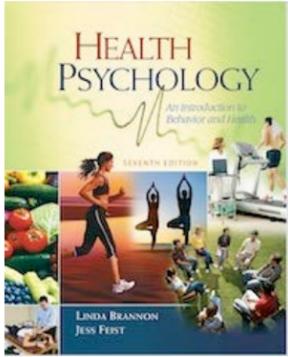


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LPA, LSPA, Pennington

### *Harder Decisions Up the Road*

## BA Group Makes First Key Decision – To Be Regulated

The “Behavior Analysts Licensure and Regulation Study Commission” met Friday, September 21, and decided that behavior analysts are to be licensed in Louisiana.

This is the first major decision coming from the group. It was one of the issues contested in the spring legislative battle that prompted Senator J. P. Morrell to propose the resolution establishing the Commission, a 17-member task force charged with developing “baseline framework for licensure and regulation of behavior analysts.”

The issue of whether or not state regulation was needed for behavior analysts was discussed in testimony from both sides this past spring. The topic was one of several issues emerging during a series of bills authored by Senator Dan Claitor on behalf of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP). The bills would have placed behavior analysts under the psychology board, but the effort came to an end on May 1, when the Senate sent the measure back to committee.

Last week, Commission Chair Ashley Munn explained to the *Times*, “As a group we came to an agreement that BCBAs [Board Certified Behavior Analysts] in Louisiana were going to be licensed.” BCBAs are certified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, a national group.

Munn explained that the group will next be addressing specifics about standards and credentials, but that they would delay discussion about which board the group might finally reside under in the state.

Cont pg 3

## LA Colleges Do Well In Rankings

*US News and World Report* released their university and college rankings in September and a number of Louisiana universities and colleges found their way into the top rankings in their respective categories.

*US News* ranks schools based on a group of variables including

Cont pg 4



## LSBEP Proposed Cont' Ed Changes Draw Comments

The psychology board's proposed rule changes for continuing education drew a number of comments from various psychologists last month. Also the Louisiana Psychological Association submitted a summary statement with concerns.

The board had proposed two main changes. The first was an increase in continuing education hours from the present biannual requirement of 30 hours, to 40 hours. The proposed rules would also expand the types of activities that could be submitted for credit but also place limits both on traditional courses allowed, and on the amount of credit a psychologist can apply to each of the categories.

Cont pg 3

## Dr. Hutto Takes On New Department at U. of LA Monroe

Dr. Cecil Hutto has been appointed Chair for the newly created Department of Behavioral Sciences at the University of Louisiana - Monroe (ULM).

Dr. Hutto takes over from Dr. David Williamson, previous Chair of ULM Psychology for 15 years, who retired this May.

The new department has been expanded to include psychology, marriage and family, and counseling, Hutto explained to the *Times*.

The enlarged and re-organized department will



(Courtesy photo)

Dr. Cecil Hutto

help consolidate and streamline the services that fall under ULM's College of Education and Human Development, he said.

There will not be a specific department called psychology anymore, he explained. Now, the

Cont pg 4



Dr. Warren Lowe (L) and Dr. Jim Quillin at MPAC meeting.

## THE POWER LIST 2012

Who's got power in the Louisiana psychology community?

Using an idea from the *Independent News* (Pensacola) the *Times* conducted a rough focus group to discover who is typically perceived as having power in our community. Thirty people who seemed likely to have an informed view of the topic were asked to provide ten names, a list of the most powerful individuals.

The people were asked to give their honest impression, from whatever perspective, about the “movers and the shakers,” in the community, whether liked or disliked.

Cont pg 6

# Editorial Page

## Moneyball

My husband and I stumbled across the 2011 movie *Moneyball*, a film about the Oakland Athletics and their general manager, Billy Beane.

Based on M. Lewis' book, *Moneyball* is a true story about Beane's efforts to get a leg up in the baseball market with his underdog budget of \$14 million and heavyweight competitors like the New York Yankees, with their \$125 million for attracting talent.

The backstory is that Beane himself had been predicted to be a shooting star in baseball but his athletic career never got off the ground.

The movie begins with Beane, disgusted with losses and hamstrung by his budget, hiring a Yale statistics geek. The two go on to put together an innovative selection program that includes evidence-based statistics and Beane's talent for negotiation. They ferret out and hire these "undervalued" players and go on to build a winning team at bargain basement prices.

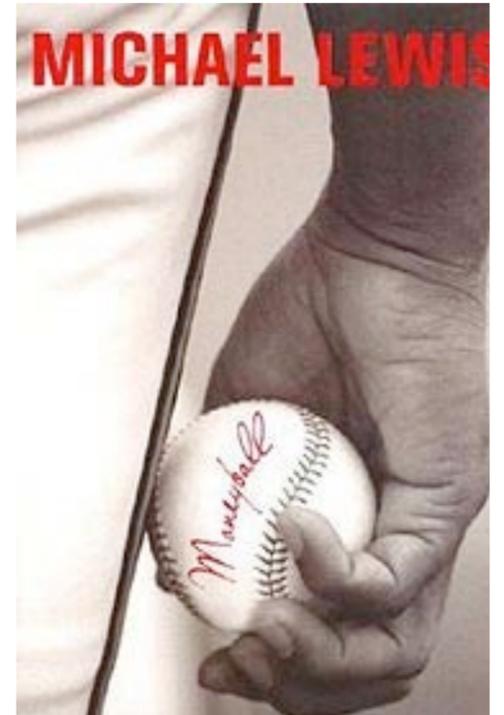
This innovation in predictive statistics caused a paradigm shift in the baseball industry.

Psychologists will recognize the group dynamics in the film. In one scene, a bunch of grizzled, tobacco-chewing, baseball gurus sit around a table and criticize the new approach. They have based their careers on metrics like batting averages and runs batted in. They see little value in the new metrics.

The gurus were in the unavoidable traps of social judgment: ignoring base-rates, being misled by compelling details, regression to the mean, groupthink, selective attention, and so on.

When problems are complex, when the issue in front of our nose clashes with our preexisting beliefs, when time separates our dots, when we are tired, and so on, we are prone to flawed judgment. Nobel Prize winning psychologist Daniel Kahneman would probably tell us that our baseball gurus were influenced by "WYSIATI" – What You See Is All There Is.

I called DDS director Ms. Spurgeon several times to discuss her reason for sending a cautionary memo out to psychologists about Dr. Michael Chafetz' work on malingering in Social Security exams (also predictive statistics). I never received a reply, not even a courtesy return call. I contacted the government public relations fellow (a very cordial gentleman) who said I'd receive an answer, he even checked back to see if I had. I never did. I submitted a request for documents. That has not worked either.



Lewis' book about predictive statistics in baseball.

The SSA and the local DDS should open itself up to new scientific information, and let the chips fall where they fall. It is not their job to censure scientific findings. There are only a few scientists doing this important work, and Chafetz is one of them.

The most common human judgment error is overconfidence. Even when we are 98 percent sure that we are correct, we are only right 68 percent of the time.

Evolutionary biologist Robert Trivers, relates overconfidence to self-deception and writes, "It is systematic deformation of the truth at each stage of the psychological process. This is why psychology is both the study of information acquisition and analysis and also the study of its continual degradation and destruction."

Are we in an age of overconfidence? Stanley Silverman, an IO psychologist, might say so. "Arrogance has run amok lately," he writes in, "Arrogance: A Formula for Leadership Failure." He points to a comment in *Time Magazine* that we are in an "age of arrogance."

Silverman tells us that arrogance in leaders has a cost in decision-making. Arrogance promotes a "weak learning orientation" and leads people to "disregard potentially helpful feedback."

There is always a chance that power will lead to overconfidence, arrogance, and bad decisions. In his 1887 letter to the Church of England historian Mandell Creighton, and in a statement as elegant as it was profound, Lord Acton warned that powerful people should not be let off the hook.

*"I cannot accept your canon that we are to judge Pope and King unlike other men, with a favourable presumption that they did no wrong. If there is any presumption it is the other way, against the holders of power, increasing as the power increases. [...]"*

*"Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men, even when they exercise influence and not authority, still more when you superadd the tendency or the certainty of corruption by authority. There is no worse heresy than that the office sanctifies the holder of it. [...]"*

*"The inflexible integrity of the moral code is, to me, the secret of the authority, the dignity, the utility of History. If we may debase the currency for the sake of genius, or success, or rank, or reputation, we may debase it for the sake of a man's influence, of his religion, of his party, of the good cause which prospers by his credit and suffers by his disgrace."*

*"Then history ceases to be a science, an arbiter of controversy, a guide of the wanderer, the upholder of that moral standard which the powers of earth and religion itself tend constantly to depress. It serves where it ought to reign; and it serves the worst cause better than the purest."*

It is not 1887 anymore, but we still need those in power to be careful. Power still corrupts.

### The Psychology Times

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Publisher: Julie Nelson, PhD  
*Member, Louisiana Press Association*

Journalism Consultant:  
Robert Holeman,  
*Editor (Ret.), The Coushatta Citizen,  
Winn Parish Enterprise.*

Columnists/Reporters:  
Suzanne Booth, MA, Intern  
Shane Lowery, MS, Intern  
Natasha Jordan, Correspondent  
Cartoonist: Jake Nelson-Dooley

We welcome ideas for news, features, Letters to the Editor, photos, and other material related to psychological community of Louisiana.

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## BA Commission, Cont'd

She said that the next steps would help to "... decide *how* we are going to do that, instead of *who*."

The "who" could be a major hurdle for the group. According to various testimony in the spring legislative battle, the psychology board and some of those in the behavioral analyst (BA) community disagree about whether the BAs should fall under psychology, establish their own board, or fall somewhere else in the state structure, such as under medicine or counseling.

Munn told the *Times* that the Commission members have discussed the standards that will be used in the future regulation, and this has included items about current national standards. "Many of these mirror those of the national group," Munn said, "and many of the behavior analysts are nationally certified."

"The next meeting we have to tackle the 'assistant to the behavioral analyst' issue," she said. "This could be a challenge."

The national group, the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, certifies both a Behavior Analyst and an Assistant Behavior Analyst. However, the state psychology board does not certify any assistants.

The Commission has been slow to make concrete progress, Munn indicated, because of the diversity of the members, saying that commission members represent a group with many different views and opinions. The team includes 17 members representing state government, treatment agencies, education, practitioners in behavior analysis and psychology, and consumers.

Munn told the *Times* that the group has met three times, with the first meeting being an administrative meeting and the second meeting was for the various members to express their views and concerns. Munn explained that while not much of a tangible nature had been accomplished, she discovered that many of the members wanted and needed time to state "their side of the issue." She said that while time-consuming, this had turned out to be very important.

Minutes are not yet available, Munn explained, because the group decided that everyone needed to a correct and approve them before they were published, and this process has been slow so far.

Munn said she is optimistic about the final outcomes from the commission. "There has been a lot of contentious debate, but we feel confident that we will be able to present a position to the legislature," she noted.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 5th at 10:00am.



Above: The Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists in 2011, chaired by Dr. Tony Young (head of table). The board has been looking at rule changes for continuing education for almost two years. Dr. Young took an active interest in the changes which were recently published and public feedback submitted.

## LSBEP Proposed CE Changes Draw Comments, cont'd

These additional types of education would include practice monitoring, journal clubs, and work on committees, as examples. The changes tracked those proposed by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB).

The *Times* talked with a number of psychologists about their suggestions. Most noted that they were comfortable with the change from 30 to 40 hours.

Other changes however drew comments, and also opened up discussion about some of the issues with continuing education that psychologists have experienced in past years.

Dr. Courtland Chaney, an IO psychologist, noted to the *Times* that he took this opportunity to provide feedback to the board. In the past, the board has seldom matched the continuing education requirements of professional Industrial-Organization psychologists.

Chaney wrote the board. "I have experienced considerable frustration with the CE requirements as an I-O psychologist because some of the most valuable CE information to my professional practice fails to meet CE requirements based on who 'sponsors' or conducts the CE program. In the past I have been denied use of CE credit

for legal education important to me as an I-O person, but have been given credit for attending a program on smoking cessation, which has no relevance to my professional activities."

There are only eight IOs licensed in the Louisiana. And, there have been no IO psychologists to serve on the board in the last decades.

President of the Louisiana Psychological Association, Dr. Bryan Gros, told the *Times* "LPA had submitted feedback to the board that we were not opposed to an increase in the numbers of CE hours required for licensees."

"The EC, in its position statement," he noted, "did also inform them that we [LPA] were opposed to limiting the proportion of traditional CE activities that can be used to meet that requirement. "We looked at that as forcing licensees to participate in non-traditional activities with were not only complicated, but did not appear verifiable and had little quality control."

"But we also said we were entirely supportive of recognizing alternative CE activities when they show that they help maintain competence, and would want this to be an option, rather

than limiting traditional education."

A number of other psychologists pointed to a lack of clarity in some of the written language in the rules, as an example, how those with the Emeritus status would be handled or if short training would be approved.

Some psychologists noted that the new rules were too extensive and unnecessary, while others suggested that the new categories might result in lowered standards. Another pointed out that the timing could void already completed courses in 2012, if the new rules take effect retroactively. Some liked the changes.

Asked about the feedback, Ms. Kelly Parker, Executive Director, told the *Times*. "All comments submitted to my attention and received by 12:00 p.m. September 10, 2012, will be considered by the Board at the next meeting."

### Corrections & Clarifications

No corrections or clarifications were submitted for the September issue of the *Times*.

## State & National News

### Dr. Hutto, ULM, Cont'd

psychology programs and courses will come under the new, expanded department with the new title of Behavioral Sciences. The national economic slow-down and need for streamlining was the main driving force behind the reorganization, he indicated.

"The faculty is great," he told the *Times*. But broader scope and the expanded departmental themes come with greater diversity of topics and backgrounds for the members of the new organization. This is not without some changes and challenges, he explained.

"My immediate goal is to join the departments together," Hutto told the *Times*, "and to build collaboration and the associations" between the various faculty members.

"That's what I stepped into," he said. It has proven both challenging and satisfying for him as he gets to know his colleagues better and the demands of a much larger department.

Dr. Cecil Hutto received his PhD in experimental psychology from the U. of Mississippi in 1993 and is Assistant Professor for both undergraduate and graduate programs. He has served in the Faculty Senate at the university for almost 10 years, on the University Publication Board, the University Animal Use and Care Committee, and the University Strategic Planning Committee, among his many duties at ULM.

Dr. David Williamson was the head of the Psychology Department from 1997 to this year.

### Court Upholds \$257 Million Verdict For State Medicaid Case

In a news release September 4, the Louisiana Attorney General's office reported that the Circuit Court of Appeal had upheld the \$257.7 million jury verdict that the state Attorney General, Buddy Caldwell, had brought against Janssen Pharmaceutical and Johnson & Johnson.

Caldwell sued Johnson & Johnson for misrepresentation in regard to the drug Risperdal's link to diabetes. This misrepresentation of facts then made it possible for the drug company to obtain funds from Louisiana's Medicaid program, according to the news release.

"The appeals court ruling serves as a powerful reminder that a drug company's misleading safety claims will not be tolerated in Louisiana," said Attorney General Caldwell in the announcement.

reputation among peers and colleagues, student selectivity, faculty resources such as compensation and class size, graduation and retention rates and financial resources. The scores are weighted to give a final ranking measure, notes the *US News* website.

*US News* analyzed more than 1,200 graduate schools. In their rankings for graduate schools in psychology, LSU Baton Rouge ranked #103. Tulane ranked #117. University of New Orleans ranked #178. And Louisiana Tech ranked #217.

For undergraduate education, *US News* places universities and colleges into several categories.

In the National Universities category, Tulane ranked #51 and also #12 in a category called "Up and Coming."

### New Take-Home Jurisprudence Exam Approved

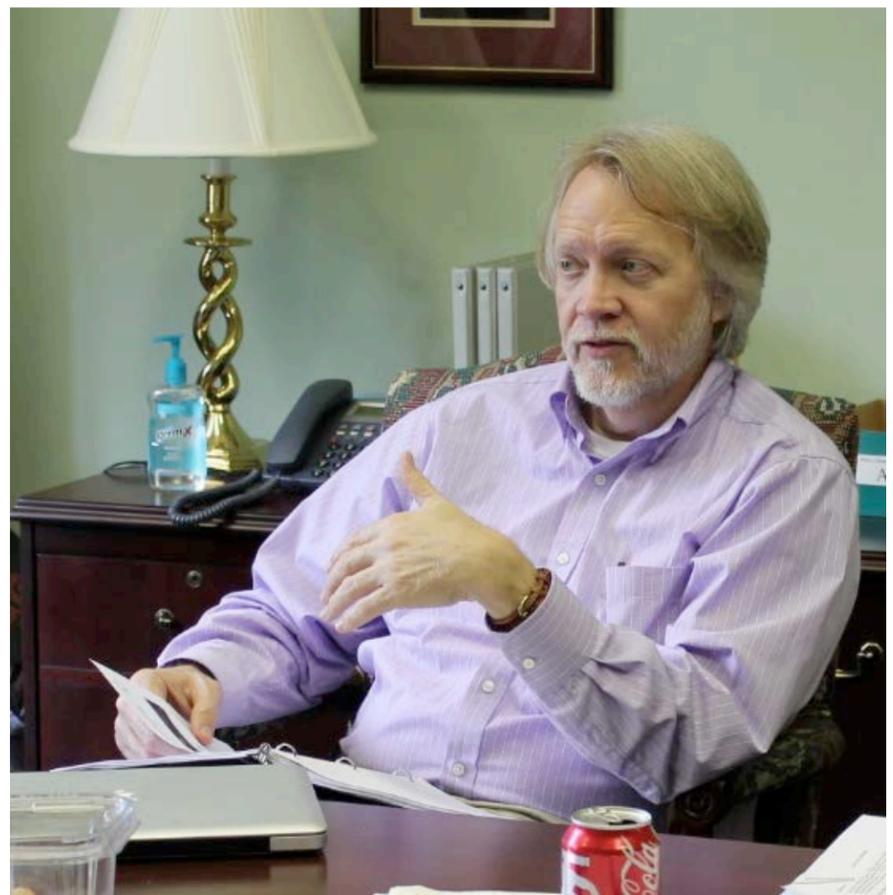
The psychology board has replaced the older jurisprudence exam method, with a new, take-home version, according to the August, 2012 minutes. The rationale behind this move is that psychologists do not memorize laws, but rather reference them, Dr. John Courtney explained to the *Times* at a recent board meeting. As reported in the August minutes, the new exam was approved and can begin to be used with candidates.

## Psych Bd Asks AG To Expedite ABA Opinion

The psychology board has requested that the state Attorney General expedite an Opinion regarding the practice of applied behavioral analysis.

In the August, 2012 LSBEP minutes, Vice-Chair and Legislative Coordinator, Dr. John Courtney reported that the request regarding the practice of behavioral analysis is being expedited.

Based on an online search of Attorney General's Opinions, through the end of September, the Opinion has not been issued or released to the public at this time.



Dr. John Courtney, LSBEP Legislative Coordinator, at recent LSBEP meeting.

## LA Colleges Do Well in US News Rankings, Cont'd

LSU Baton Rouge ranked #134 and also #67 in Top Public Schools.

Louisiana Tech was ranked #199 and #115 in Top Public Schools.

For the category of Regional Universities South, Loyola ranked #9. McNeese ranked #88 in this category. University of Louisiana Monroe ranked #91 and Nicholls was ranked #95.

In National Liberal Arts Colleges, Centenary College of Louisiana, Shreveport was ranked #170 and Xavier University of Louisiana ranked #178.

Louisiana College, in Pineville ranked #53 in Regional Colleges.

The *Times* asked Dr. Janet Matthews, Loyola Professor, about the rankings. She said, "I know that Loyola University New Orleans has traditionally been viewed positively by the US News rating system

when compared to other regional universities."

"I think one of our greatest strengths," she explained, "is that faculty are encouraged to serve as true 'advisors' to our students. This is especially true for our incoming freshmen who may be a bit 'lost' as they start college."

Matthews explained how faculty members meet with students many times, help the student choose courses, and how students are assigned a permanent faculty advisor, as well as other activities. "Hopefully this gives them a connection to the university," she explained.

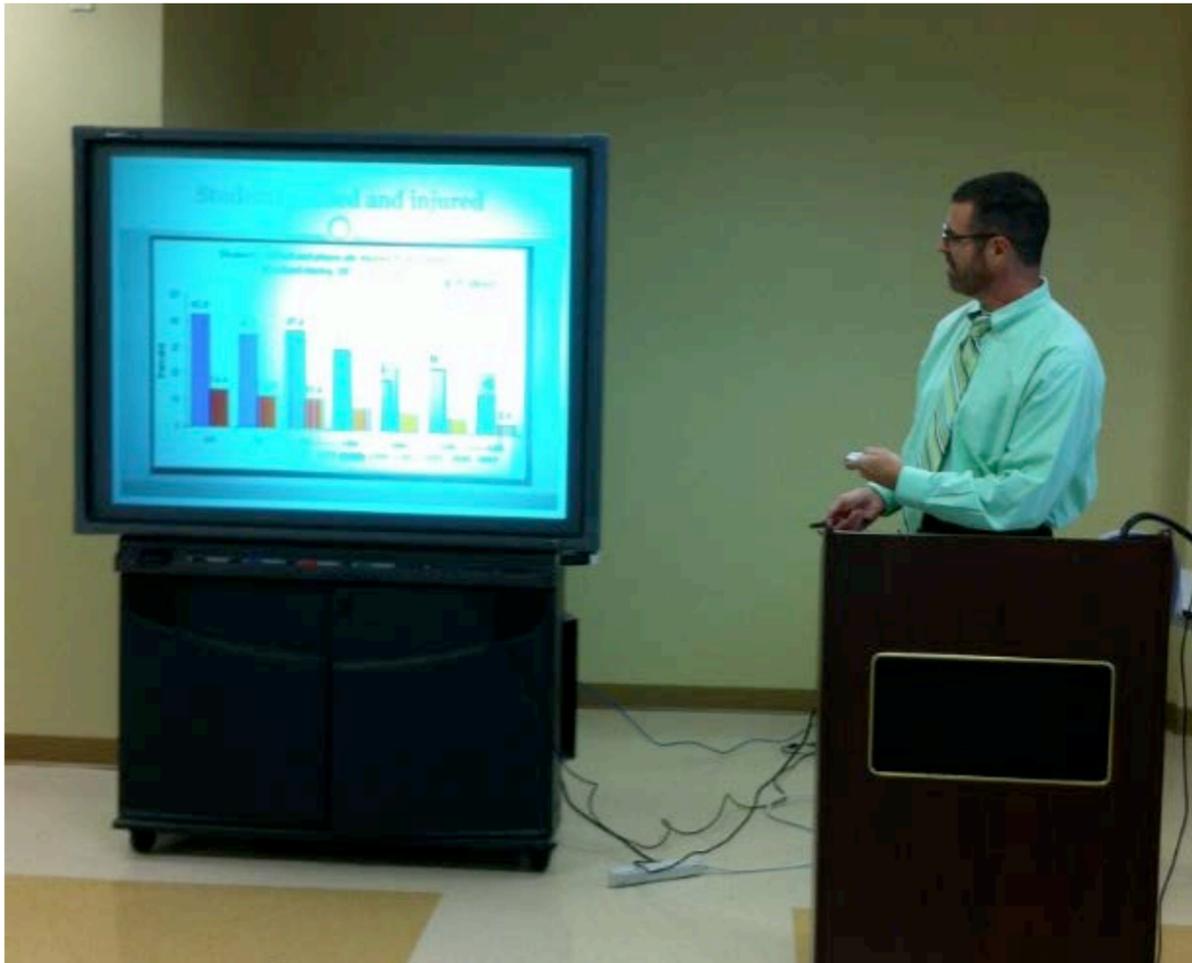
For more information about *US News* ranking, go to: <http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges>

## 641 Psychologists Renew for Psychology Licenses 2012-2013

Executive Director, Kelly Parker, of the psychology board reported that 641 psychologists had renewed their licenses for the 2012-2013 period, according to the August minutes.

The total number of lapsed licensees was 29. Four of those lapsed licenses were by medical psychologists and the reasons for the other 25 were unknown, noted Parker's report in the minutes.

Ms. Parker also reported that 547 renewals were conducted through the online renewal system and 94 were handled through the traditional paper renewal methods.



Dr. Bryan Gros recently presented training on anti-bullying. Act 861 added to the regulations in the state to define programs for anti-bully efforts in Louisiana.

## Dr. Gros Presents Anti-Bullying Information For Capital Area Professionals

Bryan Gros, PhD, presented the topic "Stop the Bullying Now," for the Capital Area Human Services District, on September 25, in Baton Rouge.

In the workshop, Gros covered bullying and its effects on youngsters and adolescents, and examined methods for dealing with this common problem. He explained forms of bullying including types in the new "cyber age."

Dr. Gros' presentation was part of the Fall Staff Development and Community Training Series.

In spring 2012, the Legislature passed Act 861 defining a program to reduce bullying in public elementary and secondary schools. The legislation required anti-bullying training addressing key issues, such as how to identify bullying and what are the appropriate interventions and remediation.

Dr. Gros is Director, Department of Psychology, Capital Area Human Services District for the Children's Behavioral Health Services. He is also the current president for the Louisiana Psychological Association.

## APA Says New Billing Codes For Psychotherapy To Start Jan 2013

The Government Relations Staff of the American Psychological Association sent a notice to members on September 13, 2012 alerting practitioners that CPT code numbers for psychotherapy would be changing for January 1, 2013.

The notice pointed out that this change is a result of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Five-Year Review of psychotherapy codes. The review was conducted by the American Medical Association.

APA had represented psychologists in this activity for a number of years, said the memo.

Also, the authors noted that the 2013 Medicare reimbursement rates would be released in November.

The memo explained that the actual changes would be small; such as the most commonly use code (90806) will change to 90834. But the fundamental services underlying the codes will remain the same. Instead of ranges of time, such as 20 to 30 minutes, the times will be fixed and not a range.

The memo said that the code numbers for psychoanalysis, family psychotherapy, multi-family group psychotherapy, and group psychotherapy would not change.

The authors said that they would provide members with more information and resources over the next months.

### *Medscape Reports Warns About Pharma's Influences*

In a Medscape report on September 14, 2012, reporter Larry Hand writes that an article published in the September *Annals of Family Medicine*, concludes that "individuals with financial conflicts should be excluded from involvement with medical practice guideline writing, regardless of disclosure, and physicians should be discouraged from meeting with drug company representatives."

The conclusion was based a study by Linda Hunt, PhD, from the Department of Anthropology, Michigan State. Hunt found the practices of prescribers, pharmaceutical marketing, and clinical consultations were "heavily focused" on prescriptions with little or no discussion of other treatments.

## APS Study Looks at Political Views In Psychologists

*APS Press Release source*

In a September press release, The Association for Psychological Science reviewed results from a study by researchers Inbar and Lammers who surveyed nearly 800 members of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. Their findings confirm the field's liberal bias, with only 6 percent of the respondents describing themselves as conservative "overall."

Also it seems that conservative social psychologists hide their views because they perceive the field as hostile to their values. The more conservative respondents were, the more likely they were to report that they had experienced an intellectually unfriendly climate. Importantly, self-defined liberals did not seem to have the same

perceptions of hostility. Liberal respondents were more likely to say that they would discriminate against psychologists who displayed clear conservative views in the context of a paper or grant review, a symposium invitation, and in faculty hiring.

The September issue of *Perspectives on Psychological Science* includes five commentaries from scholars in the field who explore and discuss these new findings. While some of the commentators question the rigorosity of the methodology used by Inbar and Lammers, they all agree that ideological bias among social psychologists has serious implications for psychology as a scientific discipline.

*American Board of Medical Psychology*



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# THE POWER LIST 2012, cont'd

Half of them responded. Despite sampling problems and silo effects, the picture that emerged was fairly consistent, with the same names showing up again and again.

Our Power List for 2012 includes those names listed multiple times by respondents, grouped in the following intuitive categories and very roughly ranked. Included is some limited narrative, and just a few of the comments by respondents.

## Political

### • Jim Quillin, LAMP

Dr. Jim Quillin is a medical psychologist (MP) and guiding force behind the RxP movement in Louisiana. His name appeared on the majority of the lists and more than any other person. Only a few academics missed noticing his decade long presence in the halls of Louisiana politics.

He is a leader in the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychology (LAMP) and serves on the Medical Psychology Advisory Committee (MPAC) under the state medical board. All of the MPs who participated in the focus group, and many of the other respondents, placed him first on their list.

Comments: "Managed to devise a 'new hybrid' profession amid significant controversy."

"James Quillin, who has great influence with MPs and access to significant resources for lobbying legislators and public officials. But Quillin may no longer consider himself to be a psychologist, since his record suggests that he has long been more identified with the medical community than with the interests of psychologists broadly."

"... the political mastermind behind moving medical psychology into medicine, for convincing APA to provide money for RxP, and then deftly gaining political control over the community by not telling anyone in Psychology who would oppose the move."

Dr. Quillin practices in Alexandria, Louisiana.

## • LPA Leaders

### Bryan Gros, LPA President

The current president of the Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA), Dr. Bryan Gros was listed multiple times by respondents. Gros has said he is going to be open and transparent, and "welcoming" to all. He seems to be walking the walk.

Comments: "He seems to really try to be fair, to do the right thing, and to quiet the situation he was left with."

[One of the] "Psychologists who are now trying to make a difference – the true heroes. Relatively few colleagues who have the courage to rebuild the profession within the context of the current division and apathy. It is difficult to make a silk's purse out of a sow's ear."

"... has many good ideas and commitment to ethics."

Gros is Director, Department of Psychology, Capital Area Human Services District for the Children's Behavioral Health Services.

### Phillip Griffin, Past-President of LPA

Dr. Phil Griffin was one of the names that was mentioned by both those practice and academic circles. Griffin has served twice as LPA president, getting pulled in when he did not expect to win in 2009. He has endeavored to sooth both sides' feelings within LPA. He is the Mollie Wallick Professor at the Department of Psychiatry, LSUHSC, in New Orleans.

Comment: "Quiet, dignified, conscientious, whip smart, and always persistent, he always has done what is right for our profession. Let's hope he does not retire soon."

### Wes Brockhoeft and Alicia Pellegrin - LPA officers

While Dr. Wes Brockhoeft tends to keep a low-profile, he was listed by many and noted for his past business success and general effectiveness. He lives out of state.

Comment: "... thoroughly understands how the health insurance industry interacts with mental health stakeholders, became a player in the industry."

Dr. Alicia Pellegrin was listed multiple times also. She is a member of the current executive committee as both Secretary and Legislative Chair. She practices in Baton Rouge.

Comment: "... The success or failure of LPA as an advocacy organization rests largely in the hands of these individuals."

## • The Psychologists in State Government

Respondents tended to identify Drs. Speier, Comaty, and Lemoine together, mentioned numerous times by practitioners.

### Tony Speier, Assistant Secretary, Office of Behavioral Health, DHH

Dr. Antony Speier reports to Kathy Kliebert, the Deputy Secretary, who reports to Bruce Greenstein, the Secretary of state Department of Health and Hospitals. Speier appears to work closely with many initiatives in the state services.

### Joe Comaty, Office of Mental Health, DHH; Previous Chair LSBEP

Dr. Joseph Comaty has been listed as Chief Psychologist & Medical Psychologist, and Director-Division of Policy, Standards, & Quality Assurance, for the Office of Mental Health. He has served on the LSBEP. He is a member of LAMP.

Comment: "Given his position in DHH, he serves as an advisor to many regarding psychological practice."

### Randy Lemoine, Office of Behavioral Health, DHH

Dr. Randal Lemoine has been involved with DHH, and in the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH), as psychologist and in business intelligence. He recently retired after 35

Cont'd next pg



Dr. Phillip Griffin reads over notes during the last LPA Convention.

# THE POWER LIST 2012

cont'd

years with DHH. He is also in private practice in Baton Rouge and is a member of LPA.

## Tiffany Simpson, Children's Cabinet, Office of the Governor

A UNO graduate, Dr. Tiffany Simpson is the Executive Director for the Children's Cabinet under the Governor's Office. The Cabinet has the goal of coordinating children's policy across departments in the state government, including recommendations for the Children's Budget. Dr. Simpson was mentioned several times.

### • The Chairs

## Paul Frick, Chair of Psychology, UNO

Dr. Paul Frick was listed numerous times by those inside academic circles but also by practitioners. He is Chair at University of New Orleans, one of the few University Distinguished Professors, and has an international reputation in the area of adolescent behavior. He worked on the DSM-V for ADHD and Disruptive Behavior Disorders.

Comment: "He is the area's hidden gem, ... His PhD students are literally all over the world ..."

## Robert Mathews, Chair of Psychology, LSU Baton Rouge

Dr. Bob Mathews was listed multiple times. He is Chair of the psychology department at LSU Baton Rouge and Co-Director of the Office of Applied Cognition. He is in charge of a large department at LSU with connections to a variety of state programs. He was listed more often by academics but also by practitioners.

Comment: "Has led the department through difficult periods ..."

## Stacy Overstreet, Chair of Psychology, Tulane

Dr. Stacy Overstreet is the new Chair at Tulane and involved in the school psychology community. She has served as Director for the APA-accredited School Psychology Doctoral Program for Tulane. She was one of the academics listed by those outside her silo. She took over the duties of the Chair only in July.



U. of New Orleans Chair of Psychology, Dr. Paul Frick (L) and DHH psychologist Dr. Randy Lemoine at last years LPA Fall Conference. Both were listed often.

### • The State Psychology Board

## Lee Matthews, Chair of LSBEP

Dr. Lee Matthews was listed multiple times as the current Chair of the state board. He practices clinical and neuropsychology in the New Orleans area and is married to Janet Matthews. He jokes, "I'm the other Dr. Matthews." He filled one of the vacancies on the LSBEP when medical psychologists resigned. He is a member of LPA.

Comment: A "Veteran ... with excellent ethics and exposure at APA."

## John Courtney, Vice Chair- LSBEP

Dr. John Courtney serves on the board and will take over chair next year. He is Director of Psychology at Children's Hospital in New Orleans. In the past he has been involved in key meetings for LAMP. Courtney has taken the lead in the LSBEP effort to put forth legislation regarding behavior analysts.

"A prominent mover and shaker in LAMP, as well as Vice Chair of LSBEP."

## Marc Zimmermann, LSBEP

While listed less often than Matthews and Courtney, Dr. Marc Zimmermann was mentioned several times by focus group respondents. He serves on the psychology

board and is a medical psychologist. A member of LAMP and he has also retained his membership in LPA. He practices in Baton Rouge.

## Gary Pettigrew, Lead Investigator for LSBEP

Long-time community member who is associated with Dawson Psychological Services in Baton Rouge. Pettigrew helps the psychology board with their investigations. Listed less than others but still mentioned a number of times by the practitioners.

### • The Professors, Researchers & Scientists

## George Noell, LSU Professor, Expert to Board of Regents

Dr. George Noell is a Professor at LSU, Baton Rouge, who also has been key in a Board of Regents project to improve schools and teachers throughout the state. His work guided redesign of multiple levels in state education. He is a school psychologist and has received national recognition for his research on behalf of the Regents.

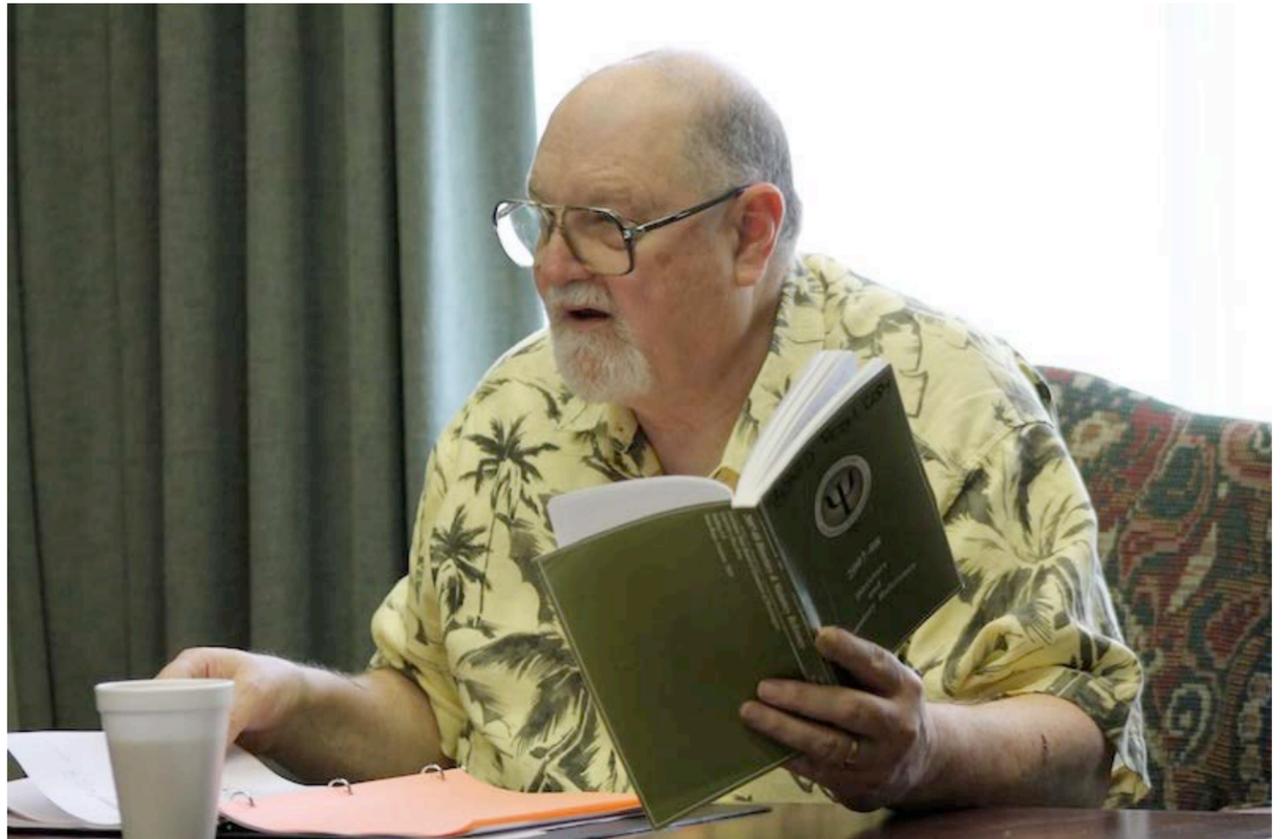
Comment: "... for his pioneering work in educational assessment and its relationship to teacher performance. Not only an academic, but served in the department of Education."

# THE POWER LIST 2012

## cont'd

### Johnny Matson, LSU Professor and Distinguished Research Master

Dr. Johnny Matson is a significant international figure in psychological science and Director of Clinical Training at LSU in Baton Rouge. A prolific writer (over 38 textbooks) and he has a strong influence in the scientific community in the area of autism spectrum disorders. Matson also has PhD students all over the world.



Dr. Lee Matthews is Chair of the psychology board.

### Jeffery Lockman, Tulane

Dr. Jeffery Lockman is a Professor at Tulane and was listed several times in the focus group for his scientific contributions, and work that is drawing attention of those in the scientific community. His research centers on cognitive development.

### Tiffany Stewart, Pennington Biomedical, Inventor

Dr. Tiffany Stewart works at Pennington and is leading a 5-year grant with female athletes, collaborating with LSU Athletics. She has also developed and is marketing digital technology applications for eating disorders.

Comment: "... does research on eating disorders and recently co-founded a company to use digital technology to assist in treatment efforts."

### • LAMP Leaders

#### Glenn Ally, LAMP leader, MPAC

Dr. Glenn Ally has been involved in LAMP, LPA, and the American Psychological Association (APA), and in a number of divisions as well as a member of the Committee for the Advancement of Professional Psychology. He is a medical psychologist from Lafayette and was LPA president in '98. He has served on the LSBEP and is now on MPAC. He is no longer a member of LPA.

#### Warren Lowe and John Bolter, LAMP, MPAC

Listed a little less frequently in this sample than Quillin and Ally, Drs. Lowe and Bolter were acknowledged by respondents as

having power in the medical psychology community and LAMP. They both serve on the MPAC and Dr. Bolter has been on the faculty of the California Professional School Baton Rouge Campus for training in psychopharmacology. Bolter has retained his membership in LPA.

Comment: "... There is simply too much to say about the power wielded by these ... in the past and to this day. They continue to quietly control ..."

### • Others, Independents

#### Julie Nelson, *The Psychology Times*

Uninvolved in the community before Act 251, but created a community newspaper that has caught on with some.

Comment: "... is dedicated to the proposition that a free press should inform the public about the actions of those who are elected or appointed to represent them."

#### John Simoneaux, Professional Training Resources

Dr. John Simoneaux received multiple mentions. He is viewed by many as a moral leader in the community. He served in LPA until he dropped to run for the LSBEP. While winning with a very high number of votes, he was not confirmed. Since that time he has focused on his popular and multi-disciplined mental health education business, Professional Training Resources. He did not remain in LPA.

Comments: "A person who holds to his very high standards."

"... providing integrity in education for the mental health community."

### Janet Matthews, Loyola, APA

Dr. Janet Matthews has been strongly involved in the APA governance and community, over many years, including on the Board of Educational Affairs and a number of division leadership roles. Husband Lee and she are supportive of the state association and remain members. Listed multiple times.

### Darlyne Nemeth, LPA Delegate to APA

A Baton Rouge medical psychologist who has long-time connections to many in the community. Past LPA president and LSBEP board member. Listed by several. She is member of both LAMP and LPA.

Comment: "An MP who has tried to stay true to psychology. Tireless at helping students."

### Tom Hannie, LPA member

Listed by several. Dr. Thomas Hannie is the straight talking Emeritus member of the psychology community who speaks his mind on the LPA list serve. He has been president of LPA and served on the board.

Comment: "Can always be counted on to say it like it is, so rare with psychologists."

### Interesting notes

Magellon  
Governor Jindal  
CoursonNickel- LAMP Lobbyists  
LPC community  
Robert Marier, MD, ED of medical board  
The New DSM  
Bruce Greenstein, Sec of DHH

## Science and Education

**Deadline October 8**

### Louisiana School Psychological Association Calls For Papers

The Louisiana School Psychological Association is inviting submissions for paper presentations and poster presentations for its Annual Conference to be held in Lafayette in November, 7 – 9, 2012.

Papers will be reviewed for relevance regarding the conference theme, which this year is “Resilience and Reconnection.”

Presentations related to the practice of school psychology, with importance to the profession, and that can facilitate exchange of ideas, and share scientific contributions in the field, are invited, according to a notice by the LSPA Executive Council. Presenters are encouraged to present relevant data and literature references as part of their work.

The submission deadline is October 8, 2012. Contact LSPA for additional information.

### Dr. Laird and UNO Families/Teen Lab Looks At Teens’ Openness, Lying, and Mental Health

Dr. Robert Laird and colleagues from the UNO Families & Teen Laboratory looked at developmental change in strategies that adolescents used to manage how much others know about them. The researchers examined longitudinal associations between disclosing (“telling all, telling if asked”) and concealing (“omitting details, keeping secrets, lying”) strategies.

Authors wrote, “Longitudinal links between strategies suggest a transactional process wherein infrequent disclosing is a gateway to concealment but concealment also predicts subsequent rank-order reductions in disclosure.”

Less disclosing was related to more subsequent antisocial behavior and depressive symptoms. But also, more antisocial behavior was related with more subsequent concealment.

“Although absolute declines in disclosure and increases in concealment are normative,” the authors write, “individual differences show that adolescents reporting low levels of disclosure, rather than high levels of concealment, appear to experience the most adjustment problems.”

The study, “Information Management Strategies in Early Adolescence: Developmental Change in Use and Transactional Associations With Psychological Adjustment,” was recently published in *Developmental Psychology*. Authors included Matt Marrero, Jessica Melching, and Emily Kuhn.

### Research Links BPA and Obesity

In a September 18, 2012 article on the medical blog Medscape, Emma Hitt, PhD, reported on a study that found obese children and adolescents to have more bisphenol A (BPA) in their urine than normal weight peers. BPA is a substance found in plastics.

The study was published in the September issue of JAMA. The study included 2838 randomly selected children who were studied over a five-year period.

The report noted that BPA is an endocrine disrupter found in plastic bottles and that previous studies have shown a connection between BPA and obesity in adults.

## Student Corner

by S. Lowery

Claire Taylor, a fourth year student in the Industrial-Organizational Doctoral program at LSU Baton Rouge, recently received a year-long internship with Merck & Co., Inc., an international pharmaceutical company based in Whitehouse Station, New Jersey.



Claire Taylor (photo S. Lowery)

In June, Claire Taylor was hired as an intern for Merck & Co., Inc., the company behind such drugs as Clarinex and Fosamax, and also consumer products like the Dr. Scholl's line and Coppertone products. Working with a 5-member team comprised of IO psychologists and HR professionals, Claire's job involves performing 360° evaluations for internal clients, or revamping existing 360° processes.

“I am helping manage internal clients who come to us saying that they would like to administer 360° review processes to their group, in addition to revamping their 360°,” Claire told the *Times* about her work. This type of review allows individuals to receive feedback from superiors, peers, subordinates, and sometimes also customers, giving it the name, 360°.

In addition, Claire has been working to develop new professional competencies that can apply across different job titles and be integrated into selection and assessment procedures.

One of her favorite projects so far involved working with union members to establish new assessment processes in their organization. “The project involving the unions...was really eye-opening for me because I think we get trained, especially in academia on what the best practices are, but it doesn't ever speak to all of those other contextual factors.”

When asked if she was enjoying her experience, Claire told the *Times*, “I am getting a great opportunity to learn about what it means to work in corporate America with the skill set I've developed over the past years. Getting an internship is a good idea for what we do if you want to go into practice because you get exposure to different things that academia just can't afford you.”

She continued, “One of the things that has been really good about this position is that I haven't had a lot of assessment and selection work ... so I have helped with a few projects that have to do with suggesting appropriate tools for selection and assessment needs.”

When discussing the transition from academics to the corporate workforce, Claire commented, “Just seeing these assessments in practice have stuck out for me as being very different, the concerns we have in industry are very different from those we have in academia. And the types of questions we ask are very different ... we have different sets of concerns and priorities, and different things drive your decisions,”

She continued, “I think we got really good classroom instruction from Russell [Matthews] and Tracey [Rizzuto]. They did a really good job of trying to prepare us, and I think between the two of them they had really different backgrounds as far as what their experiences were, so they both had different perspectives on what it means to be an IO psychologist.”

Claire will continue her internship with Merck through June, 2013. She is currently researching her dissertation where she is examining the concept of co-working and the impact it may have on people's lives.

(Shane Lowery, MS, is a doctoral student at LSU, Baton Rouge, and an intern for The Psychology Times.)



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# Psychology Gumbo

by Julie Nelson

In this month's Gumbo, I'm honored to have Tulane's Dr. Gary Dohanich adding to the discussion we started last month with Linda Brannon about psychology and cancer. Gary looks for us at the epigenetic connections that might explain the Purdue findings about higher cancer incidence in adult victims of child abuse.

Dr. Melissa Beck, cognitive psychology professor at LSU, takes a look for us at cell-phones and driving, a pet peeve of mine, as some of my colleagues know. If you haven't yet experienced the invisible gorilla that Melissa tells us about, follow her link. It's a hoot.

Baton Rouge area practitioner Dr. Jesse Lambert graciously agreed to comment on a forensic article, where authors warn psychologists that juries and judges often don't know if we are good or bad. Go figure.

## • "Does Childhood Misfortune Increase Cancer Risk in Adulthood?" - *Journal of Aging and Health*, July 2012.

"Morton, Schafer, and Ferraro of Purdue University report that childhood adversity, in particular abuse by parents, is linked to increased risk of cancers later in adult life. The relationship between childhood abuse and adult cancer risk was strongest when sons were abused by fathers and daughters abused by mothers. However, frequent physical or emotional abuse by either parent also increased the risk of later cancer in offspring of either sex."

**COMMENT: Dr. Gary Dohanich**, Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, Tulane University:

"Numerous reports document the negative effects of childhood adversity, including parental abuse and deprivation, on later health outcomes, ranging from cognitive deficits to somatic illnesses. The current study extends this avenue of research along several lines by confirming the increased risk of cancers, documenting the impact of multiple misfortunes, and identifying the higher vulnerability of males. To explain the underlying link between early environment and adult outcomes, the authors allude to "biological embedding", as proposed by Clyde Hertzman and colleagues, to explain the ability of early experiences to induce long-term changes in biological systems. At the biological level, the field of *epigenetics* brings the concepts of nature and nurture into harmony by providing a cellular mechanism by which early environmental factors directly regulate the expression of genes throughout life. In this case, early experiences could alter cellular biochemistry, so that childhood adversity induces long-term effects on the expression or repression of genes that lead normal cells to morph into cancerous states."



## • "DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION: Dual-Task Studies of Simulated Driving and Conversing on a Cellular Telephone" - *Psychological Science*, November 2001

The researchers found significant interference by conversations on cell phones due to "diverting attention to an engaging cognitive context other than the one immediately associated with driving."

**COMMENT: Dr. Melissa Beck**, Assistant Professor of Psychology, LSU, Baton Rouge

"University of Utah Strayer and Johnston (2001) show that divided attention can result in driving accidents. When attention is divided, people can miss information that occurs right in front of their eyes. For example one study demonstrated this *inattentive blindness* in a basketball pass counting task (Simons & Chabris, 1999). Participants were to count the number of ball passes made by the team wearing white shirts and to ignore the passes made by the team wearing black shirts. During the middle of the task a person dressed in a gorilla suit walked into the middle of the basketball game and turned toward the camera, pounded their chest and then walked off screen (you can try the task for yourself at this web page: <http://www.simonslab.com/videos.html>). Only about 50% of the participants noticed the gorilla. This is surprising because people generally believe that if something this salient happens right before our eyes, we will see it. However, this is not the case if our attention is directed to a demanding task. Similarly, if we are talking on the cell phone we may fail to see a pedestrian walk into the street or the car in

front of us put on its breaks even if our eyes are looking directly at the location of the pedestrian or the car.

"Another important factor is that when talking on the phone, your conversation partner does not share your visual environment with you. Research has shown that conversations with individuals not in the car with you are more detrimental than conversations with individuals in the car (Drews, Pasupathi, & Strayer, 2008). The reason is that the visual environment is shared for two people in a car. Therefore, when traffic gets heavy or there is an unexpected event, the conversation slows or stops on both ends. However, for a conversation on the phone, the conversation continues and so attention continues to be distracted from the driving task.



Drews, F. A. Pasupathi, M. & Strayer, D. L. (2008) Passenger and cell phone conversations in simulated driving. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*, 14(4), 392-400. Simons, D. J. & Chabris, C. F. (1999). Gorillas in our midst: Sustained inattentive blindness for dynamic events. *Perception*, 28, 1059-1074.

## • "Expert Testimony," *Psychological Science*, Feb 2011

In a review of expert psychological testimony authors point that current safeguards do not appear to increase sensitivity to research flaws, and that judges and juries can't always tell what is quality and what is not, in what psychologists present.

**COMMENT: Dr. Jesse Lambert**, Clinical Psychologist, Forensic Mental Health Assessment



"In the article *Expert Psychological Testimony*, Cutler and Kovera provide a good review of a number of specific topics related psychological expert testimony. The most salient point of this article is that testimony offered by any psychologist regarding any psycholegal issue at bar, must be of the highest quality. The consequences of providing "shabby" opinions in a forensic case not only betray the trust that has been invested by the Court, but also taints the profession at large.

In addition, the opinion must be offered in a completely transparent fashion, as psychologists providing expert opinion are functioning within the adversarial system of the Court. Each attorney has the right to understand how the opinion was devised and further to challenge the opinion presented.

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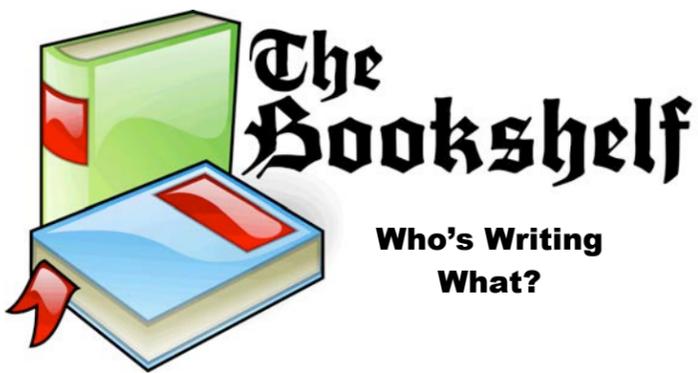
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# The Bookshelf

Who's Writing  
What?

## *Health Psychology* *An Introduction to Behavior and Health* 7<sup>th</sup> Edition

*Drs. Linda Brannon and Jess Feist*

*Thomson Wadsworth, 2010*

Health Psychology: An Introduction to Behavior and Health, is a well-written, authoritative, yet pleasantly user-friendly book about one of the most important areas of psychology today.

The authors, McNeese professors Dr. Linda Brannon and Dr. Jeff Feist have been in for the long haul—this review is for the seventh edition. It has been 20 some odd years since they started looking at health psychology and capturing the diverse and complex interactions that support factual and evidenced-based conclusions impacting health and longevity.

Authors do an excellent job staying up with this fast-moving field and the challenges of rapid and sometimes perplexing shifts in the landscape of research about health and behavior.

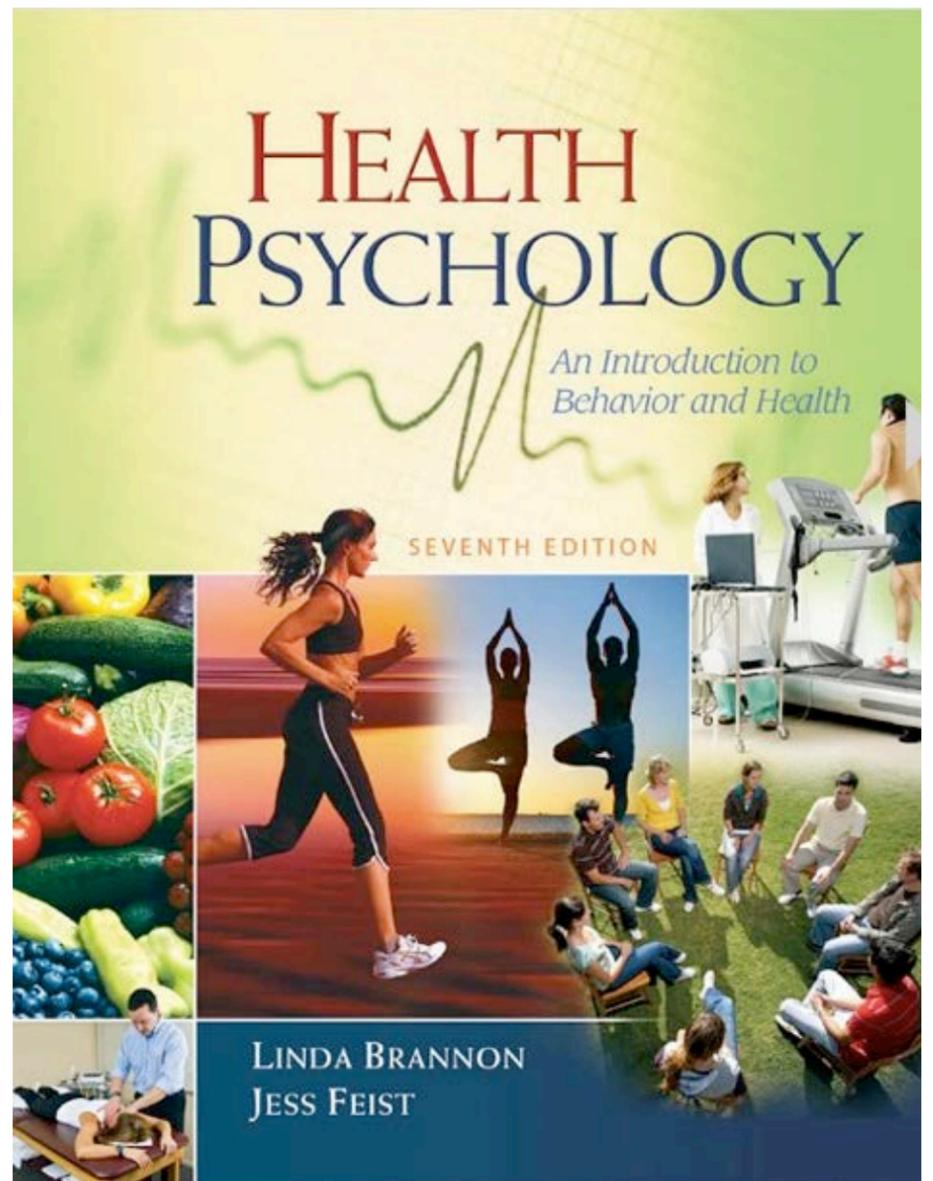
The authors meet the challenge easily. *Health Psychology* is a comprehensive and detailed review. Brannon and Feist integrate a very large amount of information both within psychology and between psychology and biology, physiology, and biochemistry.

But the authors also are able to keep the reader engaged and attentive by employing teaching devices such as self-checks, intriguing questions, surprising facts, exercises, special features and personal profiles. Also included are web-based resources such as additional readings and self-testing Q & A.

One of the most entertaining features is the “Would You Believe ...?” box that surprises with unusual research facts about health, unraveling the readers’ preconceived notions.

Brannon and Feist have cocooned difficult subjects of theoretical and scholarly evidence to ease the important topics into place for the student reader. They provide a hopeful and empowering message that should be standard fair for not just psychology students, but all students.

In the modern world with skyrocketing health costs and increasing health problems, this topic could easily be as, or more important than



general psychology subjects. For this reason, the text might be considered motivational and psychoeducational. It would seem that all students would benefit from accurate, evidence-based knowledge in this area.

Dr. Brannon addressed this idea with the *Times*. “I believe that the text is used mostly in psychology departments in health psychology courses. There are a growing number of such courses, which probably reflects the same sentiment that you have—it is an increasingly important topic.”

*Health Psychology* authors keep the reader up with advances, such as alternative and complementary medicine, and the eighth edition is coming out next year, Dr. Brannon explained.

The text is divided into four parts and 16 chapters, beginning with “Foundations of Health Psychology” and Chapter 1, “Introducing Health Psychology.” Brannon and Feist provide overview of statistics, trends, and paradoxes in health for this introductory chapter. They point out the shift between death due to infectious disease and death related to unhealthy life styles, noting the changes toward the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with also shifts in the reverse.

They look at ethnicity, income, and some unusual patterns in health and illness, and also which causes of death rank highest in each ethnic group.

They highlight the escalating cost of medical care, much greater than inflation, and that this is in part related to longer life expectancy. But they note that 45 percent of the people in the US have a chronic condition and this group creates 78 percent of the health costs.

In this introductory section, the authors look at models for health, starting with the biomedical and traditional view, and describe how another model, the biopsychosocial model has evolved to address the problems that the traditional approach fails to solve.

Authors give a clear, cogent, and guiding definition of the field of health psychology. “... the application of psychological principles to physical health areas such as controlling cholesterol, managing stress, alleviating pain, stopping smoking, and moderating other risky behaviors, as well as encouraging regular exercise, medical and dental checkups, and safer behaviors.”



Dr. Jess Feist (L) and Dr. Linda Brannon, authors of *Health Psychology*. (Courtesy photo.)

Cont next pg

## Bookshelf, cont'd

"In addition, health psychology helps identify conditions that affect health, diagnose and treat certain chronic diseases, and modify the behavioral factors involved in physiological and psychological rehabilitation."

In Chapter 2, authors look at "Conducting Health Research," and review the placebo effect and asking, "Would you believe ...? Providing Ineffective Treatment May Be Considered Ethical." They review research methods in psychology and epidemiology, as well as observational methods, randomized trials, and natural experiments. A section on the "risk factor approach" is provided.

Chapter 3 is "Seeking Health Care." In this section authors examine health protective behaviors, illness behavior and the "sick role." They surprise the reader with a, "Would you believe ..." box showing that hospitals are a leading cause of death.

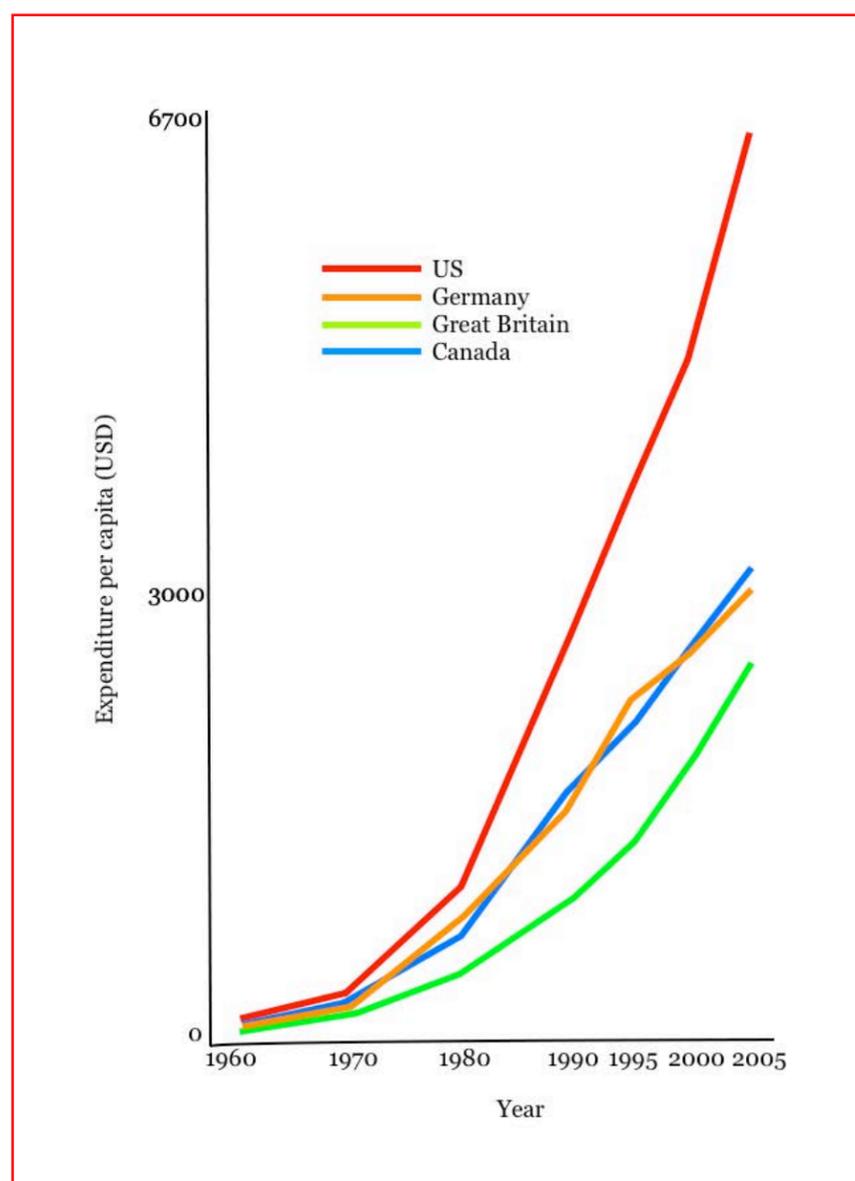
In Chapter 4, "Adhering to Medical Advice," authors review the theories applicable to people adhering to medical advice. They look at behavioral theory, self-efficacy theory, reasoned and planned behavior, and the "Transtheoretical Model." They also review how adherence is measured and factors help predict when patients will adhere or not to advice.

Part 2 is "Stress, Pain, and Coping," and begins with Chapter 5, "Defining, Measuring, and Managing Stress." In this section authors review theories, measurement, and sources of stress, and ways that people cope with stress.

This is followed by Chapter 6, "Understanding Stress and Disease," A review of the physiology of the immune system and psychoneuroimmunology, history and mechanisms are covered. Authors also examine the research about stress and disease, and the "Diathesis-Stress Model."

The reader is given a chance to test his or her own stress level and authors include a list of stress scales, including the Daily Stress Inventory authored by Pennington's Dr. Phillip Brantley, Sheryl Catz, and Edwin Boudreaux. And also listed is the Weekly Stress Inventory, by Drs. Brantley, Glenn Jones, and Boudreaux.

In Chapter 7, "Understanding and Managing Pain," authors provide a comprehensive look at pain, the somatosensory systems, neurotransmitters, and how pain is measured. Headache, low back, arthritis, cancer pain, and phantom limb pain are described. The chapter concludes with managing pain, both medical and behavioral techniques.



Rocketing health costs. *Health Psychology* is full of graphs like this one to punctuate ideas. (Source is the National Center for Health Statistics. Graph by *Times* staff.)



Louisiana's health rankings on some indicators. (Courtesy of America's Health Rankings, United Health Foundation.)

Chapter 8 is "Considering Alternative Approaches," and provides an overview of practices and systems that fall outside of traditional approaches, and also outside of the biopsychosocial model. They include Ayurvedic Medicine, Chinese Medicine, Naturopathy, and Homeopathy. Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) is described along with information about the US agency that helps to provide information and research for these approaches. The authors also provide a section on "Alternative Practices" including chiropractic, massage, energy healing, meditation and yoga, biofeedback and hypnosis.

Part 3, "Behavior and Chronic Disease," begins with Chapter 9, "Behavioral Factors in Cardiovascular Disease." A review of the cardiovascular system and the changing rates of cardiovascular disease is explained, along with specific reasons for the decline in death rates. Authors outline risk factors, behavioral factors, psychological factors, with a focus on prevention and rehabilitation.

In Chapter 10, "Behavioral Factors in Cancer," authors look at the increasing death rates of some cancers and the increasing incidence and death rates in others. They examine the evidence regarding risk factors beyond the individual's control and environmental risks. Then they look at behavioral risks of smoking, diet, alcohol, sedentary lifestyle, ultraviolet light exposure, sexual behavior, and psychosocial risk factors. And authors conclude this chapter with a section on "Living With Cancer."

"Living With Chronic Illness" follows and chronic diseases of Alzheimer's, Diabetes, Asthma, HIV/AIDS, and a section on death, adjusting to terminal illness and grieving.

Part 4 is "Behavioral Health," and provides a useful set of chapters on models, theory, research, and applied recommendations for behaviors related to health.

Included is Chapter 12 on "Smoking Tobacco," and Chapter 13, "Using Alcohol and Other Drugs," which includes information on motivations, health consequences, and interventions.

In Chapter 14, "Eating and Weight," authors look at starvation and overeating, and why some people are obese. A "Would You Believe ...? You May Need a Nap Rather Than A Diet," addresses new findings about weight and biochemistry. Authors examine issues regarding the question: is dieting is a good choice. Then they look at clinical conditions of eating disorders.

Chapter 15 is "Exercising." The research on physical activity and cardiovascular, protection against cancer, control of diabetes, psychological benefits, as well as exercise additions and injuries, is examined, with supporting evidence and applications.

In Part 5, "Looking Toward the Future," and Chapter 16, "Future Challenges," the authors define the goal of increasing the span of healthy life, and point to the leading indicators of physical activity, obesity, tobacco use, substance abuse, sexual behavior, mental health, injury and violence, environmental quality, immunization and access to health care. Taking on the very big picture, they look at progress in health psychology, the changes needed nationally. In a section, "Making Health Psychology Personal," they help the reader understand and change his or her risks through awareness and lifestyle.

I'm going to go swim now.

## People

### Dr. Tiffany Stewart Interviewed by Huffington

Dr. Tiffany Stewart was recently interviewed by *Huffington Post* Healthy Living writer, Jean Fain, MSW, for the article "Body-Image Innovator Tiffany Stewart on Preventing Eating Disorders."

Fain was inspired by Stewart's work in the video, Body Image Project video (<http://vimeo.com/7410399>).

Stewart is a Pennington clinical psychologist and expert in eating disorders and body image. Stewart has founded Body Image Technologies and developed an apt for helping people with eating problems. (See *Times* Vol 3 No 9.)

Fain asked Dr. Stewart which hat she wears out of all her different roles—clinical psychologist, researcher, cofounder of a technology company—and Stewart described where she finds herself.

"I'm a scientist first and foremost, as well as a clinical psychologist," she said. "Now I find myself an entrepreneur. My mission is to bring scientific tools to the people who need them most. So many things are developed in science that get great results but stay in the academic realm, like programs for the prevention of eating disorders. The work I do is dedicated to translating scientific tools into popular formats that can engage young people to change their health behaviors -- their eating, exercise, body image and self-worth."

Stewart also described her Body Image Project and the importance Stewart places on the body image as a health factor. Stewart said that the majority of the general population struggles with body image and it is critical to health.

"Even in the scientific literature, body image is thought about as an appearance-based thing," Stewart explained. "No one has ever talked about body image in the context of health. But it certainly affects our health, influencing our eating, our fitness and social habits. With everything we're doing, we're looking for a place where appearance and health can meet and basically be happy together."

The interview is available at [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jean-fain-licsw-msw/body-image\\_b\\_1687706.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jean-fain-licsw-msw/body-image_b_1687706.html)

### Dr. Rizzuto Joins LSU College of HS & ED

Dr. Tracey Rizzuto, has joined the School of Human Resource Education & Workforce Development, in the newly organized LSU College of Human Sciences & Education.

Dr. Rizzuto received her PhD from Penn State University in Industrial and Organizational Psychology and has served as assistant professor in the LSU Psychology Department until recently, where she lead

the IO psychology doctoral program.

Rizzuto's research focuses developing human capital and organizational strength through technology-mediated processes. She is interested in building access to knowledge, expertise, and resources for managing change in the modern workplace. Rizzuto studies attitudinal and behavioral responses to large-scale organizational change, governmental integrated enterprise systems, and healthcare information technology.

Earlier this year, LSU combined the School of Education, the School of Human Resource Education and Workforce Development, the School of Kinesiology, the School of Library and Information Science, the School of Social Work and the University Laboratory School, under the collective of the College of Human Sciences and Education.



(Courtesy photo)



Dr. Darlyne Nemeth's (R) new book, *Living in an Environmentally Traumatized World*, has just been released. Above: She looks at her chapter in *Pediatricians and Pharmacologically Trained Psychologists*, with Amber Gremillion and John Hamilton.

### Dr. Nemeth's Book Released

Baton Rouge medical psychologist, Dr. Darlyne Nemeth has authored, *Living in an Environmentally Traumatized World*. The book, just released, is edited by Nemeth, Robert Hamilton, and Judy Kurlansky. It published by Praeger and its series on Practical and Applied Psychology.

The text features expert contributions from across the disciplines of psychology, geology, biology, and climatology. The work also features an explanation of why environmental change is inevitable and how to deal with these changes. Contributors provide information on the stages of environmental trauma, the impact on humans, and they explore political agendas surrounding these issues. Nemeth has worked closely over the years with her co-editors, especially Dr. Judy Kurlansky who has contributed to projects coordinated by Dr. Nemeth and her colleagues at the Neuropsychology Center of Louisiana, including "Group Interventions for Disaster/Trauma Anniversary Reactions," in 2010.

Nemeth has previously authored, *Helping Your Angry Child*, with colleagues Dr. Kelly Ray and Maydel Schexnayder, and also contributed a chapter in *Pediatricians and Pharmacologically Trained Psychologists*.

*Living in an Environmentally Traumatized World: Healing Ourselves and Our Planet* is now available for purchase at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Books a Million.

## Nutrition and Health

Organic solvents are ubiquitous worldwide. Sources include paints, paint thinners, gasoline, varnishes, degreasing agents, adhesives, printing inks, pesticides, cosmetics and cleaners. Studies have suggested that chronic, high-level solvent exposure might be associated with a syndrome of personality change, memory impairment, and neurological deficits that is termed solvent neurotoxicity. Fatigue, difficulty concentrating, irritability, psychomotor deficits, and depression are other symptoms seen as a result of chronic solvent exposure. Occupations with increased solvent exposure include painting, floor laying, printing, and dry cleaning.

1. Dick FD. Solvent neurotoxicity. *Occup Environ Med.* Mar 2006;63(3):221-226, 179.
2. Bockelmann I, Pfister EA, Peters B, Duchstein S. Psychological effects of occupational exposure to organic solvent mixtures on printers. *Disabil Rehabil.* Jul 8 2004;26(13):798-807.

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# --WEBPAGES--

(Editor's note: "Webpages" is a feature that highlights the web presence of those in the Louisiana psychology community.)

Dr. Lacey Seymour is the Executive Director of Live Oak Behavioral Psychology. The clinic's modern website provides the basic information clients will need to help them understand the psychological and behavioral services available to them.

But the website does much more than that. It delights the eye and warms the heart. The magical artwork and themes for Live Oak Behavioral Psychology immediately give the visitor the feeling that here, youngsters are welcomed, valued, and above all, understood.

The message is about growth: we're going to put down some roots

and grow. It's fun. The message rings sweet and true.

On the home page we find the theme carried on, "Learn. Nurture. Grow." The page gives concise introduction to the clinic and staff.

*"Live Oak Behavioral Psychology offers evidence-based behavioral and psychological services to children in need of therapeutic intervention. Parents want the best for their children and so do we. At Live Oak Psychology, we believe that each child has the potential to grow and develop. Our mission is to help children reach their full potential by providing individualized treatment by well-trained, certified professionals in the field of behavioral psychology and applied behavior analysis. We strive to form close relationships with a variety of service providers including pediatricians, speech and occupational therapists, schools and daycares in order to provide a well-balanced and comprehensive approach to quality care."*

On this page we find that Dr. Lacey Seymour is the Executive Director, licensed psychologist, and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. We also meet Cortney Seymour, MS and LPC.

Navigating around the site is done with a wonderfully cute menu of colorful little hand prints that makes you want to run go get your finger-paints.

On the "about" page, we find the child-oriented themes portrayed with a young girl in a field of dandelions, blowing petals. The topic is "Building Roots," and the visitor is provided some technical and specific information.

*"Dr. Lacey Seymour provides services for both typically developing children and those with special needs. Common problems addressed in therapy include behavioral issues such as non-compliance, aggression, feeding difficulties, communication deficits, tantrums, social skill deficits, anxiety, and toileting issues as well as academic/school difficulties. We also offer psychological testing for a variety of diagnosis including ADHD, Autism, learning disabilities and gifted evaluations. Home based applied behavior analysis (ABA) program design and implementation training is also available. In addition*

*to working individually with children and adolescents, caregiver training is oftentimes an important focus of our treatment approach."*

In the page for services, "Reach the Sky," the visitor can review some detailed information about what the clinic can provide.

- Psychoeducational assessments to assess for learning disabilities, gifted evaluations, ADHD and other disorders
- Developmental testing for Autism
- Individual behavior modification and academic interventions with children and adolescents
- Feeding therapy for picky eaters
- School Consultation/IEP Support
- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy
- Social Skills Groups
- Parent Training

The staff page offers credentials and backgrounds that potential clients may wish to have as they make important decisions for their children.

*"Dr. Lacey Seymour is the Executive Director of Live Oak Behavioral Psychology. She is a licensed psychologist and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst – Doctorate level (BCBA-D). Dr. Seymour received a Doctorate degree in School Psychology from Louisiana State University. [...]"*

*"Cortney Seymour, M.S., LPC-I, NCC received her Master of Science degree in Counseling Psychology from Louisiana State University. [...]"*

The site also provides a map, directions, and even the opportunity to see the clinic from Google Earth.

The theme of the growing tree is pleasantly captured and used



(Courtesy photo)

Lacey L. Seymour, Ph.D., BCBA-D  
Live Oak Behavioral Psychology  
56 Louis Prima Dr, Suite A  
Covington, LA 70433  
[www.liveoakpsychology.com](http://www.liveoakpsychology.com)  
(985) 327-7256 Office  
(985) 327-7253 Fax



throughout, while at the same time the visitor is offered direct, concise information and answers about the services and providers.

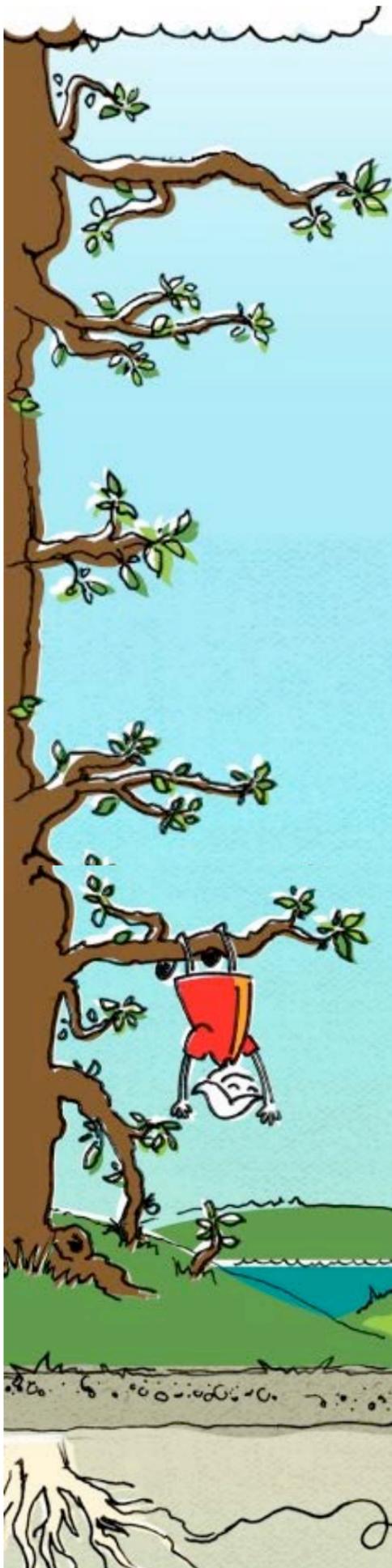
The Facebook connection extends the information about Live Oak Behavioral Psychology and proves that the theme is carried right into the office space. Photos of the clinic say that it is what we think it is, child-oriented, fun and engaging. A visitor can enjoy the murals of elephants and giraffes and balloons and lakes, and believe that there must be fairy castles everywhere.

The parents will know, and so will the youngsters, that here is a safe and fun place to grow and develop.

Live Oak Behavioral Psychology can be found in Covington, Louisiana. For the webpage go to: <http://www.liveoakpsychology.com>

(The website was designed by Gatorworks Web Design. Cortney Seymour is Dr. Seymour's sister-in-law.)

Learn. Nurture. Grow.



# Up-Coming Events



Last year's LPA Fall Conference featured Dr. Paul Frick, Dr. Rita Culross and Dr. Marc Zimmermann from the psychology board.

## APAIT Risk Management

### LPA Fall Workshop On Saturday October 20, 2012 in Baton Rouge

The Louisiana Psychological Association will host a CE workshop presented by the American Psychological Association Insurance Trust (APAIT), "Adventures on the Electronic Frontier: Ethics and Risk Management in the Digital Era." Six hours of CE credit is available for psychologists. The workshop will be held at the Baton Rouge Renaissance Hotel from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Jeffrey Younggren, Ph.D., ABPP, will present. The workshop is designed to help practitioners reduce risk and also cope with potential complaints to licensing boards and ethics committees.

For more information contact LPA at 225.766.0185.

## Pennington Conference On Child Obesity Set For Oct 24, 2012

Pennington Biomedical Research Center will hold a public health conference, "Play Your Part -Childhood Obesity In Louisiana: Developing an Evidence Based Policy Agenda," October 24, 2012.

The fifth conference of its kind, the effort is designed for professionals engaged in public health and health care, according to news on the Pennington website. Physicians, nutritionists, physical activity specialists, registered dietitians, nurses, health educators, psychologists, and counselors are encouraged to attend. Also invited are those in healthcare policy, researchers, media, business and civic leaders, and early childhood and school-age educators and decision-makers, according to the announcement.

Speakers include Dr. Robert Newton from Pennington speaking on the Fifth Annual Childhood Physical Activity and Health Report Card for Louisiana's Children and Youth: "Has the Needle Moved?"

Also presenting will be Pennington researcher Dr. Stephanie Broyles, Tulane graduate and biostatistician. She will speak on "Using Evidence to Inform Public Policy: Results of Systems Models for Louisiana."

Berry Burnside from the American Heart Association will

speak on "Obesity Policies: Louisiana Legislative Update."

Learning objectives are for participants to:

- understand the strengths and pitfalls associated with developing public health policy as a tool to improve population health

- comprehend the extent of the problem of childhood obesity in Louisiana

- identify evidence-based public health and policy strategies to achieve demonstrable improvements in obesity-related behaviors, and

- understand the expected potential of policy initiatives at making a change in childhood obesity rates in Louisiana

The announcement noted, "Given the recent emphasis on developing evidence-based public health strategies targeting childhood obesity, the topic of this conference is on the role of public policy at addressing the problem. A specific focus of the conference this year is on Louisiana-specific data and solutions to address childhood obesity."

Conference sponsors include the BCBS Louisiana Foundation, Louisiana Action for Healthy Kids, and Baton Rouge Coca-Cola.

For more information go to [https://www.pbrc.edu/childhood\\_obesity\\_conference/default.htm](https://www.pbrc.edu/childhood_obesity_conference/default.htm)



## Louisiana Psychological Association

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[www.louisianapsychologist.org](http://www.louisianapsychologist.org)  
or call (225) 766-0185

# Up-Coming Events, Cont'd

## LA School Psychological Association To Hold 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference in Lafayette, November 7-9

The Louisiana School Psychological Association will host its 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, November 7 - 9, 2012, at the Hilton Lafayette, in Lafayette, Louisiana.

This year's theme will be "Resilience and Reconnection."

Highlights will include Keynote speaker Dr. Phil Lazarus, Past President of the National Association of School Psychologists. Dr. Lazarus will speak on "Advocating for the Emotional Well-Being of our Nation's Youth."

Convention workshops include "Models for Response Intervention for Students with Behavioral Challenges," presented by Dr. Kristin Johnson. Dr. Johnson, a graduate of Nicholls State University and University of Southern Mississippi, is the Director for the Institute for Evidence-Based Reform.

Tulane psychology professor, Dr. Michael Cunningham, will speak on "Promoting Education Resilience in African American Adolescents." Dr. Cunningham

is the Suzanne and Stephen Weiss Presidential Fellow in the Psychology Department at Tulane. He is Associate Provost for the Center for Engaged Learning and Teaching and holds a joint appointment in the African and African Diaspora Studies Program at Tulane, a program at Tulane offering interdisciplinary study relating to Africans, people of African descent, and the context of the African Diaspora.

Tulane psychology professor and Chair of Psychology, Dr. Stacy Overstreet will present, "Building Resilience and Fostering Reconnection among Students with Behavioral Challenges." Dr. Overstreet's research focus has been on children at risk for maladjustment due to the presence of chronic stressors in their lives.

Dr. John Simoneaux will present "Violent and Aggressive Behaviors Among School Age Populations, Prevention and

Intervention." Dr. Simoneaux is a psychologist and director of Professional Training Resources.

Other presenters will also include Dr. Mark Reinecke, Professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University in Chicago; Jim Comstock Gallagan, Director of the Southern Poverty Law Center; and Dr. Brad Dufrene of University of Southern Mississippi.

For more information go to [http://www.lspaonline.org/LSPA\\_conference2011/LSPAConferenceReview.html](http://www.lspaonline.org/LSPA_conference2011/LSPAConferenceReview.html)

### Deadline for SEPA Submissions Oct 9

The Southeastern Psychological Association will hold its 2013 Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, in March '13. The deadline for submissions is October 9, 2012, according to an announcement from the association. Go to <http://www.sepaonline.com/>

## REGIONAL MEETINGS

The Crescent City Area Psychological Society meets on the third Friday of every odd numbered month, according to organizer, Dr. Carolyn Weyand. The next meeting will be Friday, November 16. All psychologists working and/or living in the New Orleans area are welcome. To get notices about meetings email Carolyn Weyand at [carolynweyand@gmail.com](mailto:carolynweyand@gmail.com)

### Professional Training Resources Presents Seminars in October

Professional Training Resources (PTR) will present "Violence Across the Lifespan" in Monroe, Louisiana, on October 19, 2012. The presentation will be at The Clarion Hotel.

Also in October, PTR will present "Unusual Syndromes and Conditions in Children," as an online webinar, on October 10, 2012.

The Psychology Times

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None of the content is intended as advice for anyone.

