

## Legislative Session Begins April 13

### Higher Education Looking at More, Possibly Dramatic Cuts

At their March 25 finance meeting, the Board of Regents reviewed funding for the upcoming fiscal year. The agenda noted that the Executive Budget guaranteed only a small portion of what they need to operate. The agenda summarized,

“Therefore, \$123.5 million is available to fund all higher education entities.” This worse case situation represents an 82 percent reduction from 2008 funding. The Regents noted they would recommend spreading

Cont'd pg 3

## “What Would a Pony Do?”

### The Unexpectedly Fascinating Research with the Brony Fandom

What’s a Brony? For that matter, what’s a Fandom?

Dr. Marsha Redden, long-time Louisiana psychologist, now retired and transplanted to South Carolina where she’s licensed and studying at University of South Carolina–Upstate, has a bit of an idea.



Redden and her colleagues have been researching the fan group who call themselves “Bronies,” the unexpected fan group of boys and young men—the average age is 21—who follow the animated television show, *My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic*.

The series, produced by Hasbro, targets the market segment of preadolescent

girls and their parents. But the show won critical acclaim and, according to online bloggers, appealed to many of the fans of other animated shows like *Pokemon*, *Robot Unicorn Attack*, and *Nyan Cat*. These young males appreciated the show’s art-animation, music, and story line: a quest against the dark and destructive side of

Cont'd pg 8



Dr. William “Bill” Schmitz, Jr., psychologist and President of the Am. Assn of Suicidology speaks to the ballroom of attendees at the La Chapter of the Assn of Social Workers.

### Dr. Schmitz Speaks at La NASW

Dr. William Schmitz, Jr., President of the American Association of Suicidology and clinical psychologist, presented as a plenary session speaker at this year’s annual conference of the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, held at Hilton Capitol Center in downtown Baton Rouge, March 18 through 20.

Dr. Schmitz spoke to the full convention on *Dispelling the Fear of Working with the Suicidal Patient*. He pointed to suicide warning signs, how social workers can measure suicide risk, and steps for dealing with a crisis and how to restrict the person’s access in carrying out plans.

Dr. Schmitz told the *Times*, “There’s so

Cont'd pg 5

### La Researchers to Present at SWPA

The Southwestern Psychological Association (SWPA) will hold its convention this month, April 10 to 12, at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita, Kansas. Louisiana presenters include those from Centenary, Lake Charles Research Group, Loyola University, McNeese State

Cont'd pg 9

## The Chicago School at Xavier Prepares for 1<sup>st</sup> Class



### New “Health Service Psychologist” Model and Multicultural Focus

This September the first class of doctoral students will start at the new PsyD program in clinical psychology offered by The Chicago School of Professional Psychology at Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans (XULA). The effort is innovative in a number of ways, including getting a head start on aligning with new standards for “Health Service Psychologists” to be approved later this year by the American Psychological Association.

The Xavier based program is also innovative because it will focus on applied clinical psychology specifically for the diverse and multicultural context in south Louisiana, and on “growing PsyD Psychologists here,” explained Dr. Christoph Leonhard, department

Cont'd pg 6

Left: Drs. Christoph Leonhard (L) and Matthew Holcomb chat with Olivia Daniels Crum, Administrative Assistant at Xavier University where the new PsyD program of the Chicago School of Professional Psychology is underway.

# Editorial Page – Opinions

## Irony from LSBEP *by J. Nelson*

It is a sad irony that the LSBEP wants more control over others when their own quality seems to be seriously flagging.

In March the psychology board sent a survey to psychologists asking for views on new regulations for “professionalism.” But according to our training, the survey items and design broke several cardinal rules for survey construction: multiple ideas were contained in a single item; no option for anonymity; the use of vague, unusual terms. (The last time I remember hearing “disparaging” was on *Ally McBeal* when John Cage complained, “I won’t be disparaged.” It was meant to be funny and it was.)

Several readers pointed out problems with the forced choice item: “What should the LSBEP do?” The only two choices were to create a new rule or to create new guidelines. One reader said it was like asking, “We’re going to cut off your leg; what do you choose? Option 1: Cut off your right leg. Option 2: Cut off your left leg.”

The survey reminded me of a crisp comment a few years back when the LPA Executive Committee put out a poorly designed survey to which Rebecca Nolan, a once board chair, said with the succinctness of a sage something to the effect: “If an undergraduate in my psychology class handed this in, I’d give them a failing grade.” That rather summed it up.

The recent LSBEP newsletter prompted similar quality concerns. While it is a fine idea to share straightforward information, persuasive writing is another thing altogether. It requires

reasoning, evidence and sound opinion based on fact. A rational arrangement of the material helps the reader know that the author has thought through the problem, to try and separate thinking and feeling, and frame the issue for a complex, interpersonal world.

The authors at the board would do better to clearly label and separate fact and opinion; make sure conclusions follow from their premises (and realize when they don’t); and avoid a tone that is reminiscent of a first grade teacher, “One bad apple...”

These and other problems were salient in the article, “Myths About the Board.” The board concludes that the myths are “debunked,” by mostly presenting opinion, and even in some cases with ideas that could support the opposite view.

For example, in “Myth #1: The board is slow to process complaints,” the board writes that complaints are resolved in six to 12 months. Is that considered by the board to be fast? Or, “Myth #4 – The staff have inordinate sway over Board decisions,” is supposedly debunked because “Staff members are invaluable” and “... may help the Board, reach a final decision.” What?

The myth that concerns the *Times* is “Myth #3: “The Board is not transparent.” The authors say that minutes, agendas, emails and such prove transparency. In their favor, they now send out minutes when approved, going from a 65-day delay to a 35-day delay, for citizens to know what was decided about them by their government. So congrats on that.

But there are no press conferences where they answer questions, they have repeatedly refused to disclose information about the legal rationale for decisions, and their minutes are still cryptic. And, just last month during National Sunshine Week the *Times* asked to exercise the citizen’s right to “examine” the board’s Policy and Procedures regarding investigations, and was denied. Yes, the board has the legal right to have the attorney review the public document before it is “examined,” but what is it about Policy and Procedures for conducting investigations that has to be reviewed by an attorney?

All these areas of human behavior the board seems to be struggling with are in our house—psychology: Logical analysis, separating fact from feeling and opinion, persuasive reasoning, interpersonal communication, openness (transparency). These quality issues should concern consumers of the board’s products, specifically its judgment, analysis, and decision-making.

It is remarkable and distressing when the discipline that arguably sets the bar in providing psychological tools, methods and processes for human behavior, can so far miss the mark, and not even be aware that they are off.

The irony should astound us, if not bring us to actual tears.

## The Psychology Times

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

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## Happy Easter!

from the publisher and staff at

The Psychology Times

### Corrections & Clarifications

No corrections or clarifications were received for our March issue.

Please send corrections to the *Times* at  
[psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com](mailto:psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com)

# Higher Ed Budget Woes, continued

the small amount out on a pro rata basis.

Higher education has been cut significantly over the last years and has been cut more than any other state in the nation, with the exception of Arizona, with funding 43 percent less per student compared to 2008, according to a *Times-Picayune* report this past February.

The Regent's agenda noted that that this is the status and the final funding will come after the appropriations bill, House Bill 1, is presented. The House Committee on Appropriations is scheduled to meet next week, April 8, on the budget bill and Higher Education.

Dr. Josepha Rallo, Commissioner of Higher Education, told WGNO in New Orleans, on March 22, that this worse case situation would constitute an 82 percent reduction.

"Five years ago, the state budget to Higher Education was \$1.4 billion," he

explained. "Over the last five years that \$1.4 has gone to \$762 million."

Rallo said that the "national trends in public Higher Education is loss of state funding."

"What makes it more dramatic, if you will, in Louisiana," he said, "is the fact that we seem to go from year to year with one-time budget fixes. And then next year will be always better, but then we get to that point in time. It's really the lack of certainty, speaking on behalf of the presidents and the chancellors," Rallo said. "So, that's what we are facing."

"I believe that we are going to have an outcome that's more positive." However, he gave no specifics on how this picture could improve.

The April 8 Appropriations meeting will include an overview and discussion regarding the proposed in House Bill No. 1 of the 2015 Regular Session, on Higher

Education. The meeting is public and more information is available at the Legislative website.

One knowledgeable source commented to the *Times*, "It is an interesting situation. Constitutionally they can't close schools without 2/3rds legislative approval. But they can't run them with no money, either."

## Medical Bd Cancels Public Hearings

The state medical board cancelled two public hearings scheduled for February 26 and said they would reschedule them at some undetermined time in the future. On February 11 the board canceled the public hearing for changes to the Unprofessional Conduct Rules and on February 23 they canceled the hearing for Telemedicine Rules. In both cases the board said it is considering additional changes, and that is the reason the cancelations.

# National Sunshine Week Celebrated

Sunshine Week is the national initiative to promote the ideals and importance of open government and freedom of information. The Associated Press and the American Society of News Editors distributed an array of resources to newspapers, to be used to highlight the theme of Sunshine Week.

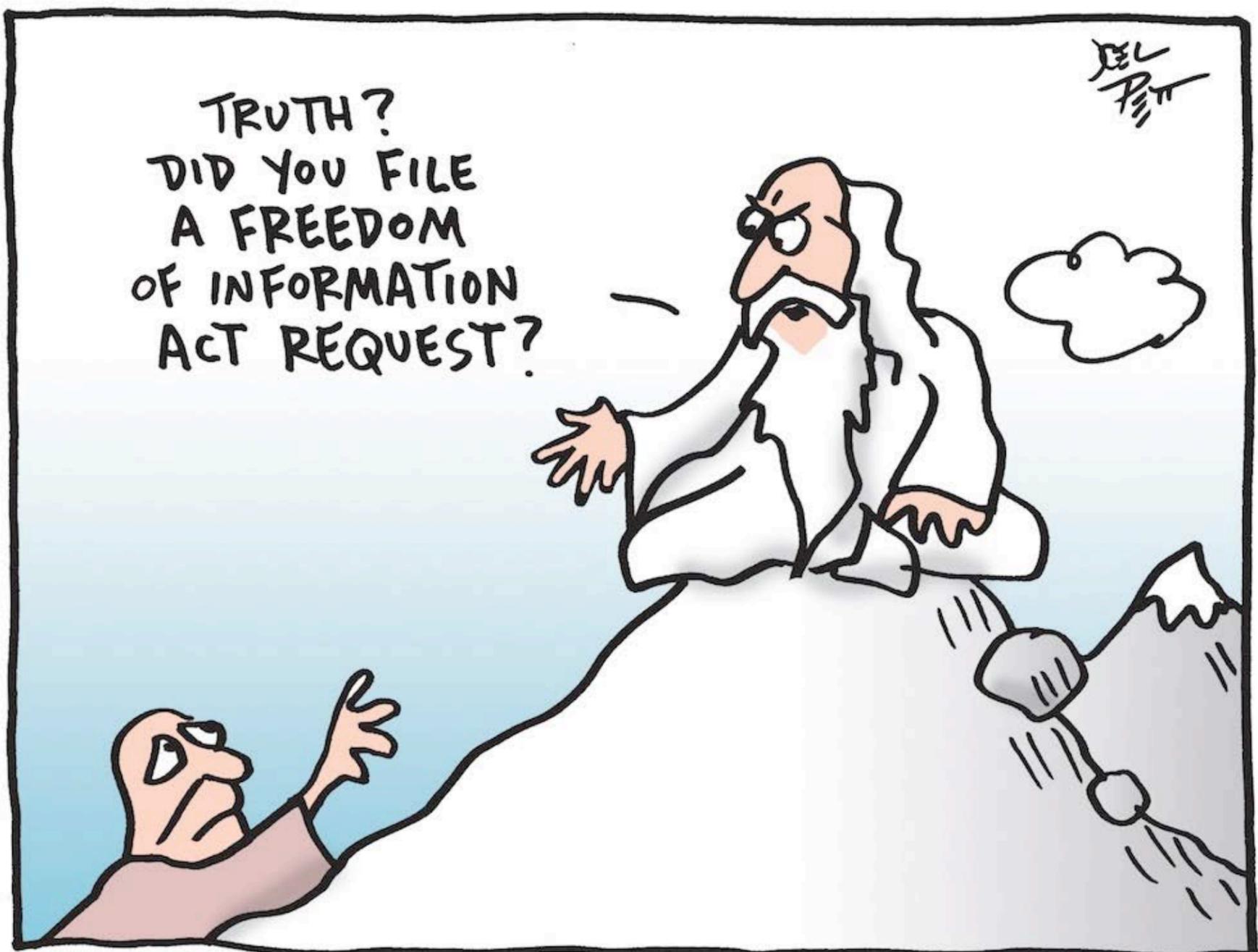
Participants from newspapers, civic groups, libraries, schools, and others from all over the country, come together to point out the public's right to know.

The American Society of News Editors works to encourage individuals and communities to increase their awareness about the need for and benefit of an increasingly open and accountable government.

To celebrate these ideals we've selected cartoons by Joel Pett (this page) and Jesse Springer (page 16) and included excerpts from the "model" proclamation that the New Editors developed for communities.

In honor of Sunshine Week we are holding a contest, the "Sunshine meets Psychology Contest," to point out the most psychologically relevant ideas having to do with freedom of information. See page 16 for details. The best quote, comment or idea linking psychological science and FIOA will be awarded a prize.

Sunshine Week is brought to you by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Bloomberg, The Gridiron Club and Foundation, American Society of News Editors, and the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.



Sunshine Week is the national initiative to promote the ideals and importance of open government and freedom of information. Participants from newspapers, civic groups, libraries, schools, and others from all over the country, come together to point out the public's right to know. Cartoon by Joel Pett and used with his permission for Sunshine Week coverage.

## State & National News

### APA Settlement Memo Goes Out to Members

The American Psychological Association (APA) has entered into a compromise settlement on fees collected from members for political purposes. Notices were mailed on March 13 alerting members who had paid a Practice Assessment, that they could apply for a payment from the settlement. The Friday notices were sent from the APA Assessment Fee Settlement Administrator to those who paid as assessment at any time since 2001. The settlement amount is \$9.2 million.

According to the documents, plaintiffs in these lawsuits alleged that APA and APA Practice Organization (APAPO) engaged in unfair practices when they represented on dues statements that payment of an annual "practice assessment" (or "special assessment") was required for membership in APA, even though payment of the practice assessment was only required for membership in APAPO.

Documents said that APA and APAPO deny the allegations that they engaged in unfair practices or any unlawful or improper conduct.

The documents state that the reason for the settlement is: "The Court did not decide in favor of the Plaintiffs or the Defendants. Although the Plaintiffs think they may have won if the case went to trial, the Defendants disagree and do not believe they did anything wrong. The Parties negotiated this proposed Settlement after lengthy briefing and argument on Defendants' motion to dismiss. The Court granted Defendants' motion to dismiss, but the Plaintiffs' appealed, and the appellate court affirmed in part and reversed in part the trial court's decision. Thereafter, Plaintiff filed a consolidated amended complaint. If a settlement were not reached, it would have taken a long time to get to trial, as the Parties would still have to brief and argue Plaintiffs' motion to certify the case to proceed as a class action on behalf of a nationwide class of APA members, motions for summary judgment, and other legal issues. Further, it is uncertain whether Plaintiffs would ultimately be successful on those motions, or at trial. For their part, Defendants deny the claims but decided that it was in their best interest to resolve the Litigation so as to avoid the expense, inconvenience, and interference with business operations that continuing the Litigation would entail. Instead of going to trial, both sides agreed to settle. Ending the dispute now allows all parties to return their full attention to their mission-focused or clinical work."

"Three lawsuits were filed against the APA and APAPO and are pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia." Also according to documents, "Each case was pleaded as a class action and sought monetary damages, restitution, attorneys' fees, punitive damages, and injunctive relief."

Those who paid the assessment may file a claim until October 12, 2015 or do nothing. See additional information at <https://www.practiceassessmentsettlement.com>



National Sunshine Week highlights the Freedom Information Act (FOIA) and its importance to an effective democracy. If you have not seen the *Times'* newest video, *Centaur Opinion*, by our award-winning cartoonist and animator, Jake Nelson-Dooley, enjoy it at <http://thepsychologytimes.com/centaur-opinion-2014/> and enter our "Sunshine meets Psychology Contest." Details on page 16.

## Times Denied Immediate Examination of Policies & Procedures Manual at LSBEP

On March 19 the publisher of the *Times*, J. Nelson, visited the Louisiana Board of Examiners of Psychologists and asked to examine public documents. The right to examine public documents is provided for to all citizens over the age of 18.

Nelson was greeted by the Executive Director, Ms. Kelley Parker, who reviewed Nelson's request to examine five items. These were: 1) board's internal policies and procedures for conducting investigations of psychologists; 2) board's job descriptions for staff, including paid investigators, and also any documents setting out the policies and procedures for hiring of staff; 3) the resumes and job applications for the current executive director and investigators; 4) the policy and procedures for hiring consulting attorneys, the resumes of current contract attorneys; and 5) a copy of Mr. Lunceford's 2009 memo listed in the minutes of May 8, 2009, concerning the effects of Act 251 on the operators of board.

Parker stated to Nelson that it was Parker's right to consult with legal counsel and after some discussion about the five different items, Parker left the lobby saying she would call the board's attorney to review the request.

Parker returned approximately 15 minutes later with a written response. The response acknowledged Nelson's request and "I am invoking our right to have your request and responsive documents reviewed by legal counsel prior to disclosure." And, that a response would be provided on March 31.

Nelson asked if all the items needed to be reviewed and Parker said she was invoking the right on all the items. However, Parker said that there were no documents on hiring, item number four. After a brief discussion, Nelson left.

On March 25, Parker emailed Nelson, saying that she was updating Nelson on the status of the March 19 request, and that due to the office schedule and staffing issues, she would be unable to fulfill the request by March 31. She anticipated that the documents would be available on April 2. Nelson asked if she (Nelson) would come into the office on Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> and examine documents but Parker said the documents would not be available until April 2.

Public Records law allows citizens to examine public documents, except in cases established by law. If any record contains material which is not a public record, the custodian may separate the nonpublic record and make the public record available for examination. It is not clear what confidential material would be kept in the policies and procedures manuals.

### Governor Jindal Announces Plan to Get Common Core Out of Louisiana

In a March 18 press release, Governor Jindal introduced a plan to remove Common Core from Louisiana, saying that he will replace it with high-quality Louisiana standards, "... while ensuring that Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BES) contracts, Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), and Cooperative Endeavor Agreements (CEAs) do not hand over control of Louisiana schools to third-party entities or the federal government. Governor Jindal said, "This legislation will help us get Common Core out of Louisiana once and for all. We will not accept this one-sized-fits-all approach to our children's education. The package of legislation will make clear that the federal government or third parties do not have control over Louisiana's schools, ..."

## State & National News

### Dr. Schmitz Speaks to Louisiana NASW

continued

much fear in the mental health professions, because they have poor or no training, and don't know what to do." And he said, "That's what this is about, dispelling the fear."

"This should be a basic skill in everyone's training. I've heard from several people who say, 'I don't treat suicidal people,' and that scares me because you don't control who walks through your door or what health crisis they do or do not have," he said.

The talk was one of numerous sessions and other plenary speakers for the annual conference, said Carmen Weisner, Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Executive Director of the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

It was, "... the optimum time for over 775 social workers to gather for their annual conference," she said, and explained that she was humbled by the turnout for this year's gathering. This year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Association of Social Workers, Weisner said.

"Each year, we are challenged to provide training that is relevant and diverse. I think we accomplished that goal," she said. "The broad range of the offerings reflect the diversity of the social work profession."

Dr. Schmitz was invited to speak by the group. "Social Workers care," he said, "they understand this is a dire need for health care and mental health care in general. I'd like all the state boards to do this. I want skilled, competent providers, so when Louisianans reach out for care, they'll get good care."

Suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States. Despite being the most frequently encountered behavioral emergency in mental health settings, most mental health workers have minimal, if any, training in the assessment and management of suicidality, Dr. Schmitz and other experts in the area have pointed out.

"An additional concern is," Schmitz explained, "due to the anxiety and the potential pain in providers, due to the poor or zero training, it's easy to miss basic information. The fear impairs the executive functioning."

"One of the remedies is training," Schmitz said. "Every mental health professional should have the core essential skills. It's like if you go to your primary care doctor with chest pain and they say, 'I don't know CPR, so I can't treat you.' The irony is that in all our health systems, and as a shrink, I have to be trained in CPR. But in 10 years I've seen only one person who even remotely was in that situation. I still take CPR every two years," Schmitz said.



Executive Director of the La. Chapter of National Association of Social Workers and LCSW, Carmen Weisner, speaks with Dr. Bill Schmitz, psychologist and President of the Am. Assn of Suicidology at the recent convention.

Also presenting at this year's NASW conference were psychologists Dr. Leslie Drew and Dr. Kelley Pears, and social workers Laurie Guillory, and Dana Rippy. The group presented PTSD and Evidence Based Therapies and helped attendees learn to properly diagnose Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which disorders are commonly co-occurring with PTSD, and information on

evidence-based practices such as Prolonged Exposure Therapy.

Dr. Angelo McClain, the national Executive Director for the organization, led off the conference with a welcome video, Weisner said, explaining the value of membership in one's professional organization. And, she said there were numerous breakout sessions and plenary speakers over the course of the conference.

According to the Center for Disease Control suicide rates have been increasing. In 2009 the number of deaths from suicide surpassed the number of deaths from automobile accidents. Last year CDC researchers reported that the annual, age-adjusted suicide rate among persons aged 35 to 64 years had increased 28.4 percent from 1999 to 2010.

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## Chicago Professional School at Xavier Prepares for 1<sup>st</sup> Class, continued

Chair for the new program. Leonhard, also Professor on the department's faculty, has been working steadily over the last four years to build the program.

"We developed the program to meet the needs of local social service providers of psychological services and of the community," he said, "and frankly, to provide culturally competent services by people who understand this community, which is a very unique place in many ways."

The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (TCSP) program will be admitting about 15 doctoral students this fall. The program is hosted by Xavier, the highly ranked New Orleans institution which is the nation's only Roman Catholic Historically Black College and University (HBCU).

"We have applicants from current students in all the HBCUs in the area," said Leonhard, "including Southern, Dillard, and certainly Xavier. We also have applicants who have already completed their undergraduate degrees at the local institutions. So far, we only have one applicant without a prior connection to the area."

The Chicago School developed and will manage the curriculum and faculty for the new program, and XULA provides support services and hosts the department on its campus. The PsyD (Doctor of Psychology) degree is the only program of its kind in the state, and the only other clinical psychology training after that at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

Clinical neuropsychologist and Assistant Professor in Clinical Psychology in the new program, Dr. Matthew Holcomb, said, "... the PsyD program at Xavier was inspired by the need that southern Louisiana currently has for well trained and qualified clinicians." He pointed out that from the beginning Leonhard has developed relationships with area agencies for practicum training and externships for the students.

"Given that we are a PsyD program, which is invested and emphasizes exposing students to direct clinical work, our students are going to have first-hand experience addressing the multicultural needs of the area, as well as developing an impressive network of professional contacts," said Holcomb.

Holcomb will help train the PsyD students in brain-behavior relationships and assessment practices, his own clinical and research interests being in pediatric neuropsychology.

The program organizers have limited their recruitment to students inside Louisiana. Leonhard hopes to grow PsyD psychologists here, and who will remain here, in order to serve the sometimes unique needs of the Louisiana culture. "Studies indicate that newly graduated psychologists who have to leave the state to get an advanced degree do not return," said Leonhard. "So the emphasis of this program is to educate and train our own."

To help them reach this goal, Leonhard and his colleagues created an Advisory Committee of local professionals, including two area psychologists, Dr. Janet Matthews and Dr. Michele Larzelere.

Dr. Matthews explained that she has met with many of the candidates for faculty and administrators in the new program.

"We have also discussed student recruitment processes, curriculum issues, and overall program philosophy," Matthews told the *Times*.

"This program is designed specifically to meet community needs," she said, a topic Matthews knows well, having taught at Loyola for three decades and retiring last year. "With the focus on primary care/integrated care, and cultural diversity issues," she said, it is ideal for the Greater New Orleans area."

"It has been my experience teaching here for the past 30 years that we have local students who would make solid psychologists but cannot, will not leave the community." Matthews believes that the new program will allow them to remain in the area, and help assist what she

views as an underserved community, in terms of psychological services, she noted.

The doctoral students in the TCSP program at Xavier will complete studies in four models of intervention: Cognitive Behavioral, Psychodynamic, Humanistic Existential, and Systems. The program includes a Research Clerkship model where the students are paired with mentors from the faculty. Three years of practicum and one year internship are included in the 106 total credit hours that will take five years to complete, and while not yet accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) the program will prepare students to sit for the psychologist licensing exam.

Cont'd pg 7



Dr. Christoph Leonhard, department Chair for the Chicago School of Professional Psychology at Xavier, at his desk. Dr. Leonhard has designed the machine he's sitting on to help stem the problems for people who have to sit all day at a desk. He has a background in behavioral medicine and health services.

# Chicago Professional School at Xavier, continued

## New APA Training Model: Health Service Psychologist

The PsyD program at Xavier will take full advantage of the changes in approach brought about by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) that requires prevention and a focus on primary care and community health. APA will be shifting its training model later this year in response to ACA, and the Chicago Professional School at Xavier will align with these changes.

"To be in compliance with what the ACA calls for, we're now going to be training health service psychologists—psychologists that provide health service, mental health being a health service, said Leonhard.

"Basically the APA is shifting to a new accreditation model for self-studies due after September 2016, and they are abandoning the G&P, the Guidelines and Principles," he said, and there will be "new opportunities for clinical psychologists to be health service providers in interprofessional care teams, including in primary care."

"One of the things that most people don't know about the Patient and Affordable Care Act is that it mandates interprofessional care teams throughout health care but importantly, in primary care," he said.

Dr. Michele Larzelere is one of the local psychologists who serve on the Advisory Committee and who sees this benefit: "It's wonderful that the TCSP at Xavier University training program will be helping to address the nation-wide need for psychologists with primary care competency."

"Since primary care is an excellent way to reach underserved and minority populations, the PsyD program will also be expanding Xavier's efforts toward its core mission," Larzelere said, "and providing a tremendous service to the population of Louisiana."

Leonhard has developed the training design to match both the local needs and the new healthcare law and training directions. "So what we're doing is setting up this program from the word 'go' to be in compliance with the new Standards of Accreditation," Leonhard said.

"There is a lot of emphasis about getting out of the silo early. So for example, we're talking to the Xavier College of Pharmacy about doing some co-training with the Doctor of Pharmacy students here, in interviewing patients," he said. "And they actually just got a modern interview lab on campus which is basically like a mock hospital room where you can train people how to interview."

## Interprofessional Teams

"We used to train people just in one profession—as psychologists, or as physicians, or as pharmacists or as physical therapists and somehow later on they were supposed to figure out how to be part of a multi-disciplinary team," Leonhard said, "So now the emphasis is on interprofessionalism, where the different professions are co-equal participants in the enterprise to improve the patient's health."

While there are still a lot of unknowns as to exactly how ACA will unfold, Leonhard believes this will be a good step. "I think key is getting psychologists to be the behavioral health providers in the interprofessional teams, especially board certified psychologists," he said.

But the change in training focus will also include changes in the traditional methods. "For example, I'm just rewriting the Psychometrics course syllabus where the scales that are being used in primary care are very different from the battery type testing that a lot of times psychologists do. Because, it is very quick—its five items, seven items," said Leonhard. "It's oftentimes tests and scales that psychologists aren't really familiar with, that physicians use to assess substance use potential or depression, anxiety disorders. Just on the quick, because when you're in primary care, it's very fast."

Dr. Janet Matthews also noted that another advantage of the new program is the focus on evaluation methods and outcomes research methods. "As students move into their practicum sites, they will be trained to help those sites do the type of outcome evaluations that is becoming more of a requirement for funding," she said. "In this way, their work can influence both the quality of current service and also support future growth".

The new program offers two formal focus areas -- Clinical Psychology in a Diverse and Multicultural Context and Behavioral Medicine/Health Psychology – which Leonhard and his team at Xavier hope to help meet this growing need and to train psychologists for the healthcare services of the future.

Xavier University of Louisiana serves more than 3,000 students at its location in New Orleans, Louisiana and is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of

# APA Revises to "Health Service Psychologist" Model for Accreditation

In February the American Psychological Association (APA) Council of Representatives approved a major change from its current training standards moving to a new model for "Health Service Psychology." While a final vote is still to come, sources note that the change is assured. The new guidelines will restructure the training of clinical psychologists toward a new primary-care and prevention health model.

The revision, "Standards of Accreditation for Health Service Psychology," notes "... 'health service psychology' is defined as the integration of psychological science and practice in order to facilitate human development and functioning. Health service psychology includes the generation and provision of knowledge and practices that encompass a wide range of professional activities relevant to health promotion, prevention, consultation, assessment, and treatment for psychological and other health-related disorders."

The new model is to be used for APA accreditation, and replace the previous standards. Proposed regulations will open to public comment during late spring and summer 2015, according to a report from APA.

Authors of the new standards write, "Health service psychology includes several practice areas in which an accredited program may focus, including the areas of clinical psychology, counseling psychology, school psychology, combinations of these areas, and other developed practice areas." The program recognizes the importance of cultural and individual differences and diversity in the training of psychologists.

Discipline-Specific Knowledge and Profession-Wide Competencies include research, ethical and legal standards, individual and cultural diversity, professional values, attitudes, and behaviors; communication and interpersonal skills; assessment; intervention; and supervision. Accredited programs with a site visit scheduled in 2016 will be reviewed under the older guidelines and program with a site visit in 2017 will be reviewed under the new Standards of Accreditation.

The authors note that the change is "...providing greater clarity to the public and enhanced opportunities for innovation in health service psychology education and training."

Standards of Accreditation for Health Service Psychology will serve as a guiding document for health service psychology training programs seeking initial or continued accreditation, notes APA. The document is available on the APA website at <http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/about/policies/standards-of-accreditation.pdf>

Colleges and Schools. Xavier's Psychology Department, chaired by Dr. Elliott Hammer, will be part of the supporting structure for the program, but is separate in decision-making from the new program.

The Chicago School of Professional Psychology is licensed by the Board of Regents of the State of Louisiana. TCSP owns

and provides oversight for the curriculum for the Clinical Psychology PsyD program. Tuition is currently \$1,260 per credit hour. While the program is not APA accredited at this time, the curriculum prepares graduates for the psychologist licensing exam and to meet requirements for licensure in Louisiana. For more information see [www.TheChicagoSchool.edu/XULA](http://www.TheChicagoSchool.edu/XULA)

# The Unexpectedly Fascinating Research with the Brony Fandom, continued

human nature with moral courage, love, and tolerance.

After 2010 these fans began to connect on the Internet and adopted the name Brony (singular) to describe themselves, combining “bro” and “pony,” for boys who like ponies. A polarizing online battle between Bronies and their critics, crystallized the group and the fandom began to thrive.

The phenomenon has carried Redden and her colleagues along with it. Redden has appeared in two films and she presented at fan conferences of 10,000 plus, speaking to standing room only audiences.

“To our knowledge,” Dr. Redden said, “this is the first time psychologists have studied a fandom from the beginning.” She and colleague Daniel Chadborn, psychology faculty member from Southeastern Louisiana University (SLU), and Drs. Patrick Edwards and Jan Griffin from USC-Upstate, have collected data on 50,000 fans.

The research team has looked at the demographics of the Bronies and presented research that has both helped explain the unique fandom, and helped deal with stereotyping. What have they found? Eighty-six percent of the Brony fandom are male, the average age is 21 with a range of 14 to 57, and 70 percent are students and 33 percent employed full or part-time. In sexual orientation, 84 percent describe themselves as heterosexual, 1.7 describe themselves as homosexual, 10.3 as bisexual, and 3.8 as asexual.

As a group, Bronies tend to be higher in Introversion, Agreeableness, and also in Absorption, a trait that seems related to artistic enjoyment and interests.

The fandom appears to serve a strong “Social Function” for the Bronies, helping them expand friendship networks, and also a strong “Guidance Function” which helps support and make moral choices.

The psychologists’ research has been fully embraced by the Bronies. “In the fandom I am known as ‘Dr. Sci Entific,’ Redden told the *Times*, “and you haven’t lived until you’ve gotten a standing ovation from 1,000 people or had a line waiting for you to sign autographs.” This is every summer at BronyCon. Redden has even autographed Diagnostic and Statistical Manuals.

While fan clubs have been around forever, the boost that telecommunications have added to overcoming geographical distances has helped to create some large and unique fandoms such as the Bronies. The researchers appear to be the first psychologists who have been able to compare fans and non-fans, and study the evolution of the fans as they grew and matured, explained Redden.

“It is also the first time a fandom has



Past President of the Louisiana Psychological Association Dr. John Fanning (L) speaks with Brony Fandom researchers from SLU, William Schmidt and Megan Simon. The two work with SLU psychology faculty member Daniel Chadborn in social psychology research and help understand new forms of group identity.

been studied in this depth,” she said. “We have data on their demographics, sexuality, religion, hobbies, social behavior, drug behavior, to mention just a few. In all we have over 50,000 respondents in the data pool so you can see that the stats is a giant project.” The database is so big, she said, she’s retaking statistics courses.

SLU undergraduate coordinator Daniel Chadborn and his students, William Schmidt and Megan Simon, have produced a host of presentations and presented at APA, the Louisiana Psychological Association, Southeastern Psychological Association, and will present at the upcoming Southwestern Psychological Association (SWPA).

Chadborn joined the research group in 2012. “... I was looking into identity and personality types of table top role playing gamers,” he said, when he discovered the Brony researchers.

Chadborn has found it interesting that the “... fandom offers a large motivated population—our second survey took in close to 20,000 survey responses on a 45 plus minute long battery of surveys—and that is first and foremost what we have found supports the idea that fandoms, and especially the Bronies, are a positive group and offers a majority of its members positive benefits.”

“It was also interesting to

examine a fandom or group that had the potential to expand and last much longer than a few months,” Chadborn said, “and one that we could gather information and track changes from the beginning, rather than 10 plus years down the line or more if you look at groups like the Trekkers/Trekkies.”

He is also interested in the universal purposes of fan and leisure activity involvement. He and students Schmidt and Simon are examining fandom as a whole including focus of identification, fan interactions, size, and the universal traits of fandoms. They will be presenting some of their work at the upcoming Southwestern Psychological Association.

Their results suggests that fandoms can offer three functions: a sense of guidance, inspiration, purpose, or sense of uniqueness; a way to share a liked interest; and stress relief.

Chadborn, Schmidt and Simon are examining fandom as a whole including focus of identification, fan interactions, size, and the universal traits of fandom. And have concluded that “... regardless of where a fan’s interest lies, the purposes and functions the fandom and interest serve are the same.”

The Brony researchers have been interviewed in two films, distributed internationally and now on Netflix: *The Extremely*

*Unexpected Adult Fans of My Little Pony*, produced by John De Lancie, and *A Brony Tale*, produced by Bret Hodge.

“There is even a t-shirt, with the logo,” Redden said. The “WWAPD factor” logo and t-shirt emerged after Redden commented on the issue of moral guidance and the “What Would a Pony Do” factor.

“Many therapists and parents have written to thank us for doing this work because now they know what THEY are dealing with,” said Dr. Redden.

To find more information go to [www.bronystudy.com](http://www.bronystudy.com) and click on the FAQ’s at the top or the Results section.



“Dr. Sci Entific”  
(Fandom name and logo for Dr. Redden. Courtesy of Dr. Sci Entific.)

# Louisiana Researchers to Present at Southwestern Psychological Association, continued

University, Tulane, Southeastern Louisiana University, and University of Louisiana–Monroe.

In line with this year's theme "Myths Meet Science," Drs. Linda Brannon and Dena Matzenbacher, from McNeese State University, will present "Busting Psychology Myths." They will describe a six-week psychology class focused specifically on overcoming myths about psychology. Dr. Matzenbacher, Psychology Department Head at McNeese, will also present at the APA Career Workshop.

Mary Hall-Medlin from the University of Louisiana – Monroe (ULM) and Dr. Kilian Garvey (ULM) will present two studies: "Gay Pornography in the Bible Belt," and "Yes, No, No Answer: Regional Differences in response to 'Are you gay?'" Researchers examined the counterintuitive findings that more people searched for male homosexual themed videos in the Bible Belt region of the US, and also changes in poll numbers about gays when "no answer" is included in conservative regions.

Burton Ashworth, professor from McNeese, will chair the SWPA Workshop in Clinical and Counseling. McNeese's Chase Walling and Dr. Ashworth will also present, "Facial Expression Impact on Eye Contact."

"Impact of Social Comparison on Relationship Satisfaction," will be presented by Bianca Augustine, Tiffany Augustine, and Colin Broussard from McNeese, who will review findings related to The Psychology of Jealousy and Envy.

"Facial Profiling: Do Women and Men Judge Facial Characteristics Differently?" will be presented by Mikalee Mooney of McNeese State University.

William Schmidt, Megan Simon, and Advisor Daniel Chadborn from Southeastern Louisiana University (SLU) will present several tracks of research into the interpersonal and online social communities known as fandoms. In "The effects of social acceptance of group engagement, influence, and identity" they look at how fandom communities have expanded exponentially and how this is due to "sense of belonging, personal influence on the fandom community, sense of unity, and a sense of fulfillment from the community." They will also present, "How Personal Differences Define the Function and Meaning of Fandom Involvement." They show how personality, age, religious attendance, and education related to questions on the Fan Functions Scale. And, in "Impact of Community Size On Perceived Function and Identity of Group Membership," and "Are Fans Created Equal? Examining the Function and Purpose of Fandom," they show that regardless of specific interests, functions of fandoms are similar. These are: a sense of guidance, inspiration, purpose, or sense of uniqueness; a way to share a liked interest, and stress relief.

Dr. Evan Zucker, professor from Loyola University, will chair the "Psi Chi Symposium: Getting Your Foot in the Graduate School Door," and present, "Those Mysterious Graduate School Letters of Recommendation."

Dr. Charles Nichols, assistant professor from Loyola University will chair the SWPA Talk Session on Social and Personality. He will also present, "The "Good Life" Is Not Necessarily

the Happiest Life." Nichols found that participants preferred the life trajectories that avoided decline, in contrast to those that maximize benefits.

"Reducing Stereotype Threat: Examining the Influence of Advocacy," will be presented by Lisa Molix of Tulane University and Charles Nichols of Loyola University. Researchers replicated the detrimental effects of stereotype threat and suggest advocacy to boost performance.

Lauren Marlar, Centenary College of Louisiana, in "Common Ground Community Needs Assessment." examined the effects of racial- and class-based "mismatching" in social services where low-income minority community members being served are not represented in decisions.

The Lakes Charles Research Group, a free-standing group of independent, diverse researchers, not affiliated with any university, will present an array of work at this year's SWPA conference. The group was started about 15 years ago, said one of the organizers, Dr. Larry Dilks of Counseling Services in Lake Charles.

"It's made up of different people every year," Dilks explained. "It's a number of local psychologists, interns, post-doctoral fellows, practicum students, and then pretty much anybody else who's just interested in publishing journal articles and doing presentations at conferences."

The group presents research regularly, and has presented at APA Division for Rehabilitation



Dr. Linda Brannon, author of numerous textbooks including *Health Psychology*. She is presenting at SWPA.

Psychology, the National Association of Neuropsychology, LaMar Educational Research Conference and they'll present the keynote address in Beaumont, Texas at the Violence Against Women and Children conference, and also a major presentation at the Summer Symposium on cognitive rehabilitation.

Those from the Lake Charles Research Group presenting at SWPA this year include Kimberly Hutchinson from Lake Charles Memorial Hospital, Burton Ashworth from McNeese, Lawrence Dilks form Counseling Services, Adrian Julian from McNeese, Kelly DeRoche from McNeese, Chelsi King from

Cont next pg

*Michael Chafetz, PhD, ABPP*  
is pleased to announce the formation of a new practice:  
**Algiers Neurobehavioral Resource, LLC**  
Still featuring evidence-based  
neuropsychological and  
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Dr. Dufrene trained at one of the two inpatient OCD treatment centers, and will offer focused specific treatments for anxiety based disorders.

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Michael Chafetz, PhD, LLC and  
Melissa Dufrene, PsyD  
Algiers Neurobehavioral Resource, LLC  
3520 General DeGaulle Dr., #3044  
New Orleans, LA 70114  
work: 504-636-6120

## Louisiana Researchers Present at SWPA, continued

the California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University, Ashlee Orozco from Fielding Graduate University, Keith McGoldrick from Fielding Graduate University, Sandra Viggiani from Fuller School of Psychology, Fuller Seminary, Trisha Marie Kivisalu from Alliant International University-CSPP, and Colleen Elaine Phillips from California School of Professional Psychology.

Hutchinson, Ashworth, Dilks, Julian and DeRoche will present, "The Match Statistics from 2012-2014: Any Improvement since APA got involved?" Authors look at the "... alarming rates of students that do not match through the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) Internship Matching Program." Members of the LCRG will add to this discussion in, "The continuing MATCH crisis in clinical psychology & how to get selected," And also provide a Talk Session in Clinical, "Matching to an Internship: More Critical Than the Psychology Profession Realizes," where they discuss how 20 to 30 percent of doctoral students will be unable to find a placement, and the possibility that non-APA approved universities will be considered ineligible to apply for APPI/APA internships.

In "Analysis of Clock Drawings in Cognitively Impaired Adults," by Julian, King, DeRoche, Dilks, Hutchinson, Ashworth, Orozco, McGoldrick and Viggiani, authors show that individuals with profound cognitive impairments that also experience impairments in adaptive function score lower on Clock Drawing Tests, and followed by "Clock Drawings for Developmentally Delayed Adults: IQ, Age, Gender, and Adaptive Behavior."

"Prevalence of Comorbid Cognitive Disorders with Adolescent Males in Residential Treatment," will be presented by Hutchinson, Dilks, Julian, and DeRoche. They will also present, "An examination of the possible effects of Clozaril on adverse behaviors."

In "Will ICD-10 Make DSM-5 Obsolete?" authors Julian, DeRoche, Hutchinson, and Dilks, conclude, "With the adoption of ICD-10 the underlying value of the DSM-5 may be called into question.

Orozco, Viggiani, Hutchinson, Dilks, Ashworth, and King will present a SWPA Workshop: Health, "The Solution to Reducing Anxiety in Graduate Students: Self-Care."

"A Comparison Study: Reliability Generalizations of the AWS and RIAs," will be presented by King, Kivisalu, Phillips, Dilks, Hutchinson, Orozco, McGoldrick, Viggiani, DeRoche, and Julian.

"Reliability generalization (RG) has been proposed as a way to rectify common misunderstanding of test reliability. Reliability is a property of scores obtained from an instrument, not a property of an instrument itself. Researchers studied the Attitudes toward Women (AWS) Scale and the Racial Identity Attitudes Scale (RIAS)."

"Apathy in Alzheimer's Disease: Associated with Executive Dysfunction?" and "A Study of Bilateral and Unilateral Left Hemianopsias: A Neuropsychological Perspective," will be presented by a group of the LCRG including Hutchinson, McGoldrick, Viggiani, Orozco, King, Julian, DeRoche, and Dilks.

For the SWPA Talk Session: Neuropsychology, "Are Brain Injuries Identified and Conceptualized in Psychotherapy with Children and Adolescents?" Orozco, McGoldrick, Viggiani, Hutchinson, Dilks, King, Julian, and DeRoche review a lack of literature about children with brain injury in top journal publications.

In the SWPA Poster Session for Developmental, Family, and LGBT Studies, Ashworth, Viggiani, Julian, Hutchinson, King, DeRoche, McGoldrick, Orozco, and Dilks, will present, "Prediction of Intimate Partner Violence from Problematic Child Behaviors."

## Stress Solutions

by Susan Andrews, PhD

### Meditation: It IS What You Think

Years ago when first learning to meditate, I saw a T-shirt I liked with this logo on it. That slogan says it all. As psychologists, we know the importance of monitoring our thoughts and how interrelated thinking and feeling really are. A major cause of stress and one of the most important stress solutions has to do with our thoughts and our thinking. Turns out that Stress IS what you think, too. So here we have a Zen moment; both a stressed state of mind and a calm focused state of mind are related to our thinking.

The mind is an amazing thing. To a large extent, the negative consequences of stress are directly due to a busy mind. You do not have to be physically busy to have a busy mind. Most professionals would say they spend the day thinking and they might agree that thinking all day – without lifting a single shovel – is fatiguing.

If you are almost always thinking and worrying over a problem or you continue to dwell on the events of the day even after they are over, that is a chronic issue and your cortisol levels are likely to remain high. Cortisol levels do not drop until your mind calms and becomes quiet or still. So the longer you remain mentally active, even if you are lying in bed or sitting in an easy chair, the longer your high levels of cortisol will remain. And, that leads to an exhausting list of bad things, physically, mentally and emotionally. Let's just say it does not lead to longevity and happiness.

Meditation, on the other hand, is a great antidote to stress caused by too busy a mind. In the past, meditation seemed more strange or alien to the Western mind. But, with the gradual advance of information about different forms of meditation and the acceptance of meditation as having value, it has actually become easier to learn and to include in your daily practice. Sanskrit words and chanting are no longer required. The rapid spread of Mindfulness is an excellent example. This technique takes minutes to learn and very little more to perfect. It is so simple that it is recommended for children and found helpful with children who are having problems with attention and/or with behavior. The book, *Sitting Still Like A Frog: Mindfulness Exercises for Kids (and their parents)* by Eline Snell, (2013) was featured at a 2014 LPA workshop by Dr. Michelle Moore. This book comes with a CD that has a number of great 5-minute Mindfulness exercises. I have recommended this book to many of my patients, old and young. It is inexpensive and easy to use. I recommend it for everyone who needs to learn this simple meditation technique.

Mindfulness is growing in popularity across the country. It is recommended for so many different reasons:

- stress relief and pain relief
- taking mental breaks during a busy day
- assistance falling asleep
- combat depression and/or anxiety

Do yourself a favor: Give Mindfulness a try.



Dr. Susan Andrews, Clinical Neuropsychologist, is currently Clinical Assistant Professor, LSU Health Sciences Center, Department of Medicine and Psychiatry, engaged in a Phase III study on HBOT and Persistent PostConcussion Syndrome. In addition to private clinical practice, Dr. Andrews is an award-winning author (*Stress Solutions for Pregnant Moms*, 2013).

## Science & Education

# Tulane's Dr. Lockman Co-Chairs for Prestigious Society for Research in Child Development

Tulane's Dr. Jeffrey Lockman co-chaired the biennial conference of the national Society for Research in Child Development, held March 19 –21 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Tulane's researchers and scientists presented numerous studies, and Tulane's Dr. Oscar Barbarin was honored with the award for Distinguished Contributions to Understanding International, Cultural and Contextual Diversity in Child Development by the Society.

In Lockman's welcome address, he and co-chair, Catherine Tamis-LeMonda, noted that they designed the invited program to span, "developmental domains and levels, including epigenetics, brain processes and development, children of war, ethnic and racial identity, gender development, ..." and many others. And, they included new formats to facilitate dialogue where presenters and members follow-up the session with discussion. Also, Lockman said they included "Sessions that address the public face of science — including research media collaboration and 'taking science to the streets.'"

Among this year's activities, Dr. Oscar Barbarin chaired the Invited Address, "Ethnic-Racial Identity Across Space and Time: Considerations for Future Research and Intervention."

Included in Tulane's researchers was Stephanie Aaron and Dr. Courtney Baker, with "The Role of Parental Involvement and Peer-Mediation on the Effectiveness of Early Interventions for Children with Autism."

"Better Understanding Associations of Social Cognitions, Distress, and Leadership with Aggression for High Risk Urban Youth," was presented by Stephen Leff, Dr. Baker, and Tracy Evian Waasdorp.

"Social Learning in Early Manual Skill Development," was offered by Tulane's Jennifer Erin Maldarelli, Claire Burns, Bjoern Kahrs, and Dr. Jeffrey Lockman.

Nicholas Fears, Kahrs, and Lockman also presented "Visual Efficiency in Handwriting."

"Preschoolers' Core Number Abilities Predict Emerging Math Competence; A Latent Profile Approach," was presented by Tulane Assistant Professor Dr. Sarah Gray and Robert A Reeve.

"Planning and End-State Comfort when Grasping Baby Bottles," was presented by Wendy Jung, Bjoern Kahrs, Brittany DeVries, Madeleine Schwartz, and Dr. Lockman.

"Strategies for Orienting Objects during Hand-to-Mouth Transport in Infants," was presented by Ashley Smith, Bjoern Kahrs, and Dr. Lockman.

"Culture influences action understanding in infancy: A comparative study of action prediction in Chinese and Swedish infants," is a work presented by Dorota Green, Qi Li, Jeffrey Lockman, and Gustaf Gredebäck.

"How children learn to open containers," was presented by Lana Karasik, David Comalli,

Lok Yu Gladys Yu Gladys Chan, Danielle Kellier, Catherine Tamis-LeMonda, Jeffrey Lockman, Sneha Radhakrishnan, and Karen Adolph.

"Predictive validity of the BESS universal screener: Does student sex matter?" was presented by Elizabeth McIntyre, Paulette Carter, and Tulane Psychology Chair, Dr. Stacy Overstreet.

Katie Simon, Shereen Naser, Paulette Carter, and Dr. Overstreet presented, "What can the BESS universal screener tell us about positive student behavior?"

"Universal screening in schools: Worth the time and effort," was presented by Jorge Vallery Verlenden

Recovery of EEG Alpha Rhythm Power Following Foster Care Intervention in Previously Institutionalized Children," was presented by Ross E Vanderwert, Charles Zeanah, Nathan A Fox, Charles Nelson.

"Bucharest Early Intervention Project: The Case for Policies Providing High Quality Foster Care for Abandoned Children," was

presented by Kathryn Humphreys, Charles Zeanah, Charles A. Nelson, and Nathan Fox.

"Psychopathology at 12 Years of Age in the Bucharest Early Intervention Project," was presented by Dr. Charles Zeanah.

"Preschoolers' Empathy-Related Responding to Distress in Social Partners," was presented by Hung-Chu Lin, Associate Professor at University of Louisiana, Lafayette, and Philip Richard, Michelle Grisham, Rebecca Tacke, and Jacob Amrose.

"Use of the First Year Inventory (FYI) with Children at High-Risk for Autism Spectrum Disorders," included researchers Dr. Sarah Thomas, Juhi Pandey, Jennifer Maldarelli, Chad Chappell, Lauren Turner Brown, Annette Mercer Estes, Lonnie Zwaigenbaum, Robert Schultz, Grace Baranek, and Joseph Piven.

Jeffrey Lockman chaired the Paper Symposium on "Cultural Action Understanding and Development."

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People, Other News

## Tulane's Dr. Barbarin Honored for His Distinguished Contributions

Dr. Oscar Barbarin was named for his Distinguished Contributions to Understanding International, Cultural and Contextual Diversity in Child Development, by the Society of Research in Child Development, last month.

Dr. Barbarin and his work have been prominent in the literature, including in a 2013 special issue of the *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry* focusing on the development of African-American and

Latino youngsters. Barbarin wrote the introduction to the special issue, titled "Development of Boys of Color." He also provided several articles including, "Development of Social-Emotional Competence in Boys of Color: A Cross-Sectional Cohort Analysis from Pre-K to Second Grade."

Dr. Barbarin is one of the national experts looking at the socioemotional development of boys of color and the characteristics related to these



Dr. Oscar Barbarin  
(Courtesy photo)

youngsters' overall development. He was one of the experts featured in the lead article for *Monitor*, the national magazine published by the American Psychological Association *Monitor*.

## Drs. Steele, Hightower, Sutton and Hay Honored by LAMFT

The Louisiana Association for Marriage and Family Therapy honored members at their recent convention held in Baton Rouge.

Dr. Kathryn Steele was named the Distinguished Educator for 2015. She was noted for her outstanding teaching in the field of marriage and family and for fostering and maintaining strong connections with students and developing therapists.

Dr. James Hightower was noted for the Excellence in Supervision award, given to those who build strong relationships with supervisees and the demonstration of clinical and ethical excellence.

Dr. Jana Sutton was honored for Meritorious Service, given to those whose accomplishments are extraordinary, who go far beyond what is expected in preparing Marriage and Family Therapists to serve families and to lead others.

The Inaugural Dr. George Hay Distinguished Life Enhancer Award was presented to Dr. Hay himself, in recognition of his distinguished career that has enhanced the lives of students, colleagues and clients, noting that his contributions have spanned over 40 years.

## Drs. Nemeth, Tramontana, Write for National Psychologist on RxP

Louisiana Psychological Association President, Dr. Joe Tramontana, and Dr. Darlyne Nemeth, medical psychologist and delegate to the American Psychological Association, wrote an article for the *National Psychologist* March/April issue, "How medical psychology really works in Louisiana."

Dr. Nemeth described how she became a medical psychologist and her experiences, noting, "One of my best experiences was the collegiality I shared with so many other psychologists." She also described the ease of sharing information with physicians. "Now, they are free to consult a medical psychologist, rather than a psychiatrist or non-psychiatric medical practitioner, ..."

In his statement, Dr. Tramontana wrote that he had enrolled at one time in the psychopharmacology training but decided rather to focus on his books on hypnosis. He summed up that "medical psychology really works" and "Collegiality is enhanced on all levels and psychology's contribution to integrated healthcare is even more robust."

The authors concluded that there is a very positive future for medical psychology and healthcare psychology in Louisiana. The article was in part a response to an article in the November/December *National Psychologist* by the *Times* publisher, J. Nelson, "Be careful what you ask for: RxP and psychology in Louisiana." Tramontana wrote that he had difficulty recruiting medical psychologists back to LPA because of Nelson, but that he could see some problems with Act 251.

## BA Board Meets with DHH Med Dir

According to the agenda the Behavior Analyst Board was to meet with James E. Hussey, M.D., Medical Director Medicaid Behavioral Health, Dept of Health and Hospitals on March 31. Dr. Hussey emailed the board to discuss, "concerns related to line technicians." The board decided to invite Dr. Hussey for the meeting. No further details were described.

According to the minutes, renewals of 20 behavior analysts and 62 line technicians had been received as of the date of the December 2014 meeting.

The board will not be meeting in April, but will meet May 5th and June 2nd.



Dr. Kathy Steele (R) was honored by the LAMFT for Distinguished Educator. Here, she attends a board meeting alongside Dr. David Legendre.

## LSBEP Discussed Legislation, new MOU with BA Board, and Titles, in January

In March the state Psychology Board posted their minutes for the January 2015 meeting, where they discussed proposed legislation for 2015. "**Legislative Oversight Committee:** Ms. Parker updated the Board regarding the proposed legislation for the 2015 Legislative Session. She reported that a draft document should be available at the next meeting for approval." However, the minutes did not list what legislative bills the board would put forth.

Also at the January meeting the board discussed the budget, including a proposed contract for Deborah Harkins, Esquire, as a Legislative Consultant for the 2015 Legislative session. "Dr. Culross moved to deny the contract because the cost was too high for the current year's budget. The motion was discussed. The motion passed unanimously."

Also discussed was a new proposal from the Behavior Analyst Board to enter into a

new Memorandum of Understanding beginning February 1 and extending to July 2015. "... which would require each board to pay a 50/50 percentage of the operational expenses (e.g., rent) and pay salaries at a 70/30 split." The board members approved the new arrangement.

The board members decided to join the Federal Association of Regulatory Boards [FARB] in addition to the current ASPPB (Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards) membership.

The board members approved Ms. Parker and Dr. Comaty to participate in the in Behavior Health Integration Advisory Group beginning in January. The Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) group "will discuss issues and areas of concern for the Medicaid transition of behavioral health services from Magellan to the Bayou Health Plan," according to the minutes.

The board discussed the issues regarding

medical psychologists and use of the psychologist title. "Dr. Zimmermann discussed with the board the use of the title "licensed psychologist" by individuals no longer licensed with the LSBEP. He noted that the proper title for MPs (medical psychologists) licensed only with the LSBME is 'licensed medical psychologist.' The Board discussed the issue. Dr. Zimmermann moved for Ms. Parker to contact Dr. Mouton to discuss the issue further. The motion passed unanimously."

# A Shrink at the Flicks



## *Interstellar—A Race Against Time*

by Alvin G. Burstein

Interstellar is a corker of a film. The Director, Christopher Nolan, has assembled proven ingredients—a spunky young girl, Murph, an echo of Scout in *To Kill a Mockingbird*; a wise mentor, Professor Brand, reminiscent of *Star Wars*' Obi Wan; a laconic (space) cowboy, Cooper, like his namesake in *High Noon*; and a computer, TARS, as programmable and likeable as *Star Trek*'s android Data. Nolan then adds a host of supporting characters, and puts them in a heart-pounding race against time.

A race against time in more ways than one.

The movie opens in a not too distant future when the wonders of technology have sputtered out. The world, beset by environmental and ecological disasters, is a dust bowl. The financial resources for NASA have eroded badly and space exploration has ended. Food resources are drying up too, and the world is threatened with starvation.

Cooper, a widowed astronaut whose vocation has become irrelevant, now lives a hard-scrabble farming life in a dusty, weather-beaten farmhouse along his father in law, and Coop's two children, son Tom and the spunky daughter, Murph.

Murph tells Coop about a ghost in bookshelves of her bedroom that is scattering books, and drawing patterns in the dust on the floor of her room. Coop deciphers the markings as the coordinates of a nearby location where Murph and her father stumble into a secret NASA laboratory. Coop's former mentor, Brand, is leading a last ditch effort to save the world from its death spiral by transporting humans to a new world in space. Brand's plan

A depends on his solving the puzzle of how to use gravity to propel earth's doomed population to a new home in our galaxy; his plan B is to send an new expedition beyond our galaxy through a worm hole with embryos that can populate a planet there.

Brand persuades Coop, along with Brand's brilliant, beautiful daughter, Amelia, to lead the plan B, assuring them that he will surely solve the gravity problem, saving the world's current dwellers before the plan B expedition's return.

There are two races against time. The first is finding a home for earth dwellers before they starve to death. The second race is conditioned by the difference in time rates for earth time and for those on the space expedition. Can Coop, whose time is slow relative to earth time, keep a promise to return to his daughter Murph, aging at a rate much faster than her father's in space?

Director Nolan treats us to a short course in physics, where we learn about the difference between dark holes in space and worm holes there, about the mystery of gravity, and about how relative time is. He hints that any other intelligent beings in the universe might be our human successors reaching back in time to us.

He also takes us on a psychological journey that highlights the power of love, driving Coop to persevere in efforts to keep his promise to his daughter. The film proposes love as a power that rivals gravity in its potency and mystery.

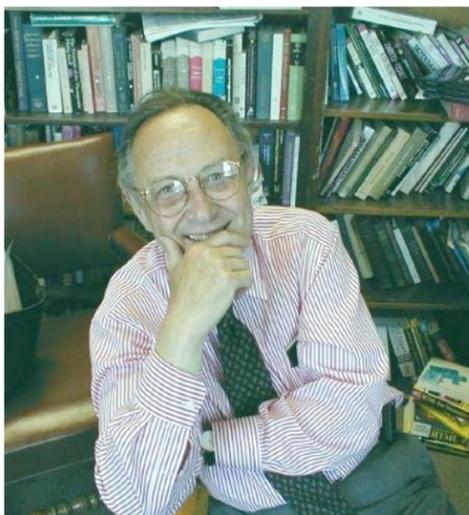
The movie documents, too, the agony that attends betrayals of trust by parental figures. Murph's pain and bitter anger at what she perceives as her father's willingness to sacrifice her to save humanity is re-iterated in Coop's and Amelia's shock when they discover that Brand had deliberately misled them. As Kohut's self-psychology argues, such betrayals tear at the very structure of the self.

Despite the suspenseful catastrophes that propel the film and the psychological traumata that deepen it, there is something disappointing in its "happily ever after" ending, more fairy tale than myth. Amelia is successful at populating a new planet with the embryos. Murph helps to create a haven for current earthlings in our galaxy. Coop makes it home just in time to keep his promise to an aged Murph, and then journeys back into space to rejoin Amelia in that galaxy far away. Happy endings.

A grimly realistic Freud would ask, "Are happy endings possible? Don't we always hurt the ones we love? Are not love and loss necessarily bound together?"

Guest Columnist,  
Dr. Alvin Burstein

Burstein, a psychologist and psychoanalyst, is a professor emeritus at the University of Tennessee and a former faculty member of the New Orleans-Birmingham Psychoanalytic Center with numerous scholarly works to his credit. He is also a member of Inklings, a Mandeville critique group that meets weekly to review its members' imaginative writings.



courtesy photo

Burstein has published flash fiction and autobiographical pieces in e-zines; *The Owl*, his first novelette, is available at Amazon. He is, in addition to being a movie fan, a committed Francophile, unsurprisingly a lover of fine cheese and wine, and an unrepentant cruciverbalist.

# Up-Coming Events

## A Day of Mindfulness for Mental Health Professionals at Tam Bao Buddhist Temple

The 6th Annual Mindfulness Day for Mental Health Professionals will be held on Saturday April 18 at the Tam Bao Temple, 975 Monterrey Blvd., in Baton Rouge. The theme is also "Mindfulness and Compassion Practices in Psychotherapy." Registration begins at 8 am and the day concludes at about 5 pm.

Training includes an introduction to "Meditation and Mindfulness," followed by "Guided Sitting Meditation" and a question and answer period.

"Sitting Together" is a section on Mindfulness in Therapy, and this is followed by "Mindful Lunch."

During the afternoon session trainers will offer "Compassion Practices for Psychotherapists and their Clients." This is followed by "Walking Meditation."

The training concludes with "Troubling Emotions: Welcoming undesirable Guests," and another Guided Sitting Meditation."

This year's presenters will include Sherry Desselle, Ph.D., a staff psychologist at Louisiana State University's Mental Health Services. She is the owner of Baton Rouge Center for Anxiety Treatment.

Also presenting is Nicole Falgoust, Ph.D., L.C.S.W., is a licensed clinical social worker with a Ph.D. in psychological anthropology. She has a private practice in Baton Rouge.

David Weibel, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist in private practice in Baton Rouge will also present.

Thay Dao Quang, M.Ed., is the abbot of Tam Bao Buddhist Temple in Baton Rouge.

Six CEUs is offered for psychologists and social workers, according to organizers. The fee is \$75 for professionals and \$25 for students. Lunch is included.



Thay Dao Quang presenting last year at the La. Psychological Association convention. Thay Dao Quang, M.Ed., is the abbot of Tam Bao Buddhist Temple in Baton Rouge.

## Openings for Participants in Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Study

Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)  
or Persistent Post-Concussion Syndrome

Any person who has persistent symptoms from one or more concussions that have occurred within the last six months to ten years is eligible.

Referring practitioners and individuals wanting to participate can



Open Mic: Our Stories  
Thursday, April 2, 2015, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

### The Power of T.E.A.

Susie Marie PhD<sup>®</sup> (Susan Dardard) tells a story of how she found power in the people, places, crops, and critters in her rural life, down south, by the river.

West Feliciana Parish Library  
5114 Burnett Road  
St. Francisville, LA 70775  
225-635-3364

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# Up-Coming Events

Shreveport

## Red River Institute Hosts Dr. Patch Adams in April

The Red River Institute will host Dr. Patch Adams at its 2015 Spring Conference, to be held April 24 and 25 in Shreveport. The location is the First Methodist Church on 500 Common Street in Shreveport.

The conference offers a chance for healthcare professionals in different disciplines to learn together and exchange ideas.

The theme for the conference is "Healing the World, One Relationship at a Time." The theme relates to the power of the mind, body and spirit to find and discover methods for healing, consistent with the Patch Adams legacy.

Presentations will address the politics, ethics, and practice in using the human relationship systems as a necessary element in healing, explain the organizers.

The program notes, "Patch Adams, internationally recognized activist, speaker, and author, is best known for the way he has brought healing to the world by 'clowning' his way into the hearts of his patients.

Patch Adams is the founder of The Gesundheit Institute, a non-profit healthcare organization that offers holistic medical care based on the belief that one cannot separate the health of the individual from the health of the family, the community, the society, and the world. The mission of the Gesundheit Institute is to reframe and reclaim the concept of 'hospital'."The theme "focuses on human connectedness as a healing tool fundamental to all contemporary healing disciplines, medical and nonmedical."

To register contact event organizers at (318) 202-9578 or visit [www.redriverinstitute.org](http://www.redriverinstitute.org).



Jerry Franklin discusses the Red River Institute's upcoming spring conference with Mark Reynaud, LPC-S, LMFT-S, at the recent convention of the Louisiana Marriage and Family Therapists Association. The Red River Institute conference will feature Dr. Patch Adams.

## The Psychology Times

Your community newspaper

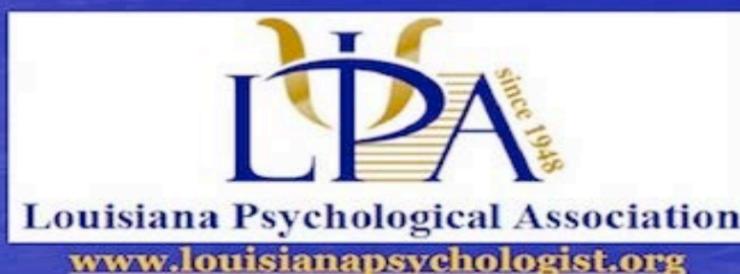
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Subscribe at [thepsychologytimes.com](http://thepsychologytimes.com)

We along with all journalists, grieve and say  
Je Pense Donc Je Suis Charlie

**June 12 & 13, 2015**  
SHERATON HOTEL METAIRIE-NEW ORLEANS

**Louisiana Psychological Association**  
**2015 Annual Convention**  
**"Psychology Across the Lifespan"**





Cartoon by Jesse Springer. Used with permission from the Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists.

## Sunshine Week is Week Of James Madison's Birth

As part of their initiative to promote the themes of Sunshine week, the [American Society of News Editors](#) (ASNE) developed a model open-government proclamation. They explained that James Madison, the father of our federal Constitution, wrote, "consent of the governed" requires that the people be able to "arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives." Sunshine Week is set for mid March, "commemorating the anniversary of James Madison's birth, and throughout the year to work diligently to enhance the public's access to government records and information, ..." notes the ASNE.

Sunshine Week is brought to you by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Bloomberg, The Gridiron Club and Foundation, American Society of News Editors, and the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

## The Psychology Times' Sunshine Meets Psychology Contest

Submit your favorite quote, comment or idea from psychological science that relates to the importance of freedom of information and open communication for the benefit of individuals, groups or societies.

A \$100 gift certificate or a donation to your favorite charity will be awarded to the winner, plus our eternal gratitude.

Send your ideas to [psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com](mailto:psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com) by May 20. The contest is open to everyone.

## The Psychology Times

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

The *Times* offers information, entertainment, and networking for those in this Louisiana community.

The *Psychology Times* is not affiliated with any professional group other than the **Louisiana Press Association**.

None of the content in the *Times* is intended as advice for anyone.

## Department of Psychology, Northwestern State University has an opening for an Assistant/Associate Professor or Full Professor

**Position:** Assistant/Associate Professor or Full Professor – tenure track: Earned doctorate in Psychology (Preferred Clinical Psychology) **Salary:** \$54,000 to \$57,000. Experience the culture and relaxed living in Louisiana's oldest city.

**Responsibilities:** Responsibilities include teaching courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels, graduate thesis research and paper-in-lieu, advising, university and department service, and research/publication endeavors.

**Start Date:** Open until filled

**Application:** Send vita, transcripts, and 3 letters of recommendation: Northwestern State University, Department of Psychology Dr. Susan Thorson-Barnett, Chairperson ATTN: Search Committee 311 Bienvenu Hall Natchitoches, LA 71497. Review of application will begin immediately and will continue until position is filled. Northwestern State.