It was wonderful seeing all of you in Houston at AGPA Connect 2018 and sharing all the excitement and connection that comes with our time together. In this edition, Elina Kanellopoulou, PhD, from Greece shares her experience as a scholarship recipient and the personal and professional impact it has had on her life. This is just one of the great stories that we hear from the young professionals who are able to attend AGPA Connect because of our donors’ support of the Group Foundation’s robust Scholarship Program.

The Foundation, through a generous endowment, sponsors the Harold S. Bernard Group Psychotherapy Training Award that is given every year by the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists. This year’s recipient Helene Satz, PsyD, ABPP, CGP, was recognized for her significant contribution to group training at the Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii. Sherrie Smith and Jeanne Pasternak have written an article in the accompanying spring issue of the Group Circle detailing her impressive work.

The faces of our Foundation column features Jeffrey Hudson, MED, LPC, CGP, FAGPA, from Austin, Texas. Jeff is the retiring Vice Chair of the Foundation and is one of the most beloved members of AGPA. He is known for his deep commitment to supporting the field of group psychotherapy and providing leadership with a comprehensive and open heart. Jeff reflects on his work in the Foundation over the last 12 years.

I hope you enjoy reading about the fruits of your support of the Group Foundation.

A Three-Time Scholarship Recipient Reflects on AGPA Connect

ELINA KANELLOPOULOU, PHD

It is the day after Easter Sunday and I am sitting on a balcony in Aegina, a small island about an hour boat ride from the coast of Athens. The weather is balmy, and the island seems to have quieted down after yesterday’s day-long celebrations, when family and friends gathered to toast, talk, dance, but most importantly to “toast the family.” A traditional Greek ritual as famous for the mouth-watering tender meat cooked on an open fire, as for the ample opportunity for quarrels over roasting technique. Despite, or perhaps even because of, the inevitable tensions that arise when a diverse group of people come together for a long time to spend time and figure out a way to perform a common task, the day also holds rich moments of connection, sharing, laughter, not to mention, a delicious meal, the definitive outcome measure of adequate group cohesion and conflict resolution. This might explain why most of us are already nostalgic as we are about to leave and are looking forward to when we get to do it all over again a year from now.

When I attended my first AGPA Annual Meeting in 2016 with the vital support of a Group Foundation Scholarship and with what felt like an instinctive, somewhat bizarre, love for a bunch of chairs in a circle, I was not sure what to expect. My emotional roller-coaster first Institute group experience, and four more days of being exposed to different ways of leading and being in a group had me hooked—not just to AGPA as a family of mentors and peers, but also to group as a therapeutic modality. That very first meeting affirmed my decision to embark on long-term psychoanalytic group psychotherapy training in my home country of Greece.

Editor’s Note: We invite you to hear about the experiences of other scholarship recipients as well on the AGPA YouTube Channel at https://youtu.be/rffZzL4nR6s.

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Editor’s Note:

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Lorraine Wodisla
Elliot Zeisel & Mary Sussillo

THE FACES OF OUR FOUNDATION

Jeffrey Hudson, MED, LPC, CGP, FAGPA

It’s been exciting to see the impact of the Group Foundation expand over my 12 years on the Board. Three areas of our work have been especially inspiring—public education, community outreach, and scholarships.

Initially, local fundraising events were held to raise awareness of the Foundation’s work and to thank our donors. Over time, these events have evolved to educate the general public about the value of group therapy, the importance of providing expert training to clinicians, and to raise scholarship funds.

In the past five years, I’ve really enjoyed participating in Foundation events in Austin, Baton Rouge, Los Angeles, and San Antonio. Two experiences were especially memorable. The first was a series of performances by Gabriela Kohen of her one-woman show, Decoding the Tablecloth. The emotional impact of her play and its message about the transgenerational transmission of trauma has been remarkable. I also remember the pleasure of leading an institute for Karen Travis, LCSW, BCD, CGP, FAGPA, Masters Series in Baton Rouge. Karen established a series of institutes led by AGPA clinicians to raise money for the Scholarships Fund. This has been a great opportunity to provide training to a local community, while simultaneously raising money. For me, the local events have been emotionally rich and a great way to share both AGPA’s and Affiliate Societies’ commitment to group work.

My work on the Foundation Board has also allowed me to appreciate the value of AGPA community outreach. Each time a community around the country is impacted by a natural disaster or tragic event, I see the caring that emanates from AGPA. The importance of this outreach literally hit home earlier this year when Austin was traumatized by three weeks of bombings. AGPA members in Austin received emails, phones calls, and links to valuable resources to help them work with clients experiencing this trauma. It was healing for me to feel part of this extended family. I felt especially grateful that the Group Foundation raises funds to support this outreach, and for the research and development of clinical resources to assist communities impacted by trauma.

Finally, raising money for the scholarship program has been a highlight of my work on the Board. I’ve been moved to see the steady increase in the number of scholarship recipients. The recipients are enriching our organization, bringing new perspectives, and increasing the diversity of AGPA. Most return to their communities better prepared to lead groups and support the activities of their local societies.

LEGACY SOCIETY

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Group Foundation Honors Scholarship and Award Winners

During AGPA Connect in Houston, February 26 - March 3, the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, the philanthropic arm of the AGPA, sponsored a luncheon honoring scholarship and award winners, as well as the generous contributors who make the program possible. A myriad of tuition, travel, and monetary awards, supporting the training of group therapists and the use of group in communities to effect change, were distributed through the Foundation. Those recognized included:

• The Alonso Award for Excellence in Psychodynamic Group Therapy, given to Robert Grossmark, PhD, for his article Nurturing the Unspoken: Encouctment, Repair, and Creative Multiplicity in Group Psychotherapy;
• The 2018 Aaron Stein Memorial Award for its creative use of groups in non-therapeutic settings to benefit the community; for its creative use of groups in non-therapeutic settings to benefit the community;
• The Aaron Stein Memorial Award for its creative use of groups in non-therapeutic settings to benefit the community; for its creative use of groups in non-therapeutic settings to benefit the community;
• The Academy of Group Psychotherapy Award, given to David Greenspan, PhD, for his pioneering work on the Group Circle and in the study and promotion of group therapy;
• The Allen & Patricia Morley Award, given to Melissa Lee, LPC, CGP, for her influential work in the field of group therapy;
• The Assistant Professorship in Group Psychotherapy Award, given to Karen Travis, LCSW, BCD, CGP, FAGPA, Masters Series in Baton Rouge. Karen established a series of institutes led by AGPA clinicians to raise money for the Scholarships Fund. This has been a great opportunity to provide training to a local community, while simultaneously raising money. For me, the local events have been emotionally rich and a great way to share both AGPA’s and Affiliate Societies’ commitment to group work.

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If you enjoyed reading about Jeff, we invite you to see all of the wonderful people we have spotlighted in the Faces of the Foundation column at www.agpa.org/Foundation/donors/ the Faces of our Foundation.
The Group Foundation awarded two research grants in 2018. Recipients were:

- **2018 Contributions to the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health**
  - GIFTS ACKNOWLEDGED HERE ARE FROM JANUARY 1, 2018 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2018
  - Principal investigator is Sarah Bledsoe, PhD, MPhil, MSW, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Co-Investigator is Josh Hinson, MSW, LCSW, Clinical Assistant Professor and Program Director, Refugee Wellness Initiative, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

- **2018 Contributions to the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health**
  - GIFTS ACKNOWLEDGED HERE ARE FROM JANUARY 1, 2018 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2018
  - Principal investigator is Lisa Denton, PhD, MPhil, MSW, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Leaders**
- ($100,000 and above)
  - Ramon Alonso

**Sponsors**
- ($500 - $999)
  - Lorraine Wolak

**Contributors**
- (up to $249)
  - Mary Mitchell

**Explorers**
- ($250 - $499)
  - Seth Aronson, PsyD, CGP, FAGPA

**Facilitators**
- ($10,000 and above)
  - AFP

**Supporters**
- ($250 - $499)
  - Robert Berley

**Sustainers**
- ($10,000 and above)
  - Andrew Dazzo

**FAGPA**
- Director of Group Services, Florida State University.

**AGPA**
- Assistant Professor and Program Director, Refugee Wellness Initiative, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**TRIBUTE GIFTS:**
- The following individuals were honored by the contributors listed with a program in their name at the recent AGPA Connect Meeting in Houston (donors are listed in italics).

- **Marsha Block & Leonard Walter**
  - Marsha Block & Leonard Walter
  - Leah Burke
  - Marsha Block & Leonard Walter
  - Jerome Gans
  - Judy Reutman

- **Barry Helfman**
  - Barry Helfman

- **Brian Block**
  - Brian Block

- **Jennifer Ben-Shoshan**
  - Jennifer Ben-Shoshan

- **Suzanne Cohen**
  - Suzanne Cohen

- **Randy Danzig**
  - Randy Danzig

- **Patricia Barlow**
  - Patricia Barlow

- **Bonnie Buchele & Bruce Hopkins**
  - Bonnie Buchele & Bruce Hopkins

- **Jeanne Pasternak**
  - Jeanne Pasternak

**Kathleen Ulman**
- Kathleen Ulman

**Foundation-Sponsored Events at AGPA Connect 2018**

**A THREE-TIME SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

Coming back in 2017 as the Anne Alonso Scholarship recipient was an honor that continues to humble me. Upon returning from that meeting, with the invaluable guidance and supervision of a AGPA member Seth Aronson, PsyD, CGP, FAGPA, I felt ready to prepare and run my first short-term adolescent group at the child and adolescent outpatient psychiatric unit of a community hospital in Athens. To my knowledge, this was also the first outpatient group to be run in this hospital since group is not a widely employed modality in public mental healthcare in Greece, despite the enormous benefits that employing it could mean for this overburdened, under-resourced sector and its users.

Being supported to rejion the meeting again this year offered me substantial practical and psychological resources to embark upon the challenge of running groups in private practice. It also made me realize that returning to AGPA is an evolving experience that seems to meet me at my current developmental stage as a group psychotherapist, to equip and inspire me to move forward, working through difference and building connection.

Still processing the emotional and intellectual ripples of this year’s AGPA Connect experience, having nurtured old connections and having made new ones, I think and look forward to being with all of you again next year.

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**Research Grants Awarded**

The Group Foundation awarded two research grants in 2018. Recipients were:

- **Impacting the Success of Group Programming at Psychology Internship Sites**: A National Survey. Principal investigator is Lisa Denton, PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychology, State University of New York at Fredonia, and Co-Investigator is Joshua Gross, PhD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA, Director of Group Services, Florida State University.

- **Together for Wellness: Group Psychotherapy for Resettled Refugees**. Principal investigator is Sarah Bledsoe, PhD, MPhil, MSW, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Co-Investigator is Josh Hinson, MSW, LCSW, Clinical Assistant Professor and Program Director, Refugee Wellness Initiative, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Foundation-Sponsored Events at AGPA Connect 2018**

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  - Brette Buchanan & Bruce Hopkins

- **Comrie Connemann & John Rochies**
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- **Eleanor & Chuck Consemmual**
  - Eleanor & Chuck Consemmual

- **Barbara Dazzo**
  - Barbara Dazzo

- **Jerome Gans**
  - Jerome Gans

- **Paul Kent**
  - Paul Kent

- **Lisa Malin & Philip Flores**
  - Lisa Malin & Philip Flores

- **Jeanne & Matt Pasternak**
  - Jeanne & Matt Pasternak

- **Melvin Stern**
  - Melvin Stern

- **Elliot Ziesl & Mary Sussillo**
  - Elliot Ziesl & Mary Sussillo