

Bill would terminate LSBEP

Opposition Growing to Senator Mount's Bill

A bill to terminate the 47 year-old Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists may be heard soon in the Senate Health and Welfare Committee. The bill's author, Senator Willie Mount

of Lake Charles is chair of the committee. The committee is scheduled to meet at 9 am this Thursday, May 4. As of Monday, SB 226 was not on the agenda. However, the agenda can change at any time.

Act 251

APA's Board Professional Affairs Gives Opinion

In an April 4, 2011 memo from the APA Board of Professional Affairs (BPA) to Dr. Robert Glueckauf, Chair of the Interdivisional Healthcare Committee, BPA outlined its opinions regarding issues with Louisiana's Act 251.

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Senator Mount's proposal would terminate both the LSBEP and the LPC boards and consolidate their duties into a new board

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TORNADOS

To volunteer to help tornado victims in Northeast Mississippi, contact Megan Burkes, American Red Cross, Northeast Mississippi Chapter at mburkes@nemsredcross.org.

LSU's Dr. Sean Lane Helps to Understand "The Mind's Eye"

How our minds work, how we retrieve "facts" and judge reality, and how we learn and reach decisions is one of the most fascinating areas of human behavior, impacting lives at every level of society and in every area of human performance. At LSU's Office of Applied Cognition (OAC) cofounder Dr. Sean Lane and his team of researchers unravel the intricate knots between perception, attention, memory, judgments, and decision-making, and they work to apply these to real-life situations.

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Standing: Dr. Jim Van Hook (L) and Dr. Bryan Gros at recent LPA Convention. Dr. Van Hook presented a workshop and Dr. Gros was elected the newest President-Elect. See highlights of the conference throughout this issue.

LPA Passes Motion To Talk w/Medicine

At an April 14, town hall meeting designed to discuss concerns about Act 251, LPA members voted to work on exploring ways to bring the regulation of psychology by medical psychologists back under the psychology board.

After lengthy discussions LPA members voted favorably on a motion made by Dr. Tom Hannie.

Dr. Hannie made a motion that the association initiates a conversation among members of four groups: the Louisiana State Medical Society, the Louisiana

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Dr. Janet Matthews Is LPA Distinguished Psychologist 2011

Dr. Janet Matthews was named the 2011 Distinguished Psychologist by the Louisiana Psychological Association at the annual convention held recently in Baton Rouge.

Dr. Matthews is a licensed clinical psychologist and neuropsychologist, holding the diplomat status in clinical with the American Board of Professional Psychology. She is a Fellow in the Academy of Clinical Psychology and holds the diplomat from the

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Editorial Page

Who's On First?

Senator Mount's bill to terminate the 47 year-old psychology board is puzzling. She says she is left with no option. Ignoring lots of other creative approaches to the problem, not the least of which is the *do nothing* option, she decides to force the two professional groups into a new, strange, superficial and simplistic structure. Is she actually that sure of herself, her methods and her ideas? Hmm...

For a variety of different reasons the legislation is not good. Both groups oppose it. Logically SB 226 should not pass.

But if it does pass, or if it even comes close, we will know that there is some real political muscle behind it and not just one senator, exercising her power, who feels she knows best.

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We welcome ideas for news, features, Letters to the Editor, photos, and other material related to psychological community of Louisiana. Editorials and commentary reflect the opinions of this newspaper. Columns and Letters to the Editor express the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of *The Psychology Times*.

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Letters To The Editor

I am speaking solely for myself as an independent psychologist although I think many others may agree with me. I consider this ill conceived bill to be an appropriate example of legislative abuse.

This bill was not requested by Psychologists; It was not requested by Counselors. It was not requested by any professionals who deal with behavioral health. It has been poorly crafted by those who are not remotely associated with our professions and without our permission or consent.

This is the type of heavy-handed approach one might use with children. Or with miscreants who break the law. But to do this to professionals who have in good faith donated their time, money and passion in pursuing a career is an insult. What other professions would you attempt to ram something through over their objections? Veterinarians, dentists, physicians, nurses? I think not. Accountants? Lawyers? No, not at all.

This is the sort of legislative overreach that sparked outrage at a national level in 2010. Never mind what the public wants. Do it because we can, not because it is right. I can only assume this form of legislative bullying is a form of retaliation for not doing exactly what the legislator wanted. It will not solve the differences in the goals of Psychologists and Counselors and instead will make it worse. It will not send us on our way never to be back at the legislature. On the contrary it will bring us back more often, starting with efforts to undo the damages done by this bill.

Dr. Robert Baker

"Man on the Street"

I conducted "Man on the Street" interviews for comments from some community members about Senator Mount's Bill. These and a few succinct spontaneous comments from readers can be found throughout this issue. (Thank you to Dr. Alicia Pellegrin who called it the "Chick on the Street" interviewing method.)

J. Nelson

Senator Mount's SB 226...

called the "Louisiana Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board." The bill decreases the number of board members from five to three for psychology, and from ten to three for counselors. The last three members of the new, nine-member board are to come from the public, and these individuals are to be in "no way connected with the practice of any such profession regulated by the board," noted the proposed legislation.

Based on a letter distributed to both psychologists and counselors, Senator Mount's reason for her legislation is to cause the two groups to work together. In her letter, published last month in the *Times*, she wrote, "With the history of senseless conflict and fighting and the failure of the professions to take advantage of the opportunity provided by the working group, I am left with no other options other than to introduce legislation to consolidate these boards." (See *PT* Vol 2, No. 8.)

LSBEP Chair Speaks Out on 226

On April 26, Chair of the psychology board, Dr. Joe Comaty, emailed Louisiana psychologists about SB 226, encouraging them to contact their home district Senator if that Senator serves on the Senate Health & Welfare Committee. He

Those in the psychology and counselor communities strongly oppose the legislation. In an email from LSBEP Dr. Joe Comaty to licensed psychologists he noted that licensed professional counselors, licensed marriage and family therapists, the Louisiana Association of Counselors, the Louisiana Psychological Association, the American Psychological Association, the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards, and the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, have all submitted objections to the bill. (See related story, this page.)

suggested that psychologists "express grave concerns about the bill."

He attached an April 21 letter he wrote to members of the Commerce Committee. In it he described his views on why SB 226 is flawed, noting, "I have a responsibility to bring to your attention fundamental flaws in the proposed legislation..."

In the letter to the Senators, Dr. Comaty noted that appointing three lay people who "would have no pertinent professional knowledge or experience in either the practice of psychology or in licensed professional counseling," as tie-breaking members is "not sound public policy."

He explained that composite boards have been tried in other states and in "all cases but one or two" the practice of psychology has been returned to an independent board.

He also noted the serious problem that comes from trying to

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Left: Mr. Kevin Hayes, LPA's consultant in legislative and government affairs speaks to the members of LPA at the recent convention in Baton Rouge. Looking on are some of the members of the current Executive Council.

LSBEP Chair...

combine two "...markedly different disciplines, with markedly different educational and training standards, differing scopes of practice, and differing ethical principles."

And he wrote, "Sound public policy, though, requires individuals who have specialized professional knowledge, training, and experience be the ones who make the profession's regulatory decisions, not those who lack the pertinent professional knowledge and expertise." He pointed out that not only is the training for psychology different than LPCs, "it is significantly more extensive."

Dr. Comaty also pointed out that while "state law provides for 'one' psychology license, psychologists work in an array of settings and client populations. The proposed board has only three psychologists and cannot provide the expertise needed to "span the specialty areas."

Comaty concluded that the consolidation would "...weaken, not strengthen public protection."

In his email to licensed psychologists, he wrote "If the bill passes out of committee to the floor of the Senate, we will again notify you to contact your Senator."

Links to Help You Find Information

<http://www.legis.state.la.us/>

<http://senate.legis.state.la.us/committees/default.asp>

www.grpla.com

APA Weighs In On SB 226

In an April 22, letter addressed to Louisiana Senators in the Commerce Committee, Executive Director for Professional Practice in APA, Dr. Katherine Nordal wrote saying, "APA is strongly opposed to combining licensing boards for different mental health professions," and that "The most serious problem with the 'omnibus' board structure is that it attempts to combine into one group different disciplines with different educational and training standards, scopes of practice, and ethical principles."

"This raises questions about the ability of such a board to ensure public protection," she noted.

Nordal also wrote that "...it is essential that the licensing board and disciplinary body for a

profession be comprised of individuals who themselves are thoroughly educated and trained in the discipline." And, "Not only does the education and training for psychology differ from that of MFTs and LPCs, but it is significantly more extensive and variable."

She wrote that there is little support for this approach, and that "attempts to develop this type of legislation have been defeated in states such as Alaska, California, Pennsylvania, Texas and Utah. Colorado had such a system in place and dismantled it in 1998."

"...SB 226 would not serve the citizens of Louisiana well..." she wrote and urged the Senators to reject the proposed structure.

For a copy of this letter contact thepsychologytimes @drjulienelson.com.

"What Do You Think About 226?"

"Problems with bill as I see it: 1. Putting two entities who can't agree on fundamental issues together for them to decide upon regulatory issues to protect the public is, on its face, ludicrous; 2. Omni boards have not worked effectively anywhere they have been tried and have been roundly abandoned; 3. The public is already confused enough about which mental health professions do what and this will simply further complicate matters; 4. Particularly for specialty areas such as forensic or neuropsych, issues will be decided upon by six out of nine people who have no training or understanding of the unique issues faced by these psychologists."

-- Dr. Alicia Pellegrin

"Wow, what unintended consequences will come out of that bill! I suspect that lack of knowledge is the appalling answer to why such actions are taken. Let's hope sane minds prevail."

--Times reader (name withheld by request)

"SB 226 is a problem since then there would be 6 of 9 on a board regulating professional behaviors about which they have no clue. What knowledge would they have about a system for hiring and promotions? Test construction? Jury selection? Forensic consultation? PSYCHOLOGY IS MUCH, MUCH MORE THAN HEALTH CARE!" -

--- Dr. Tom Hannie

APA's BPA Gives Opinion...

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In spring 2010, the Interdivisional Healthcare Committee (IHC) published a report of concerns with 251 and asked three APA bodies to review the concerns and give opinions. These bodies were APA's Board of Professional Affairs, Committee for the Advancement of Professional Practice, and Board of Educational Affairs.

In the April 4 memo for BPA, Board Director Ms. Mary Hardiman said that the board had reviewed the documents submitted by IHC and they had had an "extensive discussion of the issues raised in this important item."

The memo noted, "1. The first issue was the use of the title 'Medical Psychologist' that has recently been restricted in Louisiana to psychologists with prescriptive authority. Prior to the Louisiana law, the title of Medical Psychologist was used to describe psychologists who use behavioral treatments for patients with physical problems. This term has been widely used by psychologists across the states. After consideration of this item, BPA concluded that it was in concurrence with the recent statement issued by CAPP. BPA does not support the restriction of the title of Medical Psychologist to those with prescriptive authority."

And, "2. The second issue was that Louisiana law now places prescribing psychologists under the Medical Board. BPA discussed the negative implications of this ruling on the identity of psychologists, and on the oversight and regulation of the professional practice of psychology. BPA concluded that APA through the Practice Directorate and through the Board of Directors and Council need to continue to address the implication of this ruling for psychology and take steps to avoid extension of this action into other state regulations."

In June 2010, Dr. Sanford Portnoy Chair of CAPP wrote to Dr. Glueckauf saying, "CAPP opposes the use of the term 'medical psychologist' exclusively by psychologists with prescriptive authority." CAPP had created a working group in response to the IHC concerns, which included concerns both for the public and the profession.

In November 2010, APA's Board of Educational Affairs Chair, Dr. Janet Matthews, responded to IHC's concerns, writing that "...the term 'medical psychologist' should not be used exclusively by psychologists with prescriptive authority," and that the "BEA also expressed strong concerns about the potential implications of oversight of a psychology

LPA Passes Motion...

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Psychological Association, the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, and the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

He explained to the *Times* that his motion included that "this conversation would be initiated to explore ways to address the dual licensure issues created by 251." His motion also included that "there would be a particular focus on finding a way for psychologists to regulate the psychological practice of all psychologists, while leaving physicians to regulate the prescriptive practice of medical psychologists," said Dr. Hannie.

In the discussion of the motion, members agreed to add the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychology to the four groups to be involved in the conversation, he said.

The motion passed overwhelmingly.

Dr. Hannie said to the *Times*, "There are no apparent reasons for any of these groups to oppose this idea. If that is the case, next year legislation for this could go through with little or no opposition. If there is opposition from any of these groups the reasons might be of interest to us all."

The Executive Council scheduled the town hall for the annual meeting after gathering opinions and feedback from members in a survey which indicated that up to 74 percent of respondents were concerned about Act 251.

licensing board by a nonpsychologist health profession board at the state licensing level."

The Academy of Medical Psychology and the American Board of Medical Psychology raised similar objections in July 2009 before Act 251 was passed.

The Interdivisional Healthcare Committee is independent of APA, but composed of representatives from seven APA divisions: Health Psychology, Rehabilitation Psychology, Clinical Neuropsychology, Society of Pediatric Psychology, Society of Clinical Psychology/Clinical Geropsychology, Counseling Psychology, and Family Psychology. The committee is well known for establishing the billing codes that allow psychologists to be reimbursed for their treatment of physical conditions.

Related stories can be found in *Times* Vol 1 No 3, 9,10,11 and Vol 2 No 4 at psychologytimes.com.



Dr. Janet Matthews (center) receiving LPA award as 2011 Distinguished Psychologist from President-Elect Dr. Phil Griffin and President Dr. Kelly Ray at the recent LPA Annual Meeting.

Dr. Janet Matthews...

American Board of Assessment Psychology.

She is a tenured Full Professor at Loyola University in New Orleans where she has served the university in numerous additional areas, including the Faculty Senate, the Arts & Sciences Awards Committee, the Psychology Department Curriculum Assessment Committee, the Advisory Board for University Honors Program, and been faculty advisor for the Psychology Club among her many contributions. She has received her university's award for Excellence in Advising.

Janet has published four books including *Introduction to Clinical Psychology* published by Oxford University Press and *Your Practicum in Psychology: A Guide for Maximizing Knowledge and Competence* published by APA. She is a contributing author for 13 book chapters including "Clinical psychology: Ethics of therapists," in *The Handbook of 21st Century Psychology*, published by Sage. She has published over 70 journal

articles, including her many contributions to *Journal of Personality Assessment*, *Journal of Medical Education*, *Teaching of Psychology*, *Professional Psychology*, and *American Psychologist*. And she has presented over 100 professional presentations.

She is a reviewer for *PsyCRITIQUES*, and *Teaching of Psychology* and a member of the editorial board for *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*. She is a textbook reviewer for APA Publications, Harper Collins, Macmillan, McGraw-Hill, John Wiley, Harcourt Brace and others. She has served as Consulting Editor for *Teaching of Psychology*. Janet has also served as an item writer for the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology, and worked on the Advisory Panel for the G. Stanley Hall Lecture Series at APA.

She has served a full five-year term on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of

Psychologists, and also has served as chair.

Janet is a member of the Louisiana Psychological Association, the Southeastern Psychological Association, the Association of Women in Psychology, the National Academy of Neuropsychology, and the International Neuropsychological Society. She is a member of Southwestern Psychological Association where she has served as President, President-elect, and as Secretary-Treasurer. She is a member of the International Council of Psychologists, and the National Academies of Practice – Psychology, and member of the former New Orleans Neuropsychological Society, and served as president & secretary.

She has a long-standing involvement and depth of service in the American Psychological Association. She has served on the APA Board of Directors.

Last year she served as Chair of APA's Board of Educational Affairs and currently as President of Division 31. She is a Fellow in APA Divisions 1, 2, 12, 29, 31, 35, 40, 42, and 52.

She has also served as President of Division 2 and Division 12 sections IV & IX, and Secretary-Treasurer of Division 2 and Secretary of Division 12. She has served as Chair of APA's Committee Undergraduate Education, Board of Professional Affairs, Policy & Planning Board and Membership Committee; on the Council of Representatives for both Division 2 & Division 12, Ethics Committee for Division 2, Committee on Adulthood & Aging Division 42, and Fellows Committee Division 12, among many other contributions to the national organization.

Dr. Janet Matthews is married to Dr. Lee Matthews, who currently serves on the psychology board, also a clinical and neuropsychologist. The couple has published together in areas of their interests including dual careers in psychology professionals.

Lane, Mind's Eye...

Along with cofounder and LSU Chair Dr. Robert Matthews, the team seeks to bridge the gap between laboratory findings and real world, and to make a difference where it really counts.

"Most researchers do either basic or applied research," Dr. Sean Lane explained to the *Times*. "We take a different approach. Our theoretically-driven work is conducted in both *in vivo* (naturalistic) and *in vitro* (laboratory) settings...." This focus on real-world situations helps OAC researchers better understand the mechanisms underlying thinking and remembering, while providing a means to improve human performance in these settings.

Part of Sean's insights for applied settings comes from his varied background. Before coming to LSU, and after starting a doctoral program in applied experimental as a professor at the U. of Nevada in Las Vegas, he worked in Silicon Valley. It was during the booming dot com era. "I primarily did research in human factors," he said. And, "...was the Director of a User Experience group that included User Interface Designers, Graphic Designers and Information Architects.



OAC team at the 2010 American Psychology-Law Society Conference in Vancouver, BC. L to R: Stephanie Groft, Leslie Ann Butler, Dr. Sean Lane, and Tanya Karam.

(Photo courtesy of Dr. Lane.)

We designed web sites and software."

But Sean missed directing his own research and so came to LSU in 2002.

At LSU his group has five major research areas. These are eyewitness memory, memory errors, education/learning/teacher expertise, experience-based (implicit) learning, and medical cognition. In these main areas the researchers push to uncover the often puzzling and counterintuitive findings regarding the quiriness of our minds. Although Sean works in all these areas, he has long-standing interests in the topics of eyewitness suggestibility, eyewitness identification, and beliefs about eyewitness memory.

Eyewitness Memory

In 1979 Elizabeth Loftus' research in eyewitness testimony and false memories exploded myths about the accuracy of peoples' testimony about events, opening the door to major advancements in cognitive science that was to last for decades.

The current finding is that 75 percent of those individuals who are later proved innocent by DNA evidence have been wrongly convicted on the basis of flawed eyewitness testimony (*The Innocence Project*). This supports Dr. Ronald Fisher's comment in the recent "Special Issue on Psychology and Law" (*Current Directions, APS*). Fisher, a friend of Sean's, wrote, "Is there

any institution that defines a culture more than its legal system? If not, then applying principles of psychology to understand and to enhance that system may be one of the noblest applications of our profession."

Eyewitness' memories are influenced by information that the witness is exposed to from other people, from media, from law enforcement, attorneys or counselors. This has been established, along with the role of imagery in creating false memories.

However, Sean noted, "...one issue that had not been addressed by previous research is whether it is the act of generating information

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that creates false memories or whether it is simply exposure to such details."

In one of their studies, the OAC researchers had people "witness" a mock crime, and later answered a series of questions about the event that included misleading information and details that had not been seen. Then researchers had participants do one of two things. Either they were required to generate details of what they had observed, or simply read details about the event. While "generation" increased the amount of accurate memory, it increased false memories as well. And also, generation increased the claim of having a vivid (but false) recollection.

The team also studies the basic memory functions that are involved in eyewitness identification from line-ups. "...we have attempted to understand how people make identification or lineup rejection ["not present"] decisions in terms of strategies that have been intensively studied in the basic memory literature," Sean noted. For example, basic memory research has shown that sometimes people can decide they did not see something by recalling a related item they did see. This is called recall to reject strategy. "Overall," he noted, "our results have shown that these strategies vary in effectiveness, and in some cases can be quite diagnostic of accuracy."

In real-world settings it is not what experts believe or know about eyewitness testimony that makes the final difference in accuracy, but the belief or behavior of the jurors.

"One key factor affecting jurors' decisions," noted Sean, "are the beliefs they hold about eyewitness memory..." He explained that although there have been survey studies on that topic, an important area that has not been studied thoroughly is how jurors actually behave when faced with a relevant legal situation, and how their beliefs impact their decisions regarding the testimony of an eyewitness.

"This is a reasonable question," Sean commented, "because psychological research has documented that people do not always act in accordance with their beliefs, do not always apply what they have learned in one situation to another, and can learn and perform tasks correctly with little explicit knowledge of the features they are relying upon, called implicit learning."

In one study at the OAC, researchers compared people's belief about the accuracy of eyewitness

testimony, to their actual judgments after viewing transcripts or vignettes. "Although participants were sensitive to a number of factors in their evaluation of eyewitnesses," Sean noted, "their performance on the transcripts did not correlate with the survey responses for most issues." Sean said that, "...the field needs to develop measures that assess this knowledge more effectively."

Sean explained to the *Times* that while he has consulted in some eyewitness cases, the Louisiana Supreme Court appears to have limited experts in this area. "In many ways," he said, "this is a seemingly odd outcome as many states are going in the opposite direction and routinely allowing such testimony in criminal courts. That said, I think the greatest benefit to our legal system would involve working with law enforcement. The National Institute of Justice has suggested a set of low-cost changes that, if adopted, would likely reduce false identifications," he explained. "If we can reduce such errors early in the system rather than at the time of trial, it would be much better."

Memory Errors

Sean's team uses Maria Johnson's "Source Monitoring Framework" to guide their work in learning how people discriminate between memories that are accurate and those that are false. According to the model, the mind works to weigh certain types of information in a memory trace, makes comparisons between what is expected and what is actually retrieved, and evaluates the consistency or plausibility of what is retrieved.

"A recent line of research was motivated by the repeated finding in the false memory literature that although false memories are often vividly remembered, they are usually less vivid and detailed on average than accurate memories. For us," he said, "this brought up the question of how people set the criteria for their source decisions and whether the accuracy of such decisions could be improved by selecting more diagnostic features."

Sean said that he is probably most proud of his research that examines how people's assumptions about a memory task influence their accuracy.

"Any time someone tries to remember something," he explained, "— a fact on a test, which person at work told you about funny joke, or what a perpetrator did when they took your money — they have assumptions, whether they realize it or not,

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about what types of information will be most important to remember, what kinds of memories they will have to discriminate between, etc."

"Our lab has helped provide evidence that such assumptions can be wrong and that we can help direct people so that their assumptions become more accurate. Most importantly, he said, this updating helps improve the accuracy of their memory decisions. For example, we have people "witness" a mock crime, and they subsequently answer questions that contain misleading information. Later, they take a memory test and have to distinguish between things they witnessed and things they only read about afterwards." This emerged from a study by Sean and researchers Cristine Roussel, Diana Villa and Shelby Morita.

"So here's the interesting part," Sean said. "We give them an initial test and afterwards give them feedback by telling them the actual source of each item.

When we give them a second test with brand new items, they reduce their errors by over 50%!

Furthermore, most of these participants do not think the feedback helped them do any better on the second test."

The group is currently conducting a number of studies to expand on these important findings, along with their ongoing work in dual-mind, medical errors, and other studies. "There is also some new and exciting research going in the lab on the topics of emotional arousal and memory, and the impact of lying on memory," said Sean.

What does Dr. Sean Lane enjoy most about his work? "First, and

foremost," he said, "working with my collaborators. Bob Mathews was instrumental in bringing me to LSU and I could not ask for a better collaborator. Our work together has ranged from implicit learning to ways of helping teachers obtain greater expertise, and we have been successful in obtaining several NSF grants for our work. In addition," he said, "I love working with my graduate students." Sean currently advises five graduate students: Tanya Karam, Stephanie Groft, Leslie Butler, Kathleen

Vieira, and Serena Fisher, and also works with Bob Mathews' students Jon Tall and Patrick Leget. "They are funny, smart and talented," he said, "and it would be impossible to do the range of research we do without their hard work."

The OAC, founded in 2004 by Drs. Robert Mathews and Sean Lane, is housed in the Department of Psychology, LSU Baton Rouge campus. Find more information at <http://www.lsu.edu/psychology/oac/> (and follow their blog at <http://lsuoac.blogspot.com/>)



Newly elected President-Elect Dr. Bryan Gros directs traffic at the registration table for the Louisiana Psychological Association, held in April in Baton Rouge.

LPA Elects New Officers, Voting Up By 40%

Members of the Louisiana Psychological Association elected Dr. Bryan Gros for President-Elect, Dr. Alicia Pellegrin as Secretary, Dr. Wesley Brockhoeft and Dr. Joe Tramontana as the two new Directors.

The election was conducted by mail ballot with final votes cast at the association's annual meeting on April 14. Participation in the election was up by over 40 percent from last year, according to numbers from the Executive Director, Ms. Gail Lowe.

The increased turnout is likely due to continuing focus on issues surrounding Act 251, according to several sources.

Student Focus

Shane Lowery
Graduate Assistant
Dr. Joe McGahan
ULM, Social Science
Research Lab

2010-2011 4th Judicial District
 Court Caseflow Assessment
 Project

In 2010, Shane Lowery, graduate student working through the Social Science Research Lab at University of Louisiana Monroe, began his work for the 4th Judicial District Court of Louisiana. Shane has worked to develop an assessment that would measure the current caseflow practices in the court system. He explained to the *Times*, "The local administrators were interested in knowing how long it was taking to process their cases from the time of arrest to the date of disposition, and how they matched up with national standards."

Shane collects data on "case time" and also gathers information on variables that could have an effect on overall caseflow time, including the number of pretrial resets, inactive or loss time due to failure of individuals to appear, and trial resets.

"As word of this project spread," Shane explained, "the Louisiana Supreme Court became interested and helped me in the development of the assessment, with the overall goal of developing a system that can be used in any district court across the state."

The project stemmed from a



Dr. Patrice Moulton (standing in front) and Chair of Northwestern State University's Psychology Department, Dr. Susan Thorson-Barnett (far right) talk to student presenters at the recent poster session at the LPA Annual Convention in Baton Rouge. The presenters were praised by program chair Dr. Phil Griffin for their quality posters. Poster submissions this year were the highest in recent years.

MacArthur Foundation Grant titled the Louisiana Models for Change Initiative, received by Dr. Jana Sutton of ULM's Marriage and Family Therapy Program. This effort aimed to increase evidence-based practices within the 4th Judicial District Court's Juvenile Justice System. Representing the Social Science Research Lab, Dr. Joe McGahan and Shane were contracted to manage data collection and analysis, putting them in contact with

Juvenile Court Judge Sharon Marchman, and leading to the caseflow project.

Shane is interested in Industrial-Organizational Psychology and said, "This project was of special interest to me. The thought of doing an efficiency analysis of our local court was intriguing and would give me a chance to really explore an area of I/O psychology that I found interesting."

"What Do You Think About 226?"

"This is unbelievable. ... What a stupid idea. The big change would be different composition in this proposed board, so less effective in overseeing either profession. Where is the help to the consumer in this??
 --*Times* Reader (name withheld by request)

"This would be extremely harmful to psychology as an independent profession, almost certainly wouldn't eliminate issues between psychology and the LPCs, and would probably generate a whole new set of regulatory problems for both groups. A couple of coworkers at my workplace are LPCs, and they also oppose this bill." --Dr. John Fanning

Dr. Robert Storer Named Early Career Psychologist by LPA

At the annual meeting on April 14th the Louisiana Psychological Association named Dr. Robert Storer the Early Career Psychologist for 2011.

Dr. Storer ("Bob") is a licensed Clinical Psychologist in both Louisiana and Mississippi and provides forensic evaluations through his private practice based in Baton Rouge, with a focus on competency to stand trial, mental state at the time of an alleged offense, ability to waive or assert constitutional rights, and death penalty mitigation.

He also holds the position of psychologist at Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System, Forensic Division, in Jackson, Louisiana, where he is the Chief Psychologist-Admissions and Special Security Area. At Eastern he provides psychological evaluations of detainees committed under court order for competence restoration including competence to stand trial, violence-risk assessments, malingering, intellectual, and personality assessments.

Prior to pursuing his PhD, he served as Head, Addiction Medicine Services, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, in Virginia, and as a substance abuse counselor at the Maryview Community Mental Health Center, also in Portsmouth.

He has been a member of the Association for Addiction Professionals, where he served as

"What Do You Think About 226?"

"Why don't we have a new Board composed of Dentists and Lawyers? We'll use the Dentists' sense of ethics for the Lawyers, who no doubt would appreciate the guidance about pulling teeth. If you think this analogy is not particularly apt, consider trying to use marriage and family ethics for psychological testing, and you will get some of the same idea. Regarding the childish tactic of putting us all in the same room to work things out, consider putting feral cats and dogs in the same room, and see how much harmony you will get."

– *Times* reader (name withheld by request)



Dr. Robert Storer (R) receiving award from Dr. Phil Griffin.

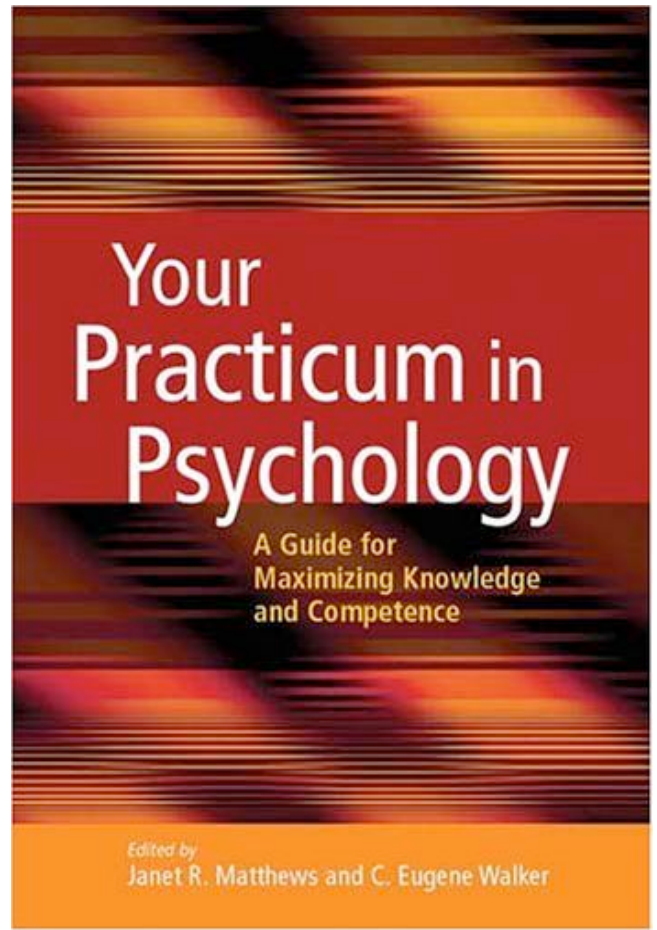
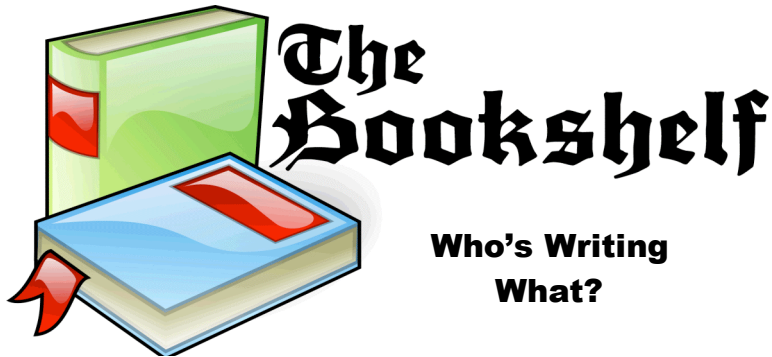
Mid-Atlantic Regional Vice President and Chair of the National Conference. He has served as President of the Virginia Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors, and also as Regional Delegate, Parliamentarian, Publisher of the regional newsletter and webmaster, and chair for Education and Training, among his other duties.

He also has served as a peer reviewer for the *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, the *Journal of Addition and Offender Counseling*, and for *Science and Practice Perspectives*.

He has conducted and published research and presented posters, including in his area of interest in outcome/efficacy research published in *Military Medicine*. And, he has presented at conferences in his area of study and expertise, forensic psychology and substance abuse.

Dr. Robert Storer completed his doctoral training in 2007 from Jackson State University, with masters and undergraduate from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, where he graduated magna cum laude.

Currently, Bob is a Director on the Executive Council of LPA and serves as a member of the Legislative Committee. He is the editor of the newly reestablished LPA Association Newsletter.



Your Practicum in Psychology ***A Guide for Maximizing Knowledge and Competence***

*Edited by Janet R. Matthews, PhD, ABPP
 and C. Eugene Walker, PhD*

2006 APA

In *Your Practicum in Psychology*, Loyola Professor and licensed clinical psychologist, Dr. Janet Matthews, along with Oklahoma colleague and coauthor Dr. C. Eugene Walker, provide practical guidance for students in their first mental health field setting. In a conversational, straightforward style, the authors address both theoretical and practical concerns encountered by the novice as he or she enters the applied setting for clinical psychology.

The authors decided to write *Your Practicum in Psychology* because they found that a wide range of experiences were being offered to psychology students and there was a need for a complete review of both basic information and larger issues impacting this “fundamental and formative educational experience.”

The authors explain in their introduction that students find themselves in all types of service positions in their mental health practicums, yet most instructors were still using a collection of assigned readings and journal reprints, making it difficult to fill gaps and cover information effectively. So, the authors note, “We therefore decided to look at our previous book and then develop one that would be an even better match for the variety of undergraduate courses in this area.”

In eleven chapters, the authors neatly and attractively lay out a complete set of ideas for the practicum student. The writing tone and approach demonstrates empathy and understanding of the students’ perspective that could only come from the authors’ years of supervision of young professionals. Likely situations encountered by students are explained in case examples, helping the student to anticipate, avoid, and resolve the issues.

The chapters are “...analogous to having a guest lecture for each topic,” note the authors. The tone of the work is consistent throughout. The text avoids overloading the neophyte with too much scientific background, but includes a wide array of essential topics in theory, methods, special populations, ethics, and legal.

The topics range from the simple to complex issues encountered by the novice as he or she begins to formulate and build their identity in a helping role. While some of the topics might seem basic, e.g., what to wear, the text is full of nuggets of information and wisdom masquerading as simple concerns. (I remember a practicum of my own where all of us *somehow* started wearing black, until someone asked, “Where’s the funeral?”) Topics unlikely to be covered elsewhere will be appreciated in this volume, facilitating the student’s transition from classroom to field setting. “Psychology departments train students to become psychologists,”

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write the authors. This supportive text can help smooth that beginning and allow the student to gain the broadest understanding of their developing role, identity, and the contributions they will eventually make in society.

The textbook benefits from the contributions of three other Louisiana psychologists: Dr. Theresa Wozencraft of the University of Louisiana, Lafayette, Dr. Bruce McCormick of Shreveport, and Dr. Lee Matthews, Janet's husband also from New Orleans.

In Chapter 1, "How to Maximize Your Training Experience," Dr. Wozencraft provides the reader practical information on "Discerning Your Training Needs," and "Major Types of Practice Sites." Theresa builds on her own research and supervisory experience with students to guide the reader along in sections on "Establishing Yourself in the Practicum," providing advice on "Taking on New Roles," where she describes the professional role and the practitioner role in terms young students can understand. She also covers work environments, work relationships, diversity, and the student-supervisor relationship.

Chapter 2, "Characteristics of a Helping Relationship," is a delightful little chapter about the nature of helping behavior, drawing on the basics of Carl Rogers and Robert Carkhuff. With concise and interesting examples the author quickly makes the distinction between helping communications and those that are less than useful, beautifully illustrating the core skill needed by students and expanding it in "Helping Applied to All Stages of Life."

Drs. Janet and Lee Matthews coauthor Chapter 3, "Getting Started and Developing Rapport." In this chapter they provide a frame of reference for entering the applied setting, explaining some of the issues that arise that students can find challenging and confusing. Basic information as in "What Should I Wear," to more complex problems of "How Do I Build Rapport," "Being a Participant-Observer," and "How to Foster Acceptance," balance the chapter with a knowledgeable view of field settings and the real-world problems that can arise for students.

Chapter 4, "Confidentiality and Other Ethical Issues," provides essentials for new students with descriptive vignettes such as "Deciding Not To Great A Former Patient," "Duty to Warn or Protect Third Parties," and sections on multiple roles, boundaries, informed consent, and competence.

Chapter 5, "History of Treatment

of People with Mental Illness," and Chapter 6, "A Review of Psychopathology," outlines the basic knowledge for students that may be needed in mental health settings.

Louisiana psychologist Dr. Lee Matthews again contributes by authoring Chapter 7, "Psychological Assessment." In this clear-cut review Lee describes the basics of tests and measurement theory, then looks at the importance, use, and differences between screening and full battery assessments. He provides a review of the most commonly used clinical psychology tests, then moves into a thorough section on psychological screening methods, including mental status exams, attention and concentration tests, intellectual and cognitive tests, achievement tests, mood and personality tests, visual spatial tests, language tests, memory tests, neuropsychological tests, and

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Dr. Lee Matthews taking photo of wife Janet as she is named 2011 Distinguished Psychologist by LPA. Dr. Matthews contributed to several chapters in *Your Practicum*. Other Louisiana contributors to the text were Dr. Theresa Wozencraft of the University of Louisiana, Lafayette, and Dr. Bruce McCormick of Shreveport.

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behavioral tests. He reviews full assessment batteries in the final section.

In a straightforward and well-documented overview authors of Chapter 8, "Interventions: Empirically Supported Treatments," provide the student with the major diagnostic categories encountered in most field settings and outline treatments that are empirically based and proven to be effective.

Louisiana medical psychologist, Dr. Bruce McCormick, authors Chapter 9, "The Use of Medicine in the Treatment of Mental Disorders." Bruce lays out the basics and background in the use of psychotropic medicines, noting that these are commonly included in mental health treatment plans. He includes sections on "How Do Medicines Work to Treat Mental Disorders?" and "How Do Medications Affect Nerve Transmissions?" In "What Medications Are Commonly Prescribed for Mental Disorders?" he describes the most common antidepressant, antianxiety, antipsychotic medications, mood stabilizers, and psychostimulants in clear and meaningful terms for the practicum student. A section on the issues regarding the choice of medicine, psychotherapy, or both, completes the chapter.

In Chapter 10, "Special Issues in Working with Children," highlights important issues for those students who will be placed in field settings with preschool and school-age youngsters and the complex issues sometimes encountered.

In the final chapter, "Mental Health Professions," Drs. Janet Matthews and Eugene Walker provide an interesting and positive look at the types and contributions of different mental health professionals. While *Your Practicum* is aimed for students who will eventually be

Attendance Up At LPA Convention

According to Executive Director of LPA, attendance at this year's Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Psychological Association was up from last year. She told the *Times* that attendance was about 8 percent higher than in 2010. And in 2010 the attendance had also been up about that same percentage from 2009, she said.

Ms. Lowe explained also that registration at this year's conference was highest on Thursday, the day for the annual meeting and the town hall discussion regarding Act 251. Attendance has been up since the passage of 251.

Ms. Lowe said that comments from convention attendees noted the strong quality of the presentations this year, that many workshops were full, and that the psychopharmacology presentation was completely filled.

At the same time, overall membership in the association is down slightly, Ms. Lowe said. She attributed this to normal cycles.

About the program chairman, President-Elect Dr. Phillip Griffin, Ms. Lowe said, "He did an awesome job of planning." She noted that she felt that one factor in the success of this year's convention was related to the broad range of topics and the quality of presentations.



Workshop on testing with Dr. Alexander Quiros was well attended.

trained as psychologists, the information about the training and professional activities of psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, counselors, psychiatric nurses, creative arts therapists, occupational therapists, and recreational

therapists is both interesting and important for those seeking a career in today's mental and behavioral health services.

Your Practicum in Psychology can be purchased from APA or online booksellers. (Note the correction card that comes with the text on MAOIs.)

Lafayette Psychologists Meet April 27

by Gail Gillespie, PhD

The first meeting of psychologists from the Lafayette area was held on April 27th at Imonelli Italian Restaurant in Lafayette. A similar group was started in Lafayette in the 80's but reportedly only lasted approximately six months for unknown reasons. Having such a group in which to network, share information, collaborate, and socialize has been a desire of mine for many years, and I finally decided to bring it into fruition. I sent out 70 letters of invitation, and for this first meeting, there were eight in attendance. There are quite a few others who are interested in being a part of this group, but were unable to make it to the first meeting.

Although I was somewhat disappointed at the small turn out, various members of the Baton Rouge Area Society of Psychologists (BRASP) assured me that this was a decent number, as their core group is typically only 10-12 members. BRASP has been running successfully since 1983 and meets monthly, for networking and presentations by various guest speakers.

I must make an embarrassing admission: In the invitation letter sent out for this first meeting, I erroneously set the date as Wednesday, May 27th; however, it was intended for Wednesday, April 27th. The letter requests an email be sent if there was interest in attending, so only those who emailed me prior to April 27th knew that the date was incorrectly written. Because of this error, another mail-out will be sent inviting Lafayette psychologists to this same meeting for Wednesday May 25th (as May 27th is a Friday), to be held again at Imonelli's restaurant.



(L to R) Drs. Hank LaGarde, Jimmie Cole, Gail Gillespie, John Morella (mostly hidden), Doug DeMahy, and Gina Beverly (turned away). Also attending were Drs. Jessica Brown and Kristin Duhe. The group is being organized for networking and information sharing in the community by Dr. Gillespie and is scheduled to meet again on May 25 at Imonelli's Restaurant in Lafayette. Interested persons are invited to contact Dr. Gillespie at gailgill@msn.com.
(Photo courtesy of Dr. Gillespie)

At the meeting was a mixture of more recently licensed psychologists, as well as some more seasoned or retired psychologists. In attendance were doctors Jimmie Cole, John Morella, Henry Lagarde, Doug DeMahy, Jessica Brown, Kristin Duhe, Gina Beverly, and myself. For this first meeting, we spent time introducing ourselves to one another, with some getting reacquainted with colleagues they had not seen in many years. There was a lot of diversity among the group in terms of career paths. Some shared history about how they were active in getting psychology out from under medicine and the recent activities surrounding Act 251, which placed medical psychologists back under the medical board. LPA legislative chair, Jessica Brown, Ph.D., spoke about the bill that was recently filed by Senator Willie Mount (SB 226) which proposes to dissolve the Louisiana State Board of

Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP) and the Louisiana Counseling Association board (LCA), and create one Omnibus Board. Discussion surrounded potential consequences and what legislative calls to action might be beneficial to psychologists. All mental health groups are strongly opposed to this bill and are planning to fight its passage. All in attendance expressed thanks for getting this group started, and are eager to participate in future meetings.

Input received from those psychologists in attendance indicated that the preference for these meetings will be for every other month. Input will also be received from those psychologists in attendance at the May 25th meeting as to their recommendation for meeting frequency. For now, the third meeting, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June

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23rd will focus on reviewing the bylaws of BRASP and determining the more functional aspects of the group (i.e., objective, membership, group name, officers, dues, tax status, etc.). The meetings from June forward are tentatively going to be scheduled for every 4th Thursday, unless there is opposition from the group. If you have an interest in attending, or have suggestions for our group, please email me at gailgill@msn.com.

Infertility Awareness Week April 24-30

Speaking about infertility for Infertility Awareness Week on Friday, Dr. Alice Dormar of Boston noted that seven million people, or one in eight couples, struggle with infertility. "We've seen stress levels equivalent to those of cancer and Aids," she said to Fox News.

She also noted that if people can lower their stress, "...learn some stress management skills and get support, they can double their pregnancy rates."

The Psychology Times

The *Psychology Times* is provided as a community service for those in the practice, teaching, and science of psychology in Louisiana and related individuals and groups.

The *Times* offers information, entertainment, and networking for the Louisiana psychological community.

None of the content is intended as advice for anyone.



Dr. Tony Young and Louisiana Tech University graduate student Meggie Rowland with her first place poster/research presentation at the recent state convention. Meggie's topic was "Sighted College Students' Attitudes Toward Blindness." Authors include Dr. Edward Bell, Dr. Mary Ann Goodwyn, and Dr. Alice Carter, all from LA Tech. Dr. Goodwyn was sponsor.

LPA Poster Session Reception Well Attended

This year's wine and cheese reception, highlighting the research contributions of students from several universities and agencies around the state was a success. According to Executive Director Gail Lowe, 17 research posters were submitted, up considerably from recent years.

The competition was strong among many interesting submissions, and showcased topics such as "Using Interactive Biofeedback Therapy to Address Social Skills Deficits in Children," submitted by Taighlor Whittington, B.A., of the Neuropsychology Center of Louisiana and sponsored by Dr. Darlyne Nemeth.

Another presentation from Northwestern State University student Teri Tanner, B.A., was

"Getting to Know You- Exploration of Beginning Theoretical Approach," sponsored by Dr. Susan Thorson-Barnett.

In the coming months the *Times* will report on more of these researchers and their work.

"What Do You Think About 226?"

"While the bill may have good intentions, I view the most significant problem is that it will allow the practice of psychology to be regulated, at least in part, by representatives from another profession. Our board would be merged with another profession that operates under a different training paradigm, under different ethical principles, and under practice statutes that markedly differ from our own. I don't see any strengths and I don't like it."

--- Dr. Bryan Gros