



A reconnaissance Marine with landing team of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit.
(Photo by Cpl. Gene Allen Ainsworth, III)

The *Times* interviewed Dr. Dana Boose of the Alexandria VA Medical Center and also Dr. Andrew Thrasher of *Give an Hour*. See page 6 for these and related stories.

Also in this issue

More Veterans Day news - 6

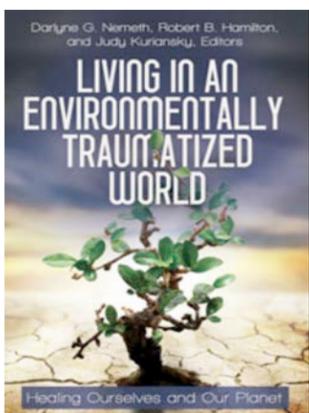
Take the Telepsychology Survey - 9

Gumbo – page 9

Costume Wedding -14

LA Group Psychotherapy Winter Institute – 15

Dr. Nemeth's Book – 11



ABA Study Group To Begin Final Decision-Making Friday

The "Behavior Analysts Licensure and Regulation Study Commission will meet on Friday, November 2, 2012, to continue efforts in outlining the state's approach to regulation for applied behavior analysts, and preparing for the final and perhaps most difficult of their decisions.

The *Times* spoke with Vice Chair of the Commission, Ms. Catherine Morrell, who explained that on November 2nd the group would watch four presentations, from four different sets of members. These presentations are to prepare the group for a future decision as to where the behavior analysts will fall in the state regulatory structure, Morrell said.

Ms. Kelly Parker, Executive Director for the state psychology board, will be one of the presenters on Friday, explained Morrell.

Also, Dr. Lacey Seymour, a psychologist and Applied Behavior Analyst who represents the Louisiana Psychological Association, will be presenting.

Dr. Grant Gautreaux, President of Louisiana Behavior Analysis Association (LaBAA),

Cont pg 4

AG Opinions Clarify LMFT Scope of Practice, ABA Issues

The Louisiana Attorney General issued an Opinion on October 12, 2012 after reviewing objections submitted last year by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP) about rules for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs), put forth by the Counselors state board.

The Attorney General (AG) found no problem with the rules, and summarized, "The permitted scope of practice of licensed marriage and family therapists includes the

assessment and treatment of emotional, behavioral, personality, and mental disorders, subject to the specific limitations ..." And that "The training requirements set forth" in the rules "are consistent with the statutory scope of practice of licensed marriage and family therapists, do not expand said statutory scope of practice by rule, are not violative of the prohibition on the unlicensed practice of psychology, and do not require training in areas that an LMFTs would be prohibited from exercising."

Cont pg 3

Children's Cabinet

Dr. Simpson Launches Kid's Dashboard

The Children's Cabinet launched its "Louisiana Kid's Dashboard" on October 9, 2012, a continuing step in the Cabinet's efforts to coordinate and engage agencies, policy makers, families and the larger community, with the goal of improving conditions for Louisiana's children.

The Children's Cabinet is part of the Office of the Governor, and Dr. Tiffany Simpson, a graduate of the University of

New Orleans psychology department, is the Executive Director.

The Cabinet was created in 1998 by legislation. Development was prompted by the awareness that a better coordination of efforts were needed in Louisiana to improve the systems of juvenile justice, child welfare, and education, according to the website introduction.

Cont pg 5

LA School Psychological Association Conference In Lafayette Nov 7 to 9

The Louisiana School Psychological Association will host its Annual Conference, November 7 - 9, 2012, at the Hilton Lafayette, in Lafayette, Louisiana. This year's theme will be "Resilience and Reconnection."

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

Cont pg 15



Dr. Michael Cunningham.

(Courtesy photo)

Editorial Page

Groupthink

The September issue of *Perspectives in Psychological Science* contains a special section on a study by Yoel Inbar & Joris Lammers, who found that psychology is predominately liberal. Only six percent described themselves as conservative "overall." The report was picked up by the media which emphasized the juicy news that psychologists discriminate against their conservative colleagues, and those colleagues are hiding in the closet.

In itself this was interesting. Intolerant psychologists? Seems like it should be an oxymoron.

But the real meat and potatoes was in the five commentaries. "No one knows," Philip Tetlock of U. of Pennsylvania, wrote, "how many research programs social psychologists have failed to launch, or how many research discoveries they have failed to make, as a result of the skew in the distribution of views within their discipline."

Princeton's Deborah Prentice said the findings do not speak well for the "... health of the field, ..." because of the "ideological narrowness produced by liberal norms."

Psychology's liberal worldview is certainly an honorable one: concern for the well-being and dignity of all people, compassion for those in need, openness, tolerance, appreciation of intellectual pursuits. But at 94 percent, can we prove we aren't neck deep in groupthink?

Groupthink. The warm, comforting molasses of friends who feel and think exactly the way we do, who support us and never criticize. To know we'll be always validated, that we and our best friends are on the right side of things. That all is well in Mudville. That our daddy's rich and our mama's good looking.

When extreme (Jim Jones and the Temple of Doom) groupthink looks pretty bizarre from the outside. But in softer tones it's harder to recognize, fueled by all the regular flaws of human judgment: the tendency to seek only information that confirms our views; to find shortcuts for solving problems; to save time and even ride along on the coattails of someone else's effort.

Psychologists aren't immune to the same group phenomena that plagues everyone else. The polarization that helps fuel groupthink, or at least some degree of flawed decision-making, freezes our brains just the same. We slide with the rest of society into it, or at least stand knee deep in it as a matter of course.

Pew Research tells us that the partisan differences have reached a 25-year high with strongest differences about the role of government, the environment, and in religion and social conservatism.

The riff is reflected in opinions about who to trust for information. News organizations' scores on "believability" are at a low, also split along party lines and which outlets are trusted and which aren't.

Groupthink, while mostly unconscious to us (although I can usually feel my mind turning into pea soup about a half hour into a committee meeting) we know it best from the signs and symptoms. Closing off and guarding information flow, over-confidence in the "morality" of our position, distorted interpretation of facts, or poor problem-solving.

Could undiagnosed groupthink account for problems that appear to have no straightforward answer? "The amount of fundamental discovery is staggering, and medical journals are choked with spectacular science," writes Julio Licinio, MD, editor of *Molecular Psychiatry*. "Paradoxically, research advances have not led to new cures," he writes in his 2011 editorial. Research doesn't lead to cures? Imagine that.

The *Perspectives* review spells it out for us. We are missing big chunks.

Tetlock points out that conservatism is not a one-dimensional construct. "Conservatism is a complex coalitional construction in contemporary political science, a loose alliance of moral traditionalists, economic libertarians and national-security hawks who, in American politics, come together periodically to compete, more or less effectively, in two-party, winner-takes-all presidential elections.

Perhaps we need an affirmative action plan to include these three groups. Then we could avoid the deeper problem that Tetlock points to, "... whether social psychology has an adequate critical mass of traditional conservative, economic libertarian, national-security hawk research talent to correct the potential research excesses of a largely liberal left-leaning field."

We have to wonder if our own "sociopolitical groupthink," writes Richard Redding, is harming our scientific efforts to help our society. Are we too close to government to critique it?

In our own backyard we have a scientist-practitioner whose work is challenging the policies and practices of the behemoth SSA. Like a good psychologist, Mike Chafetz began to look more carefully at what he was doing. Combining his knowledge from forensic psychology, he started following the breadcrumbs, on his own dime, to uncover what might turn out to be waste in government running into the billions. After reviewing his work, one might ask, "What took us so long?"

The military suicide rate is another concern. Our returning servicemen and servicewomen say we don't get it. "The public does not understand the problems faced by those in the military or their families," 84 percent of the veterans say.

I'm beginning to believe that the decisions in the Benghazi tragedy may have been groupthink. To remove the bulk of the security forces from the Ambassador, until only a few men were left to deal with the terrorist threats to the consulate, makes no sense. It doesn't take a hawk to see that.

I don't know if Ty Woods, the former Navy SEAL who disobeyed orders so he could give assistance to others, and lost his life in the firefight, was a conservative or not. I don't know if he was a moral traditionalist or not, or a national security hawk or not.

What I do know is here was a man of courage and good conscience, who disobeyed orders so to aid others at ultimate sacrifice to himself.

And I know the meaning his actions give to our words—land of the free and home of the brave—is crystal clear.

The Psychology Times

Published monthly
by Nelson News, LLC.

psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com

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.

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*.

*All materials copyrighted by J. Nelson
unless otherwise noted.*

Subscriptions are free. To subscribe go to the *Times* at
<http://thepsychologytimes.com/>

AG Opinions, Cont'd

The original request was submitted last year, according to LSBEP Executive Director Kelly Parker. It was signed by then Chair Dr. Tony Young and listed four objections:

“(1) the rules impose training requirements that are inconsistent with the statutory definition, treatment population, and scope of practice of an LMFT; (2) the rules expand the scope of practice of LMFTs by rule; (3) the rules constitute a violation of the statutes that govern the practice of psychology; and (4) the rules require training to qualify for licensure in areas that LMFTs would be prohibited from exercising.”

According to the AG, the LSBEP’s main reasoning for the objections was that “the proposed coursework requirements would expand, by rule, the scope of practice of LMFTs to include assessment, treatment planning, and treatment of mental, intellectual, emotional, or behavioral disorders. The LSBEP avers that this expanded scope of practice is outside the therapeutic focus of an LMFT ...”

The AG examined the issue of scope of practice for LMFTs, noting “The definition very clearly includes assessment and treatment, but omits diagnosis from the scope of practice.”

Then, by comparing the definition of MFT with the definition of mental health counseling services, “which is found in the same statute, we see that the latter specifically includes mental and emotional disorders in the scope of practice of Licensed Professional Counselors (“LPCs”): ...” wrote Charles Belsom, on behalf of James Caldwell.

The AG sets out a detailed argument including, “First, the statute does not use the term therapeutic; rather, it uses the term ‘psychotherapeutic.’” And, “Furthermore, the statute does not limit the scope of practice to marriage and family systems and the treatment thereof; the statute includes

‘psychotherapeutic and family systems theories and techniques.’ *Id.* (emphasis added). Finally, the statute quite plainly includes ‘assessment and treatment’ within the scope of practice of an LMFT. *Id.*”

The AG writes that “It is apparent that the term psychotherapeutic by its very definition involves emotional, behavioral, personality, and mental disorders. The inclusion of psychotherapeutic in the definition of marriage and family therapy therefore indicates that the scope of practice for LMFTs does include the assessment and treatment of emotional, behavioral, personality, and mental disorders.”

And that, “LMFTs cannot independently assess or treat persons with serious mental disorders. The regulatory scheme for LMFTs is found in Chapter 13 of Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes. The definition of “[m]ental health counseling services” within that chapter specifies that no person licensed under Chapter 13 can work with an individual suffering from a serious mental illness unless the individual is under the concurrent care of a psychiatrist (or other qualified practitioner), and the licensee is collaborating with said qualified practitioner: ...”

The AG found no evidence that training set out in the rules should be a concern, writing “... an LMFT is likely to treat patients who are on medication that has been prescribed by a qualified individual, and is likely to treat patients with serious mental illnesses concurrently with a psychiatrist or other qualified person in accordance with La. R.S. 37:1103(7). In these cases, instruction in psychopharmacology and the full content of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders would prove useful, and perhaps necessary, to an LMFT.”

“It is true that the LPC Board cannot expand the statutory scope of practice of LMFTs by rule. Nevertheless, as explained in the preceding paragraphs, these rules do not require instruction in any matters that are outside the statutory scope of practice of an LMFT.”



The Office of the Attorney General published two Opinions in October, answering questions the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists submitted last year. Some of the discussions of these matters began the year before that. Above: the 2011 - 2012 Chair Dr. Tony Young. Dr. Young is from the Monroe area and teaches at LaTech.

“Yes, But” Opinion on ABAs Practicing Psychology From AG

The psychology board received an answer in October from the Office of the Attorney General (AG) regarding injunctions against behavior analysts who practice psychology.

In the October 11, Opinion, the AG wrote, “Specifically, you have asked our office for an opinion as to whether the LSBEP can enjoin behavioral analysts from practicing applied behavioral analysis,” wrote the AG.

Writing to the current psychology board Chair Dr. Lee Matthews, the AG noted, “...the LSBEP may seek an injunction against a party for violating Chapter 28, Psychologists, Title 37, of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.”

The AG explained that this is because the board is specifically granted the authority to apply for injunction to “enjoin an person from committing any act which is in violation of this Chapter,” such as the unauthorized practice of psychology, wrote the AG.

“Although the LSBEP has the authority to seek an injunction against a party for violating Chapter 28, it still must meet the injunction requirements of the court,” the author, Assistant Attorney General, Jessica Thornhill wrote, on behalf of James Caldwell, the AG.

The AG cited *State Through Louisiana State Bd. of Examiners of Psychologists of Dept. of Health & Human Services v. Atterberry*, saying that there is a prohibition against practicing psychology without a license in the state.

However, then the author continued, “The court has a great deal of discretion in determining whether to grant or deny an injunction. *Id.* You have asked whether the LSBEP may enjoin ‘behavioral analysts’ from practicing ‘applied behavioral analysis,’ however, these terms are not yet statutorily defined. Whether or not a court would grant such an injunction depends on whether the actions of the behavioral analyst fall under the definition of the practice of psychology as set out in La. R.S. 37:2352(5).”

“Thus, without statutorily defining these terms nor being provided with any specific actions, we cannot make a general conclusion as to the likelihood of an injunction being granted. Even if it were possible, such a determination is factual in nature and is beyond the purview of our office. Our office has a policy against making factual determinations as those should be left to the trier of fact.”

The AG wrote that another option is a criminal sanction, but noted that such a case would be at the discretion of the local district attorney.

Corrections & Clarifications

No corrections or clarifications were submitted for last month’s issue of the *Psychology Times*.

ABA Commission, Cont'd

and professor at Nichols State University, will also present.

And Chair Ms. Ashley Munn and Vice Chair Ms. Morrell will also be presenting to the larger group, explained Morrell.

The meeting is open to the public and will begin at 9 am, at the Claiborne Department of Education Building on the Capitol grounds in Baton Rouge.

Following these four presentations the committee will take time off to think over the variety of facts and concepts, Ms. Morrell explained. Then at the December meeting the group will take a vote about placement of the regulatory authority.

Various other states have placed regulation of applied behavior analysts under a separate, independent board, such as in Kentucky, Missouri, and Oklahoma. This is according to the national credentialing organization, Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB).

In Arizona and Nevada behavior analysts fall under the state psychology boards. In Pennsylvania and Virginia behavior analysts fall under the state medical boards. And in Rhode Island the analysts fall under the Department of Health, and in Wisconsin, they fall under the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing.

Florida has state level regulation provided by the national body, the BACB. West Virginia also uses the BACB, as oversight, according to BACB.

Also, according to the BACB, 33 states have some insurance regulations for applied behavior analysts but only ten states are listed with some type of state-level regulation at this time.

Morrell stated that the group has recently made a good deal of progress. "Our last meeting was five hours long," she said. "We moved forward quite a bit."

During the last meeting members agreed on many of the details of the regulation, Morrell explained to the *Times*. "We've gone over different components of the licensing laws, qualifications and requirements for licensure. We talked about the assistants and also about the line technicians," she said.

"We discussed issues such as reciprocity and exemptions," she explained. "We voted for all the different details for all the issues for licensure. We have made lots of progress." The group members have worked hard, and that seems to be paying off at this point, she said.

The Study Commission was initially formed by a Senate Resolution authored by Senator J.P. Morrell. Senator Morrell

emerged as a leading opponent of the psychology board's efforts to develop regulations for Behavior Analysts under the state LSBEP (Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists).

Applied behavior analysis is perhaps the most effective treatment for autism. Over recent years the Center for Disease Control and Prevention has reported a clear rise in prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders. In a 2009 estimate, the CDC suggested that one in 110 children have the disorder.

Authors in *International Handbook of Autism and Pervasive Development Disorders*, edited by Dr. Johnny Matson, Distinguished Research Master and Director of Clinical Training at LSU, concluded that the current prevalence of ASD is one in 143. And they said, studies of prevalence indicate a distinct trend of increase, but warn that whether this increase is "the sign of a true ASD epidemic or not is subject to debate."

Public awareness is high and across the nation and legislators have passed laws to provide services to help children. In the 2012 legislative session, Louisiana lawmakers passed Act 208, a bill that amended the current law raising the age from 17 to 21, for coverage of autism spectrum disorders in Louisiana. They eliminated the lifetime maximum. Also, Act 132 set up a mechanism whereby people could check off a box on their individual tax return and donate their refund to a foundation for "Center of Excellence for Autism Spectrum Disorder."

Dr. Courtney Rumored To Be Resigning

Self-Nominations For Psychology Board Close Monday, Nov 5

Self-nominations for a position on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychology will close this Monday. Ms. Gail Lowe, Executive Director of the Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA) said that forms must be post-marked on Monday, November 5, or faxed in to the association by midnight. They should be sent to LPA Elections Committee at 1003 Leycester Drive, Baton Rouge, 70808.

Thus far, one person has self-nominated, according to Ms. Lowe. If less than four people self-nominate by Monday, a thirty-day period commences. Then, the election may be held with only two candidates.

Several undisclosed sources told the *Times* that Dr. John Courtney, current Vice Chair, may be resigning, which would leave two positions open on the board. However, this could not be confirmed by press time.

Dr. Lee Matthews will complete his term next spring, and has served since 2010.

LSBEP Working On Revisions To Continuing Education

At last month's state psychology board meeting, members reviewed comments submitted by the public regarding changes to the continuing education requirements monitored by the licensing board.

According to several sources, the board received around thirty comments. The majority of these comments concerned changes to the existing and more traditional continuing education activities. There were fewer concerns by the public regarding the new proposals, such as the additions of new types and categories of educational activities.

Executive Kelly Parker told the *Times* this week that the board will be going forward to make changes to the rules. She noted, "The Board is working on revisions to the Chapter based on comments received. We are still planning on changing the CE rule in the very near future."



The 2011-2012 LSBEP. Left to right: Dr. Zimmermann, Dr. Matthews, Dr. Young, Ms. Parker (facing away), and Dr. Courtney. Dr. Culross is absent. Dr. Matthews will be completing his term in the spring, 2013.

Dr. Simpson, Dashboard, cont'd

Dr. Simpson obtained her doctorate in psychology from the University of New Orleans. She worked closely with her major professor and current Chair of the psychology department, Dr. Paul Frick. Dr. Frick is an international expert in child behavior and psychological factors that impact adolescent behavior.

The *Times* asked Dr. Simpson how her training in psychology has helped her with the challenges of her role as Director of the Children's Cabinet.

"Most of the work I've done, including in graduate school," Dr. Simpson told the *Times*, "was in the juvenile justice area. In juvenile justice you have an understanding of the broader view, you aren't stuck in one box," she explained.

"I've realized that in order to impact the justice system," she said, "you have to understand the other factors—how important education is, the impact of poverty on children and families, the impact of poor health outcomes, ..."

This broad perspective may be essential in Dr. Simpson's complex role. The main objective of the Cabinet is to coordinate five state departments that provide services and set policies for children and adolescents. These are the Departments of Education, Health and Hospitals, Children and



In October the Children's Cabinet launched the Kid's Dashboard, a creation of the Children's Cabinet and Executive Director Dr. Tiffany Simpson, to help drive positive change. The Dashboard helps coordinate a variety of data points and links agencies together with the same information. The Children's Cabinet is a policy office in the Office of the Governor, created by the legislature in 1998. Dr. Simpson works closely with five departments that provide services to children in the state. These are the Department of Education, Health and Hospitals, the Louisiana Workforce Commission, Public Safety and Corrections, and Social Services. Dr. Simpson received her doctorate in psychology from the University of New Orleans. For the Dashboard go to <http://www.kidsdashboard.la.gov/>

(Graphic used with permission from Dr. Simpson)

Family Services, Office of Juvenile Justice and the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

The Children's Cabinet Advisory Board is composed of thirty-eight representatives from all over the state and in all capacities. The Children's Cabinet is also responsible for making funding recommendations to the Governor, and also for the Children's Budget, part of the General Appropriation Act of the state legislature.

Coordinating the variety of data and views requires a certain perspective, something for which Simpson's background in psychology has helped

prepare her. "I'm able to see how many factors come together and this helps me to understand what can drive change," Simpson explained to the *Times*.

The Louisiana Kid's Dashboard is an example of this integrated effort, using web-based technologies to help coordinate ideas, services, and feedback of key indicators to help promote positive change.

In October the Children's Cabinet launched the Kid's Dashboard, a lively, user-friendly, and educational website that links important information and tracking of information for citizens, families, policymakers, and those interested in helping improve the lives of Louisiana youngsters.

The Dashboard brings together, in one place and in a comfortable, understandable format, key indicators such as health outcomes, educational progress, and economic variables. Visitors can review the status of important conditions for children's well-being and how the state compares nationally.

Indicators in the topic of health care, for example, include "Low Birth-Weight Babies." For education, "Students Will Graduate

On-Time" is included. The category for well-being includes "Child Support Collections." Visitors can see at a glance that these factors are going in a positive direction. But, "Children in Poverty," is flat and no change has occurred from baseline. This can provide accurate feedback to help focus efforts and review programs.

All indicators have a section on the Dashboard so that data can be downloaded from the site, with an explanation of the measure and how it is calculated. And, there are links to the five state agencies.

The *Times* asked Dr. Simpson how the project was created. "We were thinking 'where do we want to go, what is our direction?'" she said. "So I met with every member of the Cabinet individually and talked about the direction we wanted to go."

"Every single one of them said, 'We want to look at outcomes.'"

"At that same time," Simpson explained, "the current Chief Justice [Catherine Kimball], who was not a member of the Cabinet, had a conversation with the

Secretary of DHH and with the Governor."

"The Chief Justice wanted to know what we could do to improve our ranking, how we could not be 49th or near the bottom, in nearly every indicator. She felt we needed to do something to really improve the well-being of children in Louisiana. And, she talked with the Governor about her ideas."

Then when Simpson spoke with the Governor, everything came together. "It was almost like an 'ah ha moment.'" Simpson said. "The Children' Dashboard came from those discussions."

"We wanted to involve the community. We knew that until we could get the community involved, we were really not going to get the change we wanted," she said.

"We wanted to create the Dashboard and use the real-time indicators ...," she explained to the *Times*. "We could use it as an internal tool to track indicators, but also we felt it could be a way to really drive change."

The Kid's Dashboard is found at www.kidsdashboard.la.gov



Dr. Tiffany Simpson, Executive Director of the Children's Cabinet. Dr. Simpson studied with Dr. Paul Frick at the University of New Orleans.

Veterans Day 2012

General Cadoria To Speak at Alex VA

The Alexandria VA Medical Center will present a Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, November 11, followed by a formal program on the medical center grounds and a community picnic, according to the US Department of Veterans Affairs list of ceremonies.

This year, Brigadier General (Retired) Sherian Grace Cadoria, the first black female general in the US Army and the Army's highest ranking female at the time of her retirement, will be the featured speaker at the ceremony. The medical center's women's clinic is named after General Cadoria, according to officials.

"Traveling Wall" In Monroe on V Day

The "Traveling Wall" will be in Monroe Louisiana, on Veterans Day this year also. Dr. Kelley Pears, Psychologist and PTSD/SUD Specialist in the PTSD Clinical Team at the VA in Alexandria, noted that a group from Alexandria will be traveling to see the exhibition in Monroe.

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall is a 3/5 scale replica of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC. It serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by those in the Vietnam War, and honors the courage, sacrifice and devotion to duty of Vietnam Veterans. The names of the men and women who gave their lives in the Vietnam War, or who remain missing, are engraved on the Wall.

The Monroe exhibit will be from November 8 to 11, at the Chennault Aviation and Military Museum.

VA Offers Online Toolkit With Guide for Community Providers

Press Release

Online Toolkit Aims to Support Mental Health Providers Serving Veterans in the Community

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs has developed a new online Community Provider Toolkit

(www.mentalhealth.va.gov/communityproviders) aimed at delivering support, therapeutic tools, and resources to community providers treating Veterans for mental health concerns.

"Many Veterans seek mental health care at VA, yet many also choose to go to providers in their community," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "VA is committed to helping Veterans wherever they may seek care. This toolkit will enable those community providers who treat Veterans to better understand the specific issues Veterans face and help them access VA resources."

The goal of the Community Provider Toolkit is to further enhance the delivery of mental health services to Veterans through increased communication and coordination of care between community providers and VA. It not only provides information about accessing, communicating with, and, if needed, making referrals to VA, but also provides effective tools to assist Veterans who are dealing with a variety of mental health challenges. The Community Provider

Cont'd next pg

LA Psychologists Note Issues For Understanding Military Life

Amid celebrations and honoring of veterans this year, there remains a concern for military men and women due to continued high suicide rates.

An August 16, 2012 press release from the Department of Defense confirmed the rising suicide rates in the military. This last July saw high numbers, and in a press release General Lloyd J. Austin, III, vice chief of staff of the Army, said in the release, "Suicide is the toughest enemy I have faced in my 37 years in the Army."

In August this year, President Obama issued an Executive order to improve the mental health for Veterans, service members and their families. Because of this, the VA has been hiring 1,600 mental health professionals and increasing the support for the Veterans Crisis line.

But experts also say that families, communities, and private sector professionals must be fully engaged in helping also.

Using 2010 information from the CDC and Defense Department, *Time Magazine* noted that military suicides are high, but the causes are unclear. Time reported that suicides are 95 percent male, 95 percent enlisted, 80 percent white, and 47 percent under the age of 25. Eighty-three percent were in the US at the time of suicide. Eleven percent had combat history. Seven percent had major depression, 5 percent PTSD, and 3 percent Traumatic Brain Injury. Twenty-six percent had substance abuse.

The military site "Real Warriors" (<http://www.realwarriors.net/>), an initiative by the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, and the recently launched Online Toolkit for Providers, notes that military training, survival skills, and the military culture may cause challenges in reintegration for returning service members.

The *Times* spoke with two Louisiana psychologists, Dr. Dana Boose and Dr. Andrew Thrasher, about what their perspectives and what they view as important in the Louisiana community and in efforts to assist the returning servicemen and women to transition back to home.

Dr. Dana Boose is a Clinical Psychologist in the Post Deployment Healthcare Clinic at the Alexandria VA Healthcare System. She is also commissioned as a Captain in the Louisiana Army National Guard.

PT: Can you comment on what you see as the most important things that local Louisiana psychologists and mental health professionals could do, in your opinion, to help in this area?

Dr. Boose: "I concur ... family and community connectedness and easy access to effective care are essential," she said.

"Additionally, we as mental health professionals need to be keenly aware of the risk factors associated with suicide and need to be proactive in our care!

One of the most salient risk factors that encompasses a number of different areas includes loss-loss which can manifest itself in many different ways: death of a fellow soldier/close friend in combat, loss of a relationship upon return (marriage/friendship), loss of employment, loss of physical functioning (may have been injured during deployment), or loss of cognitive functioning (especially debilitating among young, otherwise healthy veterans who have endured a traumatic brain injury that contributes to cognitive impairment). Other relevant risk factors to include in your assessment are presence of substance abuse, access to weapons, separation or pending separation from military, and problems adjusting to their civilian roles post deployment, among others.

"Another area of impact is assisting veterans in easing their transition back to civilian life. They go through an intense train-up to deploy, but comparatively not the same amount of attention is given to assisting these veterans in understanding and learning how to adjust to assuming their roles as fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, employees, students, etc. upon their return home...many veterans experience extreme difficulty with this transition and I believe it largely contributes to exacerbation of mental health problems among our veterans."

PT: What factors do you see as promoting the returning veterans feeling more connected and less isolated?

Dr. Boose: "Two things immediately come to mind: Veterans need *support from their community*--one of the biggest needs for returning veterans continues to be employment. In my work I see a positive correlation between employment and feeling connected and empowered among veterans. They need jobs when they come home. Perhaps one of the greatest ways a community could demonstrate support for their veterans is to recognize the vast training, skills and experience that our veterans gain during their military training, and assist them in job placement upon their return from duty."

Cont'd next pg



Dr. Dana Boose is a Clinical Psychologist in the Post Deployment Healthcare Clinic at the Alexandria VA Healthcare System. She is also a Captain in the Louisiana Army National Guard. She talked with *Times* about the ways to help veterans readjust to civilian life. Photo taken earlier this year at events of the 2225th Bridge Company in Marrero, LA.

(Courtesy photo)

Psychologists, Military Life, Cont'd

"They need *patience and understanding from friends and family members and their community*. Unfortunately it's easy for people to make blanket statements, and sometimes family members are the worst culprits, with comments such as "he's crazy", "she's changed", or placing any number of negative labels upon a veteran without truly taking the time to understand or appreciate what he or she has been through—largely contributing to feelings of isolation and avoidance for the veteran. Take time to understand a veteran's experiences and what he or she is going through--volunteer to help veterans, spend time with them. Whenever possible, offer services to veterans in appreciation of their sacrifices--they appreciate it.

PT: I see that the VA is adding help for these veterans, and also recommending coordination between the VA and other agencies and people in the community. Do you have a comment about how that is going?

Dr. Boose: "I am excited about what the VA is doing for our veterans and their families, as well as how the VA partners with community agencies to ensure our veterans needs are met. The

VA recognizes the increased need and benefit of incorporating the family into the veteran's care; to this end we are offering treatment groups specifically for spouses of veterans as well as couples counseling. Educational interventions for family members to better understand the veteran's experiences are available. The Vet Center also provides readjustment counseling and couples/family counseling. As I previously mentioned employment is an ongoing need; the VA's vocational rehabilitation program works closely with the Louisiana Workforce Commission in an attempt to locate jobs for veterans. The VA has a homeless veteran's program that works closely with local shelters and the local housing authority in Alexandria assisting veterans in securing housing. We also have a veteran's justice outreach program that works closely with our local district attorney's office and judges to identify veterans in the justice system with mental health needs and seeks to provide them with needed mental health care. As the needs of our veterans evolve I'm certain that the VA and the community will continue to think of novel ways to come together in the interest of assisting our veterans."

The *Times* also interviewed Dr. Andrew Thrasher. Dr. Thrasher is a licensed psychologist at the Psychotherapy Clinic, LLC, in Sulphur, Louisiana. He is also a veteran and he is member of the Give An Hour program.

PT: It looks like there are some complex things going on with the suicide rate and wonder if you can comment on that?

Dr. Thrasher: "The 38th Annual National Suicide Prevention Week took place this year September the 9th through the 15th. Unfortunately, suicide is still a major concern for the nation and especially in our military. I Googled *suicide in the military* and, after wading through the political finger pointing (which president is at fault), found some interesting information. It seems people suffering from PTSD may have a significantly higher risk of suicide than other trauma survivors diagnosed with other psychiatric illnesses (Ferrada-Noli et al., 1998). An excellent graphic from Time <http://www.time.com/time/interactive/0,31813,2119360,00.html> breaks down military suicide data very well and also presents a few surprises. For example, only 11 percent experienced combat and as few as five percent were diagnosed with PTSD. The top two behavioral issues involved with suicide in the military were substance abuse with 26 percent and major depressive disorder with seven percent. PTSD was third with five percent."

PT: Can you give a little perspective on yourself as a veteran?

Dr. Thrasher: "My personal experience with the military occurred when I joined the draft. For those of you unfamiliar with the term *draft*, it is a rather antiquated ritual that used to occur in the United States. At the

age of 18, men in this country were required to sign up for the military draft and could be called into the military service at any time. To avoid any future surprises of being called to service, I volunteered for the draft to fulfill my two year obligation. I was stationed at Colorado Springs, Colorado and was rather enjoying my stint in the Army. I wanted to believe that I was protecting my country from the enemy infiltrating the ski resorts in Colorado.

"My illusion ended one morning when I was ordered to report for battle to an unknown destination in the Middle East. I was a member of the missile command which was part of the Strategic Army Corps (STRAC). Apparently, I could be deployed to battle in order to strike quickly in the case of a military emergency. The emergency was called off and I was not deployed; however, I vividly remember standing in line, with my rifle, at the airport preparing to board a military plane. Even though I was a soldier, I was completely unprepared to go into battle. I am sure that the stress of *just thinking* about going into battle caused me some degree of PTSD. I can only imagine the horror of being involved in combat and will always have a warm spot for those that served our country in this manner."

PT: How are you currently involved with assisting the military?

Dr. Thrasher: "My current involvement with the military involves volunteer work with Give an Hour <http://www.giveanhour.org/>.

"This is a worthwhile organization that gives psychologists an opportunity to give back to the troops that were deployed and are now integrating back into civilian life."

VA Offers Toolkit, cont'd

Toolkit also includes sections intended to increase providers' knowledge about military culture.

On Aug. 31, President Obama issued his historic Executive Order to improve mental health services for Veterans, Servicemembers and military families. As directed in the Executive Order, VA is hiring 1,600 new mental health professionals and 300 support staff. The Executive Order also directed a 50 percent increase in the staff of the Veterans Crisis line. Last year, VA provided quality, specialty mental health services to 1.3 million Veterans. Since 2009, VA has increased the mental health care budget by 39 percent. Since 2007, VA has seen a 35 percent increase in the number of Veterans receiving mental health services, and a 41 percent increase in mental health staff.

VA provides a comprehensive continuum of effective treatments and conducts extensive research on the assessment and treatment of PTSD and other mental health problems. Those interested in further information can go to www.mentalhealth.va.gov or www.ptsd.va.gov to find educational materials including courses for providers and best practices in mental health treatment. They can also learn more about the award-winning VA/DoD PTSD Coach Mobile App, which provides education, resources, and symptom monitoring and management strategies.

Find this Community Provider Toolkit at <http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/communityproviders/military.asp>

State & National News

LPA Hosts Online Webinar For Georgia Psychologists

The Louisiana Psychological Association hosted a webinar training event for psychologists in Georgia, titled, "Clinical and Forensic Aspects of a Social Security Psychological Consultative Examination: An Ethical Approach." The event took place on October 20, 2012.

The presenter was Michael Chafetz, PhD, ABPP, who presented his research and continuing investigation of classification

accuracy with social security disability claimants. Dr. Chafetz discussed the roles and boundaries of professional psychologists, different approaches to noncredible behaviors and why one type is more prevalent in disability. He also addressed special problems inherent in the assessment of low-functioning claimants.

Dr. Chafetz presented this track of research as an invited presenter at the American Psychological Association last year.

Legislative Resolution Urges Awareness about Vitamin D

In the spring legislative session Senator Mills authored a Senate Resolution to urge the Department of Health and Hospitals to take a more active stand in the prevention of disease model, and specifically in the building of awareness of deficiency of vitamin D.

The resolution pointed to a list of research findings suggesting that deficiency of vitamin D, which is made by human skin during and after exposure to "high-angle sunshine" and ultraviolet B light, is related to a variety of health issues.

The resolution urged the awareness of the health benefits of vitamin D and its relationship to health and disease, including the "increased chances of cancer survival with sufficient levels of vitamin D."

Sen Mills noted the importance of D in the prevention of Rickets, bone disease, and influenza compared to other school children. Also he noted a 2010 article published in the *Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine* that reported a study in Egypt that found that children without autism had blood serum levels of vitamin D averaging 40.1 ng/ml, and children with autism had significantly lower blood serum levels of vitamin D, averaging 28.5 ng/ml.

He also noted studies having to do with vitamin D for the first year of life and being less likely to develop

type I diabetes by the age of thirty; that females who received regular vitamin D supplementation during the first years of life are fifty percent less likely to develop preeclampsia in their first pregnancy; and a 2009 study at the Medical University of South Carolina found that pregnant women who took 4,000 IU a day of vitamin D during pregnancy had a fifty percent reduction in the rate of premature births and delivered fewer babies with low birth weight than women who took 400 IU a day of vitamin D.

A study of the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* compared cancer rates of a group of post-menopausal women taking 1,100 IU of vitamin D supplements in combination with calcium, to cancer rates of a group taking a placebo, and that found the risk of developing any cancer after four years was sixty percent lower in the group taking vitamin D.

Another study presented at American Association for Cancer Research found that blood serum levels of vitamin D of at least 50 ng/ml were associated with an eighty-three percent reduction in the incidence of breast cancer compared to blood serum levels of vitamin D of 25 ng/ml.

Many more articles were mentioned in the resolution, which can be found on the legislative website as SR 22.



Dr. Susan Dardard speaks with Dr. Michael Chafetz at an LPA Conference.

Psychological Science in Public Interest Webinar Presented by LPA

Dr. Michael Chafetz presented a special review of his research on malingering in social security disability for Senator Thomas Coburn's Congressional Office members. The online presentation took place on September 26, 2012, hosted by the LPA On-Line Academy.

Dr. Chafetz is a clinical, neuropsychological, and forensic psychologist working in New Orleans. He is board certified in Clinical Neuropsychology and a reviewer for *Applied Neuropsychology*, *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*. He has published numerous articles in refereed journals, including *To Work Or Not To Work: Motivation (Not Low IQ)*

Determines SVT Findings (*Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*, 26, 306-313), and *The Psychological Consultative Examination for Social Security Disability (Psychological Injury and Law*, in press). He presented "The Role of the Psychologists in the Psychological Consultative Examination for Social Security Disability," an invited talk at the 2011 APA Annual Convention for the Division of Neuropsychology. He serves on the Board of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology.

Dr. Chafetz was named Louisiana Distinguished Psychologist for 2012 by LA Psychological Assn in the spring.

American Board of Medical Psychology



The Specialty for the Coming Integrated Care Models in Primary Care Centers and Hospitals

Medical Psychologists are post doctorate trained and licensed psychologists with training in psychopharmacology, behavioral medicine, and health psychology. A medical psychologist is more than a psychopharmacologist and clinical psychologist and they are prepared for the mainstream healthcare system.

They have passed a national oral and written examination and have completed a preceptorship.

Join our interest society or present your credentials and training for examination and diplomat status at:

www.amphome.org

Different Views Prompt Research on Telepsychology

Interest around the country is growing regarding electronic means of engaging with clients. Last month the president of Society of Industrial and Organizational Psychology indicated that guidelines being developed by different groups may impact IO psychologists. The American Psychological Association and the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards, have attention focused on these issues.

The Louisiana psychology board published Opinion 13 this past April, saying that "... in order to practice telepsychology within the State of Louisiana, one must hold a current, valid license issued by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners or shall be a supervisee of a license being delgate telepsychology practices."

The Opinion also noted, "... this rule does not authorize

licensees to practice telepsychology in service to clients domiciled in jurisdictions other than Louisiana ..."

Confusion still exists however, whether telepsychology is only mental health, or if it involves general applied psychology. Most definitions suggest that these are not included, but this remains unclear and matter some are concerned about.

At the same time, the ASPPB received a grant to help with license portability and ways to promote the use of telehealth technologies.

The *Times* talked with Dr. Rober Glueckauf, of the Department of Medical Humanities and Social Sciences at Florida State University about a telepsychology study that he is assisting with for Florida State University, College of Medicine.

He told the *Times*, the purpose of this study is to examine the characteristics, opinions and online experiences of mental health professionals who either use or plan to use technology in providing online counseling services. We are interested in identifying the types of technologies they are currently using and their awareness of laws, regulations, standards and guidelines applicable to the provision of online counseling."

The target populations for the study are professionals, such as psychologists, social workers, psychiatric nurses, nurse practitioners, marriage and family counselors, mental health and drug counselors, faith-based (religious) practitioners, and psychiatrists providing mental health services. (See box on this page.)



Psychology Gumbo

by Julie Nelson

In this month's Gumbo, I asked Dr. Gary Pettigrew, a classmate of mine from LSU to review an article that I think is important. Cognitive psychology is showing us more and more the implicit mind is at work, thank you very much Sigmund. This article grabbed my attention last year, but it popped back in while I was writing the article on veterans, and the alarmingly high suicide rates. Gary has made a study of implicit cognitive psychology, and I'm delighted he agreed to look at this article for us. He has some important links in his comment below.

• **"Measuring the Suicidal Mind: Implicit Cognition Predicts Suicidal Behavior"** - *Journal of Psychological Science*, 2010. M. Nock, et al.

Researchers found implicit associations exceed the predictive validity of known risk factors in suicide.

COMMENT: Dr. Gary Pettigrew, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Dawson Psychological Associates, Coordinator of Complaints, LSBEP.

"The Implicit Association Test (IAT) presents one or two categories on the upper left and upper right side of a computer screen, into which the participant classifies a target word shown center screen by pressing a key on the left or a key on the right. Target words are presented in random order, and categories occasionally switch sides in a counterbalanced manner. For the suicide IAT, for example, the categories DEATH and NOT ME might appear on the left, while LIFE and ME are shown upper right. The target word "myself" is correctly classified by pressing the right-hand key, as it belongs to one of the categories on that side. After all trials, if it was much easier (more efficient in speed and accuracy) to classify ME words when that category was on the same side as the DEATH category, a strong implicit (subconscious) association between those categories would be calculated for the patient performing this task.

"A recent Psychological Science article (Nock et al., 2010) reported that patients presenting to the emergency department after a suicide attempt had a significantly stronger implicit association between ME and DEATH than those with other psychiatric complaints.

"More impressively, this association predicted future suicide attempts during six-month follow-up better than the patient's own prediction or other clinical factors studied. Patients with this IAT result were six times more likely to make another attempt. Previous IAT studies have also shown potential for clinical utility, including the issues of anxiety, alcoholism, emotional self-regulation, and self esteem.

"Downloadable research articles can be found at <http://www.projectimplicit.net/papers.html> and a Windows computer application to use the IAT method may be downloaded from <http://www.savetimesoftware.com/> "

Survey: "What Do You Think About Telepsychology?"

Have you provided telepsychology services to clients? Do know someone who has? Are you interested in or considering providing telepsychology services? You are invited to participate in a brief online survey assessing the characteristics, opinions and experiences of mental health professionals who currently provide or intend to provide online counseling services.

Telepsychology and online counseling services are increasingly becoming more common and available to the general public. However, relatively little is known about the professionals providing online services, their training and knowledge, the types of services they are providing and technologies being used. This study is a collaborative effort among researchers at the Florida State University College of Medicine and Kansas University Medical Center, and the TeleMental Health Institute.

The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete. The survey questions do not require disclosure of personal information and your identity and responses will remain anonymous. Summary results of the survey will be available at www.SelfhelpMagazine.com after the study is complete.

To complete the survey go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HXLBVJ6>

If you have any questions about the study or need further information, please feel free to contact the principal investigator, Dr. Marlene Maheu, <http://support.telementalhealth.com>

* *Telepsychology* services include counseling services offered at a distance using telecommunication technologies, such as telephone, email, and videoconferencing.



MENSANA PUBLICATIONS

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS

"Bringing Science to Practice"

www.MensanaPublications.com

CEUs for Reading the *The Psychology Times*

Evolving Science Draws Mixed Reactions

New Orleans clinical neuropsychologist, Dr. Michael Chafetz, and his scientific findings are continuing to draw interest from around the country. However, some responses in his own backyard have been less enthusiastic.

On October 20, 2012, the Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA) On-Line Academy hosted a presentation by Chafetz for Georgia psychologists. In the webinar, "Clinical and Forensic Aspects of a Social Security Psychological Consultative Examination: An Ethical Approach," Chafetz outlined his emerging research. Many of the attendees consult regularly regarding disability.

The LPA On-Line Academy also hosted a webinar in the public interest for staff members from Senator Thomas Coburn's congressional office. Chafetz presented his research about psychometric prediction of malingering in social security disability claimants.

However, this past January the Director of Louisiana Disability Determinations Services (DDS), Ms. Terri Spurgeon, sent a memo to psychologist examiners about the Chafetz presentation, noting that the presentation was not sanctioned by DDS or checked for compliance with Social Security Administration (SSA) policy, rules or regulations. She reminded providers to adhere to instructions from DDS and SSA.

Throughout the year, repeated requests by the *Times* for clarification from Director Spurgeon were ignored. A formal records request sent in early September and the *Times* called on October 14, 2012, to ask about the request. A representative in Department of Child and Family Services, Executive Division, said that they were the right group to handle such a request, but she "had not seen it come in."

On Monday this week, October 29, the *Times* received an acknowledgment from Attorney Celia Alexander that the Department had received the request, and was contacting SSA for

additional information, and that might take some time.

Evolving Forensic Psychology

Over the last decades, psychological science regarding medical-legal evaluations has been evolving. Psychologists' roles in the legal areas have grown along with their research efforts.

In a 2011 article for *Psychological Injury and Law*, Chafetz wrote, "The roles of psychologists and neuropsychologists in forensic cases have been growing exponentially since the 1970s ..." He explained that forensic psychologists have significantly outpaced the roles of psychiatry in the courts. He wrote that this appears to be due to the scientist-practitioner training, including hypothesis-testing and statistical classification methods, that "place psychologists in the forefront" of a courtroom's requirement for facts.

Consulting in legal cases has driven psychologists' research about the accuracy of claims of disability, aspects of malingering or what is known as "faking bad."

An important topic in medical-legal evaluations, one of Chafetz' areas of expertise, malingering is shown to fall between 30 percent and 64 percent when compensation is involved. Chafetz and others have determined that malingering rates in social security examinations are likely to be between 42 percent and 45 percent.

In one study, the rates of malingering were found to be highest when claimants were seeking federal benefits, followed by state, and were lowest in private cases. And, researchers have also found that the degree of malingering is "dose dependent," when the higher the reward the higher the degree of malingering.

Chafetz' numerous research studies, published in peer-reviewed journals like *The Clinical Neuropsychologist*, *Psychological Injury and Law*, and *Applied Neuropsychology*, describe a set of complex psychometric analyses, some embedded in the psychological testing, to predict malingering. This approach has been used in forensic psychology and research, and has evolved over the last decades.

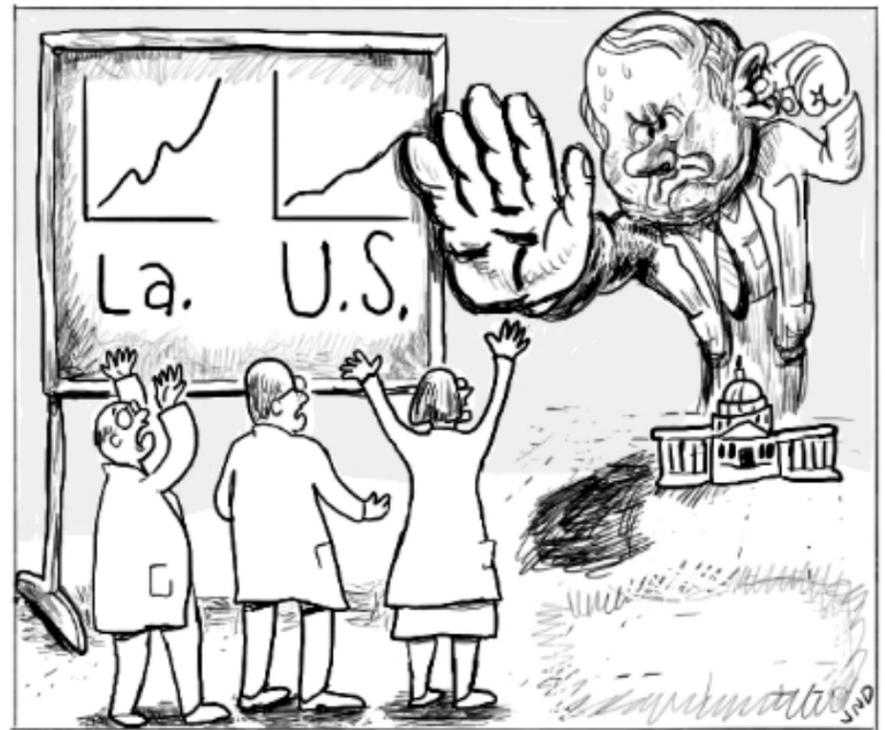
Motivation and personal goals are central to claimants' behavior in the exam and accuracy of results. He and colleagues studied three groups of individuals, all with lower IQ scores. One group was striving to regain custody of children, one group hoping for employment, and one group seeking disability benefits. The benefit seeking group had high rates of malingering, while the other groups did not, demonstrating tests of malingering can help psychologists gauge poor effort, even with individuals who have low IQs.

Dr. Chafetz and colleagues are producing scientific innovations that cast doubt on some of the procedures and policies of Social Security Administration (SSA).

If his results are correct, SSA may be giving benefits to a subset of individuals who are not truly disabled, improper payments reaching into the billions of dollars.

However, SSA does not conduct this type of research or fund researchers who do. Chafetz and his collaborators work without compensation.

Nor does SSA provide for tests of malingering or faking. Instead, the SSA uses an approach that involves investigators in "Cooperative Disability Investigation" units, called CDIs, who use private investigation methods to uncover "improper SSA payments." An approach, that may involve labor



intensive efforts on the part of SSA employees.

Ethical Binds: Psychologists in the Middle?

The SSA and their departments of disability determinations (DDS) at the state level contract with psychologists to conduct examinations. Mental disorders make up 33 percent of social security disability and 60 percent of social security disability for the poor (SSI).

Psychologists are the appropriate professionals to make many of these judgments.

Psychologists are ethically responsible for the accuracy of their conclusions, and for choosing the psychometric instruments are required to help them make the judgment, and which scientific findings or research is to bear on their judgment.

Psychologists who adhere to SSA policy may find themselves caught in an ethical bind, if they are asked to ignore scientific findings related to the accuracy of their work.

"Psychologists are obligated to keep up with research and to apply research to their work," Dr. Tom Hannie told the *Times*. Hannie has worked in forensic and clinical areas for over four decades.

"If you only administer a test and send it on to your client/employer to interpret, or fail to interpret it according to research as commanded by your employer/client, you are not functioning as a Psychologist, you are working as a Technician

and should be replaced by a high school graduate."

Productivity Issues

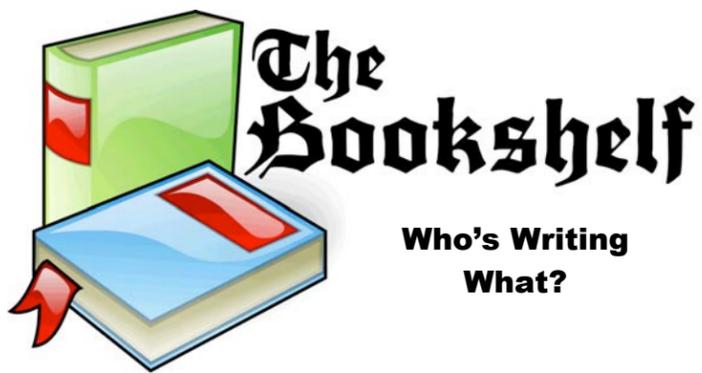
Aging of baby boomers and the poor jobs economy appear to be in part responsible for a record number of both claims and benefits being paid out for social security disability. This increased workload, and government hiring freezes have overloaded the already burdened personnel in state agencies.

Delays and backlogs have reached months and even years for SSA. Also, because many claims are rejected, then appealed, the backlog for these appeals, decided on by Administrative Law Judges, is also at a high.

In a September 13, 2012 *Associated Press* article, journalist Stephen Ohlemacker, reported that congressional investigators found that due to SSA personnel being overwhelmed by disability claims, benefits are being awarded without adequate reviews.

Senator Thomas Coburn from Oklahoma, a Republican on the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, is studying the issue, the article noted. A sample of 300 cases were reviewed by the congressional group, and more than 25 percent were found to be insufficient or incomplete in evidence.

Currently about 11 million people receive SSD (approximately \$1,000 a month) and 8.2 million receive SSI benefits (about \$500 monthly). Mental disorders make up about 33 percent of the SSD and about 60 percent of SSI.



Living in an Environmentally Traumatized World: Healing Ourselves and Our Planet

*Praeger Series,
Practical and Applied Psychology, 2012*

*Darlyne G. Nemeth, Robert B. Hamilton,
and Judy Kuriansky, Editors*

For the *Times* "Bookshelf" this month we are honored to showcase Dr. Darlyne Nemeth's new book, with guest reviewer Dr. Joe Tramontano. The review comes not a moment too soon, with Hurricane Sandy leaving the East coast in shambles.

Dr. Nemeth told the *Times*, "This is the first book of it's kind to feature the work of natural scientists, psychosocial scientist, and visionary interventionists."

"My co-editors are Dr. Robert Hamilton, a visionary ecologist, and Dr. Judy Kuriansky, a media psychologist, interventionist, and professor of psychology at Columbia University."

The work is an outgrowth of the 2007 symposium on behalf of the World Council of Psychotherapy (WCP) titled, "Strategies to Facilitate Biosphere Management and Lifestyle Change: Measures to Protect the Environment and Prevent Drastic Sequelae of Current and Future Climate Changes," presented at the 60th Annual United Nations DPI/NGO Conference Mid-day workshops in New York, NY.

This is where Dr. Nemeth linked with many of her contributors. "I chaired this event and spoke about the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina," she explained, and was later joined in this effort by Guillermo Garrido, MD, a Venezuelan Psychiatrist, who spoke about medical interventions post environmental trauma, Dr. Yasuo Onishi who addressed water issues, Dr. Onishi who consulted on the cleanup of Chernobyl, the Gulf Coast, & Fukushima, and others.

"Since that time," she told the *Times*, "we have made presentations at the World Council for Psychotherapy's 2008 meeting in Beijing, China and WCP 2011 meeting in Sydney, Australia," she noted. "We are scheduled to make a similar presentation at WCP Eurasian meeting in Moscow in 2013."

For the writing, "This was a 2 year process," she said. "Working with two editors, one of whom was a natural scientist and one of whom was a media psychologist/interventionist was very enriching."

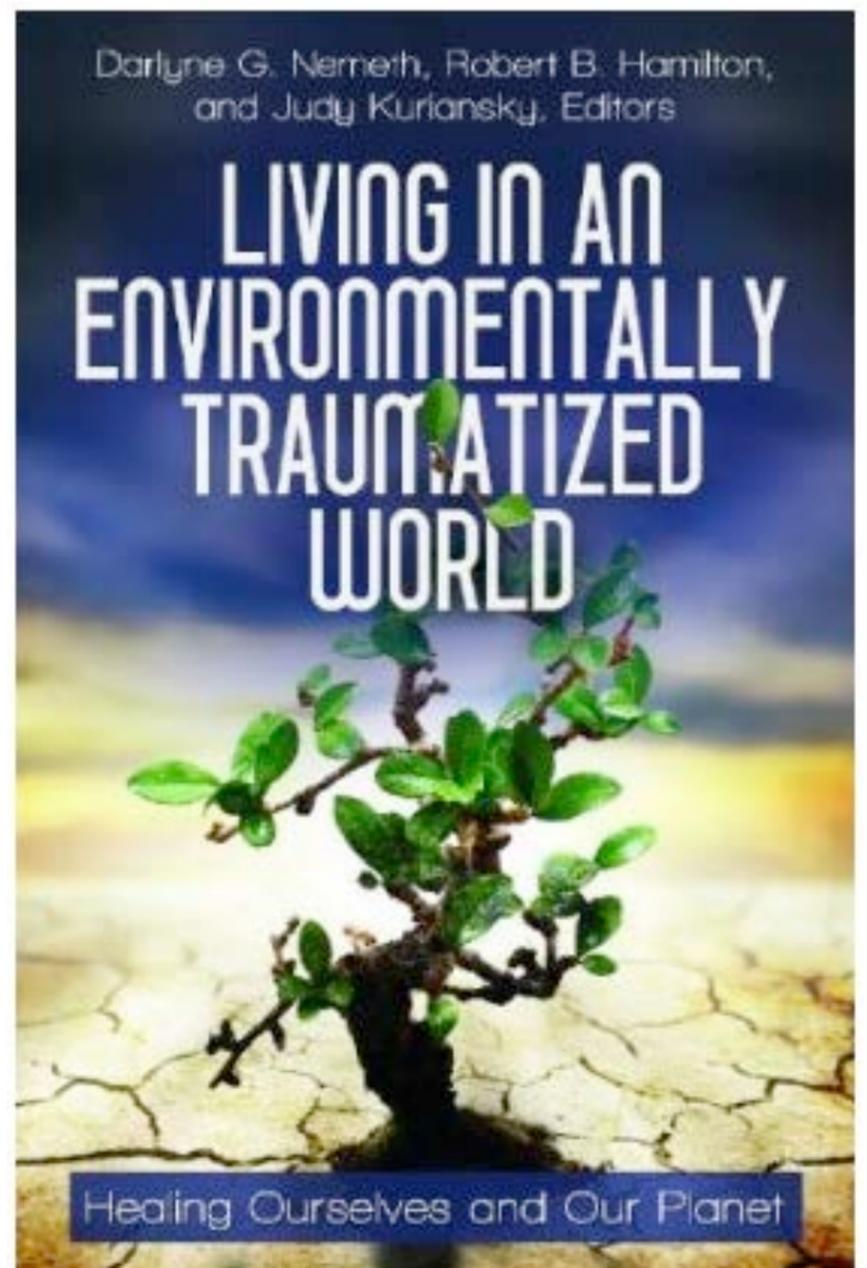
And the enrichment seems apt to continue: Dr. Nemeth has been asked to edit an Online Journal Edition of Ecopsychology. She has also been asked to edit a two volume book set on Ecopsychology for Praeger.

A Review by Dr. Joseph Tramontana

Having survived Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Gustav (and more recently Isaac), in recent years, I was delighted to be able to review *Living in an Environmentally Traumatized World: Healing Ourselves and Our Planet*, Drs. Darlyne Nemeth, Robert Hamilton, and Judy Kuriansky, editors.

They have done a masterful job of gathering natural scientists, psychosocial scientists and visionary interventionists together to address environmental trauma from their unique perspectives.

The editors begin by introducing the importance of a holistic view in Chapter One, which focuses on basic principles of environmental change and the basic issues that are needed to address the resulting changes. As Drs. Nemeth, Hamilton, and Kuriansky point out, change



is inevitable, but how we prepare for and address change must be a matter of integrated decision making. Therefore, Part 1 focuses on gaining a meaningful understanding of our finite natural resources.

The editors note that the various types of change are addressed – temporal, spatial, human and/or living and traumatic changes. Natural scientists give their views of changes that occur by and/or to our water systems, our atmosphere, our planet earth, and our biosphere.

Chapter 2, which focuses on our living waters, refers to the work of Dr. Yasuo Onishi, an internationally recognized hydrologist. He participated in the clean-up of Chernobyl, Fukushima, the Charles River, and the BP Oil Spill. Dr. Onishi points out that our life-supporting waters are often just taken for granted, but they need care.

Dr. Robert Muller, a well-known climatologist, addresses atmospheric issues in Chapter 3. Again, another part of our world that we just take for granted. Yet, it is connected with everything. As climate change has taken its toll, we now must be aware of polluting our atmosphere.

Dr. Donald Nemeth, a geologist with experience in both industry and research, addresses issues of change, most easily apparent in the Arctic, and sustainability. He notes that humans have not been kind to the planet. Somehow, the earth has been perceived as static, but it is not. Anyone who has ever experienced a volcano or earthquake knows this, but we easily forget. We build in places that are unstable, yet we expect stability. Having lived through severe hurricanes, like Camille, Katrina, and Rita, this reviewer knows better, yet I cling to my beautiful home on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Sometimes culture and tradition do override environmental dangers. We must be aware of this and prepare for the inevitable.

A meaningful understanding of the status of our Flora and Fauna is provided by Dr. Robert Hamilton, a visionary ecologist, in Chapter 5. Dr. Hamilton offers a useful understanding of past events to help us prepare for the present and the future. According to Dr. Hamilton, we must understand our relationship with nature and with all living things in order to prepare for and preserve the future. The need for wildlife habitats is outlined.

I was interested in learning about the Mata Atlantica Biosphere Reserve Project in Brazil discussed in Chapter 6. Joao L.R. de

Bookshelf, cont'd

Albuquerque, the Biosphere's Director of this amazing UNESCO (United Nations Economic, Scientific, and Cultural Organizations) project, outlines the importance of having such reserves. There are currently over 500 such UNESCO reserves in the world. These worldwide, networked projects purpose is to promote research, cultural and natural heritage, and sustainable development.

As a psychologist and having been trained to participate as a Red Cross first responder through the Mississippi Psychological Association's Disaster Response Network, I was much more familiar with the theme of Part II – Our Human Resources: Coping with Environmental Changes.

The authors of Chapter 7, Darlyne Nemeth and L. Taighlor Whittington, cite environmental experts who have pointed out that one of the greatest impacts of environmental trauma is psychological. They then outline five important strategies that are employed by robust people. Six personality adaptations that are frequently apparent post-environmental trauma are highlighted. A six-stage recovery process, involving shock, survival mode, assessment of basic needs, awareness of loss, susceptibility to spin and fraud, and resolution, is discussed. Having survived Hurricane Katrina, with 8 feet of water in my home in New Orleans, Louisiana and my Pass Christian, Mississippi, office/second home having disappeared from the earth, as I knew it, I personally experienced these 6 stages.

In Chapter 8, Dr. Judy Kuriansky points out what communities can do to heal from environmental trauma. Her recovery work in Haiti is most inspiring. Resilient communities can empower people to survive and rebuild. Social support is crucial to this process. People must seek out and care for the most vulnerable (e.g. children and seniors) if the entire diaspora is to be reclaimed. This can be done through counseling, anniversary

memories, music, art, etc; there are so many paths to emotional and social restoration. All must be included. Dr. Kuriansky offers an excellent example of healing and support through her Global Kids Project.

Coping via Spirituality is the theme of Chapter 9. Susan Zelenski highlights the role of ecopsychology in connecting human mental health and environmental health. The concept of post traumatic growth that often interconnects spirituality and mental health is introduced. At times of environmental trauma spiritual and religious traditions that are deeply rooted in the culture take on great importance.

Perhaps the best example of spiritual survival can be found in Chapter 10, where Dr. Gloria Albernaz Mulcahy outlines the importance of Our Indigenous People. Being of Cherokee ancestry, Dr. Mulcahy well understands the role of stories, culture, and traditions in the healing process. Indigenous people have survived by understanding their oneness with "Mother Earth." They have always lived in concert with the environment. We have not. They care for the earth and all living things, taking only what they need to survive.

Taking us into the 21st century are Anna Onishi and Alexander Steger in "Our Information: Availability, Communication, and Perception" in Chapter 11. They focus on all the ways we can connect via new technology. They also caution us that such connections are not always meaningful or helpful. As the authors state, technology is neutral; how we use it is not. We must find creative ways to use technology to prepare for environmental trauma, to promote healing, and to restore what is appropriate.

Part III focuses on the need for vision in order to respect our environment, to achieve resilience and to find resolution. The need for a holistic approach to managing our lives and our environment has never been more apparent.

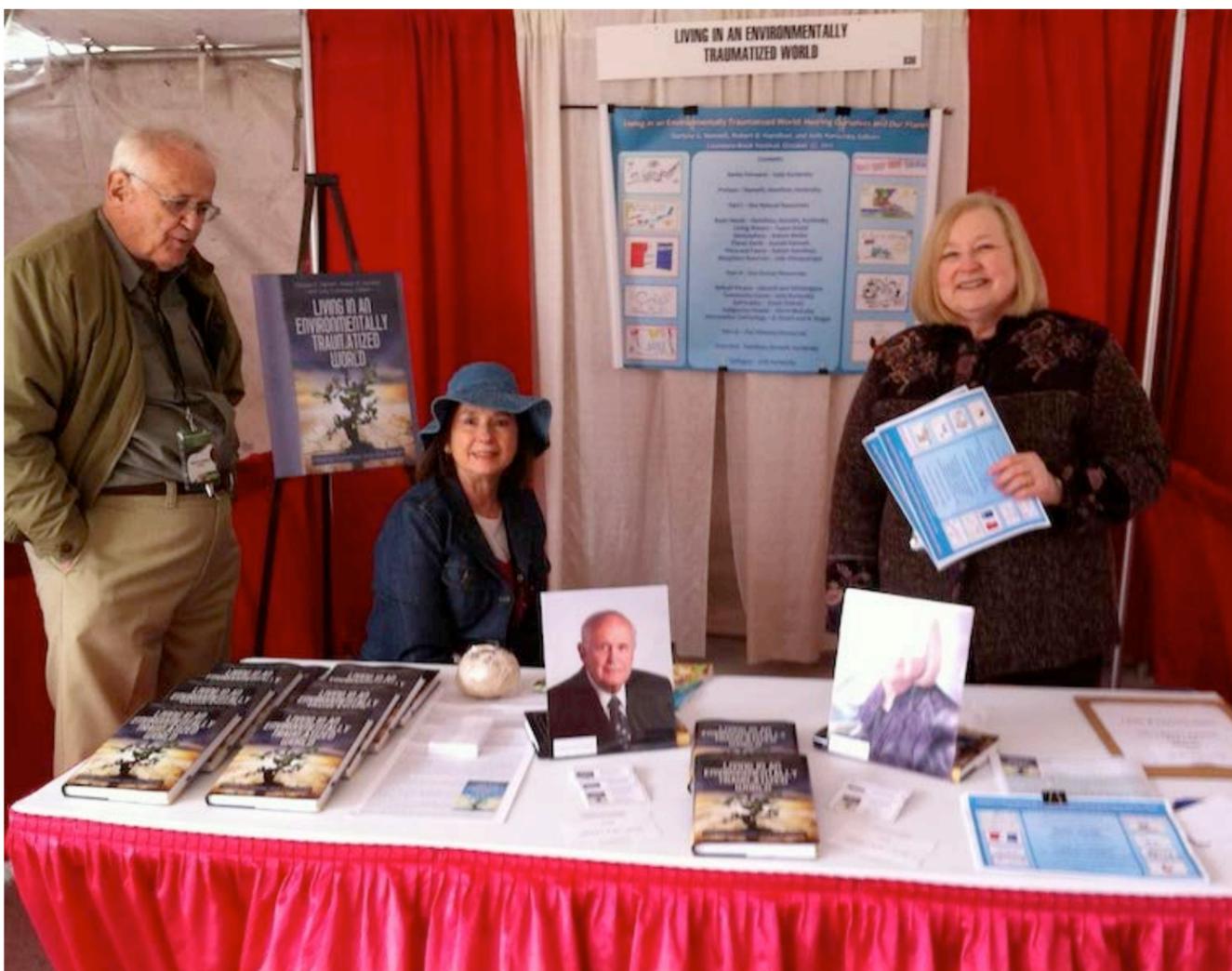


Dr. Darlyne Nemeth
(Courtesy photo.)

Drs. Hamilton, Nemeth, and Kuriansky point out the toll that living in an environmentally traumatized world is taking on all of us. Although change is inevitable, we can do so much better than we are doing. We can physically and emotionally prepare for hurricanes. We can rebuild in safer areas. We can help our neighbors. We can holistically plan to address environmental impacts. For example, after Hurricane Katrina, the levees were rebuilt around New Orleans; but no thought was given to where the water would flow in the next hurricane. On the 7th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, along came Hurricane Isaac and we found out. Laplace, Slidell, and the Northshore of Lake Pontchartrain, were the recipients of Isaac's water surges, flooding homes and, even, stranding alligators. Proper holistic planning will lead to fewer tragedies.

As a clinical psychologist, I can truly say that this book has opened my eyes to the work ahead. It is worth reading. It will challenge you to think much more broadly about ways to heal ourselves and our planet and to participate in this journey.

[About the reviewer: Joseph Tramontana, PhD, has been a licensed clinical psychologist for 41 years and is a long-standing member of the American, Mississippi, and Louisiana Psychological Associations. After several years in mental health administration, he has been in private practice for 34 years; the last 7 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, since evacuating his New Orleans and Mississippi homes in Hurricane Katrina. He received certification in clinical hypnosis from the American Society for Clinical Hypnosis (ASCH), is a faculty member for ASCH, and has authored two books on clinical applications of hypnosis. He is vice-president of the New Orleans Society of Clinical Hypnosis and a Director of the Louisiana Psychological Association.]



Dr. Robert Hamilton (left), wife Jean, and Dr. Darlyne Nemeth (right) at the Louisiana Book Festival, October 27, 2012, in Baton Rouge. Dr. Nemeth was interviewed by Jim Engster of the Jim Engster Show on WRKF in Baton Rouge. He said the book was "provocative," said Nemeth.
(Photo courtesy of Dr. Nemeth.)

People

Dr. Lemoine Commended

In the Regular Legislative Session this spring, 2012, Dr. Randall “Randy” Lemoine was commended by the Legislature for his thirty-five years of distinguished service with the Department of Health and Hospitals and to the citizens of Louisiana, and was extended congratulations and well wishes upon his retirement.

The Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 143, authored by Senator Heitmeier, noted that Dr. Lemoine has served the citizens of Louisiana with dedication and commitment.

The resolution also noted that Dr. Lemoine has served in the office of behavioral health, including as mental health executive director, program manager, and psychologist. And that he was currently serving as business intelligence.

The Resolution also noted, “... Dr. Lemoine's wealth of knowledge and expertise has served the department through several administrations by educating and guiding department officials and legislators regarding, among many other topics, data-informed decision making;”

Also, “... Dr. Lemoine has been an invaluable resource in the development of the data warehouse and the implementation of the Coordinated System of Care for children and adults with behavioral health issues as it relates to the complex data reporting system;”

And, “... Dr. Lemoine currently serves as director of business intelligence for the office of behavioral health ...”

“It has been a privilege for the department staff to learn from and work with Dr. Lemoine,” noted the authors, “and he has touched the lives of those he worked with, both inside and outside the department, ...”

Dr. Randy Lemoine attended the University of New Orleans for his bachelors in psychology and masters in psychology in 1975. He attained his doctoral degree in psychology from LSU in 1981.

He will be spending more time with family and the development of his private practice, working with families, children, and adolescents, as noted in the Resolution.



Dr. Randy Lemoine and Dr. Christine Angelos taking a break at the spring LPA Convention and continuing education workshops. Dr. Lemoine was commended by the Senate for his contributions to the citizens of Louisiana.

LSU's Dr. Sauley Presents Oct Workshop For Business Leaders

Dr. Kerry Sauley, IO psychology professor with the LSU Executive Education program presented a training workshop for managers and executives titled, “Art of Effective Feedback and Communication.”

Dr. Kerry Sauley is the Marjory B. Ourso Excellence in Teaching Professor in the Rucks Department of Management at LSU. According to the LSU Media press release, Dr. Sauley focused on instructing participants on the benefits of feedback for work teams, including all levels of an organization.

Sauley helped managers understand how to give effective feedback that helps improve performance, and how to give feedback in a way that it is more likely to be accepted. He also demonstrated and taught methods for dealing with defensiveness and issues related to poor performance.

Also, he described methods for making negative feedback more useful and apt to elicit positive changes in performance, according to the press release.

Dr. Sauley is a regular instructor in psychological methods for LSU Executive Education, part of the Stephenson Entrepreneurship Institute at the E. J. Ourso College of Business. The program has played a role in developing managers and supervisors, and their organizations, to meet the demands of the modern business and industrial environment, including global economic changes.

Dr. Sauley and colleague, Dr. Courtland Chaney, have, over the years, lead the flagship course, “Fundamentals of Supervision” (FOS).

The FOS course, first offered over 45 years ago, is a core part of the Management and Leadership Institute, a program of LSU Continuing Education.

FOS focuses on supervisory and general management skills needed for success in managing people.

For information about the program and Dr. Sauley, go to

<http://business.lsu.edu/executive-education/>

Nutrition and Health

Fish oil may help decrease anxiety. Omega-3 fatty acids (also referred to as fish oil) are gaining popularity due to their cardiovascular protection and joint health benefits. The standard American diet is known to be low in these healthy fats.

A recent study¹ showed that omega-3 fatty acids also have beneficial action on the nervous system. In a study of medical school students, **2.5 g/day of omega-3 fatty acid** supplementation **decreased anxiety symptoms by 20%** and decreased markers of inflammation by 14%.

Patients with omega-3 fatty acid deficiency may be more likely to suffer with anxiety symptoms while nutritional supplementation with these fats may help relieve anxiety symptoms.

1. Kiecolt-Glaser JK, Belury MA, Andridge R, Malarkey WB, Glaser R. Omega-3 supplementation lowers inflammation and anxiety in medical students: A randomized controlled trial. *Brain, behavior, and immunity*. Jul 19 2011.



**Sharing Paths to Health
with Functional Testing**

<http://www.metamatrixinstitute.org/>

People

Tulane Welcomes Dr. Baker To Dept

Dr. Courtney Baker has joined the psychology department at Tulane, as a core faculty member in the APA-accredited School Psychology doctoral program. Dr. Baker earned her PhD from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute.

Dr. Frick Authors For Annual Review

Dr. Paul Frick, Chair of the Psychology Department at the University of New Orleans, authored "Current Issues in the Diagnosis of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, and Conduct Disorder," for the Annual Review of Clinical Psychology. His coauthor is J. Nigg. The review evaluates diagnostic criteria for three disorders involving children and adolescents.



Dr. Gary Pettigrew walks daughter Shelby down the aisle of her costume wedding, taking place at St. Joseph's Plantation in Vacherie, Louisiana on October 27, 2012. All guests were in costume, with Shelby as "Morticia." Shelby wed Philip Gallagher, who was dressed as "Gomez." The house was decorated as if in mourning, mirrors veiled in black and coffin on display," Gary explained. Gary and wife Louise attended as Elizabethan Lord and Lady. Dr. Gary Pettigrew is a psychologist with Dawson Psychological Associates in Baton Rouge and is Coordinator of Complaints for LSBEP. (Courtesy photo)

LSUA Dr. Escandell To Speak at Psychology Thanksgiving Forum

The Annual Psychology Thanksgiving Forum will be sponsored at LSUA and the talk will be held on November 21, 2012. The presentation will be from 12 Noon to 1 pm and held at the Caffery Annex.

The invited speaker this year will be Dr. Vincent Escandell. Dr. Escandell who will present his talk on the topic of Post Traumatic Stress.

Dr. Escandell is a licensed clinical neuropsychologist from Alexandria, Louisiana.

Winner Chosen in Times Birthday Contest

The winner of the *Times* Birthday contest is the following comment:

"... the one loud voice who has had the courage and fortitude to demand transparency, truth, and integrity. She does not give up and may singly possess the ability to effect a positive direction for the profession."

This years runners up are:

"... a voice of reason and unification ... has developed an efficient forum.

"Slam dunk. Grand slam. Outstanding issue. You have overturned every visible stone, and unearthed

important hidden ones, to reveal the truth about Act. 251, and compiled your findings in a well-organized and compelling report. Work exceptionally well done. Congratulations, and thank you on behalf of our psychological community."

"... beautiful ... you did a beautiful job. Thank you so much. God bless you for all the work you do."

"... a voice of reason and unification ... has developed an efficient forum.

"Nice publication. Nice seeing the Powerful thee."

This is awesome! What a fantastic "power analysis!" (much more fun to read than the statistical kind, too!) I am in awe!"

"Great stuff! Loved the discussion on predictive statistics / analytics!"

"... this has become a very important means by which I can keep up with the profession



... Thanks for a job well done."

The *Times* will send a \$100 donation to charity choice of the author of the winning comment.

Contest was judged by journalism consultant Mr. Bob Holeman.



To support and advance psychology as a science, as a profession, and as a means of promoting health, education, and human welfare.

Join us today.
www.louisianapsychologist.org
 or call (225) 766-0185

Louisiana Psychological Association

Up-Coming Events

School Psychological Association In Lafayette, LA, Nov 7 to 9, Cont'd

Association 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.

Dr. Phil Lazarus, Past President of the National Association of School Psychologists is the Keynote speaker. Dr. Lazarus make his presentation on "Advocating for the Emotional Well-Being of our Nation's Youth."

Dr. Yael Banai is the current President of the Association. Dr. Connie Patterson, Tulane, is Publications Chair. Dr. Connie Patterson noted that this year would include some exciting poster presentations, along with the training opportunities.

Workshops will include "Models for Response

Intervention for Students with Behavioral Challenges," presented by Dr. Kristin Johnson. Dr. Johnson is the Director for the Institute for Evidence-Based Reform, and practices in Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Nebraska. She earned her degrees from Nicholls State University and University of Southern Mississippi.

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

Dr. John Simoneaux will present "Violent and Aggressive Behaviors Among School Age Populations, Prevention and Intervention." Dr. Simoneaux is psychologist and director of Professional Training Resources.

December 7, 2012

Louisiana Group Psychotherapy Winter Institute

The Louisiana Group Psychotherapy Society will hold the 2012 Winter Institute On December 7 and 8, at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, 500 Canal Street in New Orleans.

Dr. Nancy McWilliams, psychologist, psychoanalyst, teacher and author will be the featured guest speaker.

"Psychoanalytic Sensibility: Understanding Personality, Enhancing Empathy, & Preserving Our Humanity as psychotherapists," will be the theme of this years presentation.

Dr. McWilliams will conduct the two-day workshop, "Assessment of Personality and Overall Mental Health for Treatment Purposes."

The *Times* spoke with Dr. Chris Garner, Past-President of LGPS and Advisor to the Board. He



Dr. Nancy McWilliams, psychologist, psychoanalyst, and author, will conduct a two-day workshop at the Winter Institute of the LA Group Psychotherapy Society. Dr. McWilliams specializes in psychoanalytic psychotherapy and alternatives to DSM-IV diagnostic conventions. *(Courtesy photo)*

said, "Attendees will be acquainted or reacquainted with the mentality that psychotherapy is not simply about treating discrete symptoms for specific disorders. Psychotherapy is more developmentally oriented and aspires toward psychological and

Cont next pg

What!?

Have you forgotten to subscribe to

The Psychology Times?

Subscribe today at

<http://thepsychologytimes.com/>



Up-Coming Events, Cont'd

Louisiana Group Psychotherapy Society Winter Institute In NO, Dec 7-8

emotional growth and health. Dr. McWilliams has some perspective on some of the problems of the current status of our craft and society.”

Dr. McWilliams currently teaches at the Graduate School of Applied & Professional Psychology at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. She is the author of *Psychoanalytic Diagnosis: Understanding Personality Structure in the Clinical Process*, *Psychoanalytic Case Formulation* (1999), *Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy: A Practitioner's Guide*, and is Associate Editor of the *Psychodynamic Diagnostic Manual*. She is Past President of the Division of Psychoanalysis (39) of the American Psychological Association, Consulting Editor of the *Psychoanalytic Review*, and on the editorial board of *Psychoanalytic Psychology*.

“Dr. McWilliams will offer a way to understand personality dynamics that is actually useful in guiding therapy and helping patients lead more productive lives,” Dr. Garner said to the *Times*. “Although DSM-IV/V diagnostic labels may have some uses they fall gravely short of inspiring empathy in therapists, much less giving them therapist a useful clinical stance,” he said.

“Participants will have an opportunity to view one of Dr. McWilliams's therapy sessions. APA basically re-made the ‘Gloria Tapes,’ but this time with Nancy McWilliams, Judith Beck,

and Leslie Greenberg instead of Albert Ellis, Fritz Perls, and Carl Rogers,” Garner said. “The audience will view a session with Nancy while she lets the audience in on her clinical thinking and invites the audience to join her in discussing the complexity of the clinical encounter.”

The Louisiana Group Psychotherapy Society is an affiliate of the American Group Psychotherapy Association. The state organization information notes that its goals include providing an exchange of information and experience in group psychotherapy, including intensive discussion, training opportunities, and to foster research contributions in the field.

Dr. David Hayes, Clinical Psychologist and private practice group therapist in Baton Rouge, said, “Like everyone, psychologists and helping professionals spend their lives in groups. Families, professional reference groups, communities of friends - we live in these groups daily. Psychologists are often drawn to this profession because we are social animals,” he explained. “We have the same needs in groups as our patients, but unfortunately helping professionals learn early on to put self care on the back burner. Participating in the experiential groups via LGPS this December is an exciting opportunity for psychotherapists to rejoin the self-care game and get the best out of the profession in service of their own emotional health.”

Dr. Garner reminded that there will be experiential groups. “During these sessions,” he said, “participants will have an interpersonal process experience with other participants. Themes from the conference will come up in these sessions. Dr. McWilliams will be huddling

with the small group leaders.”

“Historically, these experiential elements have been rated very highly by our attendees despite initial hesitancy regarding the idea. Attendees tend to feel rejuvenated after our conferences,” Dr. Garner said.



Dr. Chris Garner, Past-President of LGPS and Advisor to the Board.
(Courtesy photo)

Dr. McWilliams specializes in psychoanalytic psychotherapy and supervision; the relationship between psychodiagnosis and treatment; alternatives to DSM-IV diagnostic conventions; integration of feminist theory and psychoanalytic knowledge; the application of psychoanalytic understanding to the problems of diverse clinical populations; altruism; narcissism; structural diagnosis; dissociation and dissociative disorders.

The society's website is <http://www.lgpsonline.org/index.html> Louisiana Group Psychotherapy Society's goals include advancing knowledge, research, and training in group psychotherapy.

The Society is multi-disciplinary with psychologists, clinical social workers, psychiatrists, counselors, students, and other mental health professionals.

The Psychology Times

CLASSIFIED ADS

Psychology Practice looking for professionals interested in joining our practice in **Metairie**. Two fully furnished offices in beautiful atrium building available 3 days per week. Rental includes telephone, fax, wireless internet, basic office supplies and receptionist. Contact Lynn at 504-455-0109.

Professional Shared Office Space for Rent: **Baton Rouge and Kenner** professional office space for rent by the hour, day, week, or month. Group room available upon request. No sublease required for part-time use. Utilities included. Support staff, services, and supplies available upon request and prior arrangements. Affordable rates. Please call 225-769-2533 for details.

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.

Tulane Brain & Behavior Conference, December 7-8 In New Orleans, LA

Tulane University will host it “Brain & Behavior” conference on December 7 and 8, 2012, in New Orleans.

The conference theme is “60 Years of Tulane Child and Adolescent Psychiatry: Brain, Behavior and Community.”

John Constantino, MD, the Blanche F. Ittleson Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics, and Director, William Greenleaf Eliot Division of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, at the Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine, will speak. He will deliver the invited address, “Unraveling the Genetic Structure of Autism: Implications for Causal Mechanisms, Treatment, and the Path Forward for Child Psychiatry.”

Tulane Faculty Speakers include Drs. Stacy Drury, Richard Dalton, Margaret Hauck, Michael Scheeringa, and Charles Zeanah.

Topics will also include combining clinical experience and research data, and substance abuse in adolescence.

Professional Training Resources Presents Seminars in November

Professional Training Resources (PTR) will present “Violence Across the Lifespan” in Lafayette, Louisiana, on November 2, 2012. The presentation will be at The Clarion Hotel.

Also in November, PTR will present “Going to Court Even Though You Don't Want To,” coming up November 14, from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm as an online webinar.

The training schedule for Spring 2013 has been posted to PTR website, said Ms. Lisa Driscoll, Training Director for PTR.

LPA Online Academy Home Study Program

The Louisiana Psychological Association On-Line Academy is providing Home Study Courses of its past webinar presentations. These include topics on Dreamwork in Therapy, Sleep Medicine, and Introduction to Acceptance and Commitment Therapy. Contact LPA for further information.