointing a Standing Research Committee and hiring a part time Research Coordinator, Dr. Michael Gass and one of his doctoral students Michael Young both from the University of New Hampshire. The primary duties of the NATSAP Research Coordinators will be to create and manage a NATSAP-wide database for the collection of research data and to stimulate and facilitate research in and about our programs. It is important to emphasize that the research coordinator is hired to help all of us collect, and share data, that can be used by a variety of researchers in Universities or within NATSAP as opposed to being hired to do research for us. We feel that this approach has the best chance of stimulating a broad independent research effort aimed at documenting our effectiveness and deepening the understanding of our profession. The data base will be created to safeguard the privacy of individual participants and individual programs such that all research use of the data base will have prior scrutiny and approval by the research committee and data will not be stored or released in a manner that makes it possible to identify individual participants or programs.

The initial use of the data will of course be aimed at validating the outcome effectiveness of our programs, and providing information to individual programs that can be used to improve performance. The data will of course also provide useful clinical information. Such data will also be immediately useful in countering critics arguments that our programs have not established their effectiveness, and it will quickly begin to develop the evidence base for our work that is increasingly important and expected in all educational and behavioral health environments.

The committee has also contracted with CAREPATHS to facilitate a completely automated system of data entry to facilitate all programs in doing their own research. CAREPATHS will make it possible for data from programs throughout the country to have parents and participants answer questionnaires that will all be hosted by CAREPATHS with individual programs each having their own research web page linked

directly to their own program’s webpage. Permissions will be recorded, assessments given including demographic information, and various assessment instruments. The site will host the relevant Achenbach (ASEBA) instruments as well as the Outcome and Youth Outcome Questionnaire’s.

Participating programs will have access to their own data, and the system will allow each program to add as many of their own questionnaire’s or assessment instruments as they like. The common data (ASEBA and YOQ) will then be downloaded without participant identifying information for purposes of providing aggregate summaries of NATSAP program effectiveness. The data will be strictly confidential and only released in aggregate reports, not to be used to compare individual programs.

The BETA test of the system will be launched April 15th with a few parents, students and staff from five programs testing the system. We will then begin enrolling programs into the research program for data collection that will begin June 1, 2007.

We invite all interested programs to contact Michael Young at michael.young@unh.edu. Participation is simple, inexpensive, and you will have the satisfaction of helping our profession document our effectiveness.

NATSAP MEMBERS EXPAND FOCUS TO PUBLIC POLICY AND ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Former Deputy Drug Czar Leads Effort to Address Gap



Dr. Andrea Barthwell

NATSAP announced its intent to preserve and protect programs for children and families in need of specialized educational and treatment services and called on other children’s advocacy groups to join them in their efforts.

“Children and their families face far too many barriers to access to the care they need, sometimes being forced to relinquish custody of their young son or daughter to obtain public mental health services,” according to Jan Moss, Executive Director of NATSAP. “We seek to ensure the availability of a full range of options with accredited programs using credentialed professionals, the highest ethical standards, and principles of good practice,” Moss continued.

“The programs and professional provider members of NATSAP are committed to working with states and legislators by providing our leadership, expertise, and knowledge to prevent and address the quality and availability gaps in therapeutic programs for children,” according to John Santa, Ph.D. NATSAP 2007 Leadership Award Recipient and co-owner of Montana Academy, “We are prepared to assist anyone interested in improving the lives of children,” he added.

“Because of our experience, educators and therapists working together in specialized therapeutic schools and programs can speak with passion, expertise, and authority on the devastation

caused by unmet needs and the need to provide opportunities for parental involvement, individualized care, measurable results, and collaboration with licensing boards to create an understanding of why these specialized programs are critical to the success of America's youth in coping with the pressures of adolescence," according to Karen Fitzhugh, Ph.D. of King George School, chair of the Public Policy Committee of NATSAP.

Andrea Barthwell, M.D., former White House Deputy Drug Czar for President George W. Bush kicked off the activity at NATSAP's annual meeting where she encouraged attendees to join forces with others who devote themselves to families' needs for effective care and education of its young members. "While H.R. 1738 is a bill to 'End Institutionalized Abuse Against Children' and intends to improve the quality of care in therapeutic settings serving our young people, its most recent iteration could have caused a collapse of the system of care that your clients depend upon. Working with Rep. George Miller (D-CA), we can eliminate the bad programs and implement best practices in the rest," she said.

"Anecdotes told by family members harmed in a bad program do not begin to tell the story of real pain and destruction we could experience if this industry were regulated out of existence," she added. "We need reform to eliminate programs that prey on desperate families while preserving vital components in the continuum of care."

While the professionals of NATSAP are offering their expertise to Governors and Legislators, they will make their members available to governmental and other organizations interested in the health and mental health of young people.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Rosemary Tippet, NATSAP Director of Public Affairs

The National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs is placing a high priority on educating the general public about whom and what NATSAP represents. We are also helping you, our member do your job as a leader in the field. We have increased communication with emphasis on involving you in ongoing liaison with national decision-makers and research support for your efforts. It continues to be our job to inform and educate on the subject where we have expertise and something to contribute. Your dues are paying the salaries of talented professionals and the consultant fees for the most highly experienced advocacy consultants we can hire. However, we need to do a better job of reaching out to others- state and local elected officials, community leaders, the medical profession, business, clergy, and local media.

As a first step, I encourage you to forward all newsletter articles you feel are appropriate for reprint to our NATSAP office. We need you to help be our eyes and ears and feed us the articles of importance. Also, we need our talented professional members who are speaking at regional and national conferences to speak up about NATSAP and include NATSAP brochures in their presentation materials. Please make us aware of your staff who is speaking and we will equip you with information on NATSAP for the conference.

This is simple yet necessary if we are to really help lead our nation in shaping policy in our areas of interest. We need more education on NATSAP and we need it now! Contact Rosemary Tippet at rosemary@natsap.org or (770) 435-8464

A GRATEFUL PARENT

February 18, 2006
Miami, FL

"To Whom It May Concern,

The hardest thing for a parent to realize is that they cannot make the pain that is hurting their child go away. When a parent has exhausted every avenue known to them, consulted with therapists, counselors, psychologists, priests — and still their child is hurting, a drastic step must be taken. When you've been on your knees and crying out to Heaven for years and you're not getting the answer you want to hear, you have to look at the answer you've been given.

The hardest decision we have ever made as parents was to send our daughter to New Horizons. For our close-knit, sheltered, Cuban, Catholic family, a wilderness program was unheard of and drastic. But drastic times call for drastic measures.

We went to Springfield looking for something - anything- to make us realize we had made the wrong decision. We had heard wonderful people on the phone, we had received wonderful reviews from other parents via email, we had been urged by everyone to make this move. But we were not convinced. We were determined to find something *wrong*. **Everything we saw when we got there was right.** The staff was honest, they were real. They were non-judgmental. No one said one harsh thing. No one's body language hid anything - but the truth: that they were all there to help our daughter. And the overall feeling of care and concern permeated from every corner of the Springfield office.

Paula Codrington, our daughter's therapist, was amazing. She worked with us every week, guided us as to what issues we should address, and followed up with us, always showing a genuinely concerned attitude. She was instrumental in helping our family get back on the right track, on the road to healing. She taught us things about our parenting style, particularly our tendency to always want to "rescue" Laura. She gave our daughter a sense of empowerment over her own life. She brought Laura out of the deep, dark, old secret that had hindered our daughter's emotional growth for almost two years. It was nothing short of a miracle.

Our entire family, both our nuclear family of four, and my extended family of brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles and grandparents, have grown because of our daughter's experience at New Horizons. It has helped us all realize that we all need to ask for help sometimes, and sometimes we can only begin to heal when we are apart from each other and in the silence. Laura's plight brought us all to our knees. Laura's absence at Christmas made us all realize what this holiday truly means. Laura's letters were received with anticipation and joy. Everyone wanted to be a part of this process because they love her so much. It made our already close-knit family even more united. It made us all treasure our time together.

The only frustrating times for me were when I couldn't get through the fax line - I still can't figure that one out. But there was always another fax to go to and the assurance that our letters would get through to our daughter.

I cannot thank the entire staff at New Horizons enough for their generous outpouring of care and concern for my daughter. I felt at peace while she was there, knowing she was safe and well taken care of.

I know that our family is on the road to healing now, and I pray that God will continue to bless everyone at New Horizons, because you all have been such a blessing to us.

With Warmest Regards,

Lily P.

NORTHEAST NATSAP CORNER

Will White, Summit Achievement

A new addition to the NATSAP newsletter will be the Northeast Corner a newsletter section which will be updating all members on events, activities, and people in the Northeast Region. The Northeast Regional Council is an all volunteer group who are putting time and energy into educating groups and individuals on treatment options located in the Northeast Region.

The newest NATSAP member from the Northeast is Ironwood a licensed residential treatment program located in Morrill, Maine. Although Ironwood is new to NATSAP they were founded by individuals who have cared and worked with young people for many years. Please welcome them in a collaborative and supportive way.

A group of fourteen Northeast NATSAP members are gathering in Boston at the Harvard Club on April 24 in which a guest speaker will address the group and referring professionals. The speaker is Dr. Josephine Kim on the topic "Career Development Education: Building Connections from School to Career". If you are a Northeast NATSAP member program and interested in being involved in future events please email Mr. Jeremy McGeorge of the King George School, at jmcgeorge.kgs@gmail.com.

The Fourth Annual Northeast Regional Conference will be held on September 27 and 28 at the Colony Hotel in Kennebunkport, Maine. The event will start on the evening of September 27 with a Maine Lobster bake. The conference will focus on providing safe and effective care for students and their families. The Northeast welcomes all to attend the conference. Look for updated information on the conference in this column.

The Northeast region is happy to announce that Dr. Sid Parham and Ms. Audrey Peavey were elected national NATSAP board members and both hail from the Northeast. Dr. Parham is the Vice President of Academic Affairs from the Family Foundation School in Hancock, New York. Dr. Parham has served on many NATSAP committees as well as receiving a NATSAP volunteer award. The newest board member is Ms. Audrey Peavey from New Horizons, a wilderness treatment program for girls, in Orrington, Maine. Ms. Peavey has been a leader in the Northeast Region for a number of years as well as a NATSAP volunteer award winner. The Northeast Region would like to thank Mr. Richard Chorney from Grove School for his time on the national board.

If you have anything that you would like to add to the Northeast Corner

Column please feel free to write me, Will White, at summitachieve@hotmail.com. Look forward to hearing from you.

NATSAP MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Jan Moss

I am pleased to announce the following members have moved from Associate to Full Membership:

Fulshear Ranch Academy
Innercept
Passages To Recovery
Pine River Institute
Santiam Crossing
Willow Creek School

Join me in welcoming our new members for 2007:

Full Members

Gatehouse Academy
Little Keswick School
The Discovery School of Virginia
The High Frontier

Associate Members

Ashby Academy
Aspiro
Catalyst Residential Treatment
CALO (Change Academy Lake of the Ozarks)
Ironwood
In Balance Ranch Academy
Maple Lake Academy
Mirasol Eating Disorder Recovery Program
Second Nature Cascades
Seven Arrows Academy
White Rock Academy

Provisional

Kramer Center Newport Beach
Thunder Ridge School
Whispering Pines Academy

**UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PRESENTS
THE 2007 ADVENTURE THERAPY BEST
PRACTICES CONFERENCE
UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
JUNE 22-24, 2007**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
DR. MICHAEL GASS
DR. DENE BERMAN**

ADVENTURE THERAPY WORKSHOPS

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.AEE.ORG



Calendar of Events

<u>2007</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>City / State</u>
April 19	Utah Regional Conference	Thanksgiving Point	Lehi, UT
April 20	NATSAP Ethics Summit		Orem, UT
April 26	NATSAP Committee Meetings	Westin Copley Place	Boston, MA
April 27	NATSAP / IECA Joint Ethics Committee Meeting	Westin Copley Place	Boston, MA
May 5	Rocky Mountain Regional Conference	Hooties at the Elks	Ponderay, ID
May 9	Pre-NATSAP Advocacy Day Reception	Hilton Washington	Washington, DC
May 10	NATSAP Advocacy Day	Hilton Washington and Capitol Hill	Washington, DC
May 28	Memorial Day – NATSAP Office Closed		
June 15	2008 Conference Call for Papers Deadline		
July 4	Independence Day- NATSAP Office Closed		
July 5 -6	NATSAP Office Closed		
September 27	Northeast Regional Pre-Conference Dinner	The Colony Hotel	Kennebunkport, ME
September 28	Northeast Regional Conference	The Colony Hotel	Kennebunkport, ME
October 3 -4	NATSAP Board of Directors Meeting	The Riverhouse Hotel	Bend, OR
October 4	Northwest Regional Pre-Conference Reception	The Riverhouse Hotel	Bend, OR
October 5	Northwest Regional Conference	The Riverhouse Hotel	Bend, OR
October 18	Southeast Regional Pre-Conference Reception	Wyndham Vinings Hotel	Atlanta, GA
October 19	Southeast Regional Conference	Wyndham Vinings Hotel	Atlanta, GA
November 22	Thanksgiving – NATSAP Office Closed		
November 23	NATSAP Office Closed		
December 24	Christmas Eve – NATSAP Office Closed		
December 25	Christmas – NATSAP Office Closed		
January 31	New Year's Eve – NATSAP Office Closed		
<u>2008</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>City / State</u>
January 1	New Year's Day – NATSAP Office Closed		
Feb 7 – 8	2008 NATSAP National Conference	Savannah Westin Harbor and the Savannah Convention Center	Savannah, GA

2007 NATSAP NATIONAL CONFERENCE "EXPLORING OUR PROFESSION" LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA



"No organization is stronger than the quality of its leadership, or ever extends its constituency far beyond the degree to which its leadership is representative."

Edgar Powell

Highlight your membership by adding the NATSAP logo to your website



NATSAP

Vision Statement

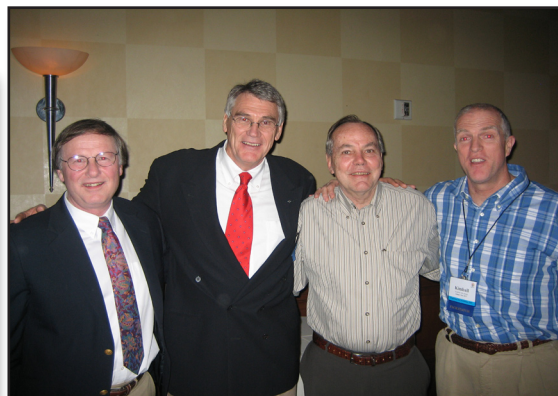
Our vision is a nation of healthy children. We are the voice inspiring, nurturing, and validating the courageous work of our schools and programs

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.

1ST QUARTER
2007



NATSAP Leadership Award Recipients (left to right):
2007: John Santa; 2006: Jared Balmer;
2005: Rob Cooley; 2004: Kimball DeLaMare

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!

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1ST QUARTER
2007

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Rocky Mountain Regional Conference

May 5, 2007

Hooties at the Elks

Ponderay, ID

NATSAP Advocacy Day

February 1-3, 2007

Hilton Washington Towers

Washington, D.C.

2008 NATSAP National Conference Call for Papers Deadline: June 15, 2007

Download Call for Papers at <http://www.natsap.org/conference.asp>

COMING SOON:

NATSAP 2007 DIRECTORY WILL BE MAILED IN MAY

To order additional directories, see

<http://www.natsap.org/order.asp>



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