2015 Year In Review

The year 2015 had its share of good news against the backdrop of continuing economic woes for the state. Public health and higher education continued in a quiet, stoic state of suffering.

We had plenty of bright spots that sparkled in 2015 against this somber palette. Perhaps the biggest story was the Institute of Medicine taking the side of Mike Chafetz and the neuropsychologists, when it came to using psychological science in disability evaluations. The Times report triggered comments from all over the nation.

Our local news included accomplishments sprinkled throughout the year: Susan Tucker's correctional programs earned praise; Tiffany Stewart’s work was honored at the legislature; Bonnie Nastasi was at the United Nations, Paul Frick was honored for Lifetime Achievements, and many others. Katrina at 10 years after brought important news. And later in the year was the impressive work by Stacy Overstreet in her community engagement.

Psychological science was big in 2015. There was always something in science and education news to report on in the Times. The year started with the Marriage and Family therapists bringing in Robert Whitaker for outside the box thinking in mental health. The conferences throughout the year, seemed to go on and on, from APA, to APS, to SEPA, SWPA, to specialized conferences and all the state associations, with students everywhere and doing a bang up job of it.

It was another year of politics of the strange. In a surprise twist to the 2014 battle over control of the psychology board, Joe Comaty’s confirmation was blocked by a joint effort of counselors and psychologists. The psychology board tried to have LPA removed from the law and to reinterpret the “list.” The dynamics seemed to go from bad to bizarre.

All in all, an interesting year. Here is your nutshell review— in case you missed something. Back issues are on our website.

January 2015

Bleak Budget Outlook. The continuing drop in oil prices causes Louisiana to further tighten its belt. Oil prices hit a five-year low and keep sliding.

Executive Order Specifies Services for Victims of Sexual Assault. Gov. Jindal directed government agencies to revise policies to cover medical expenses for forensic medical examination for victims of sexual assault.

Louisiana Awarded Grant to Address Child Sex Trafficking. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children, Youth and Families awarded grants to Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, HP Serve, and LouisianaChildren.org to improve outcomes for child trafficking victims.

Psychology Board Hires Prosecutor. The psychology board announced that it has retained a new prosecutor, attorney James Raines.

Med Board Posts Guidance for Medical Psychologists Supervising School Specialists or Provisional Licensees. The state Medical Board published “Guidance for Medical Psychologists” in December, and stated that MPs licensed only

Community Awards

There were many wonderful contributions this year for the Times staff to choose from for our Community Awards. As is our way, we gave credit for efforts along the lines of organizational and community psychology, where contributions benefit many, are strategic and humane. We looked for creativity, win-win solutions, contributions to scientific truth, and improvements in subgroup functioning—and found them.

We gave our community members points for courage and vision, for those stepping out of their silos and comfort zones, and for going the extra mile, or two, or 100. We applaud you. We thank you for your work, wisdom, and vision. Once again, we noticed.
May the Force Be With You in 2016 by J. Nelson

I treated myself to a classic text by Hans Eysenck, The Psychology of Politics. The 1963 edition arrived from the library at the University of London, along with the sweet smell of old pages—notes of vanilla and almonds—caused by the breakdown of chemicals in the paper. A potent olfactory prime: I’m transported to the eternal halls of knowledge and wisdom and universal truths. That’s something we don’t get from our Kindle readers.

And of course Dr. Eysenck does not disappoint. While some of the information is dated, his process of reasoning, with the elegant blending of theory, psychometrics, and analysis, combined with crystal clear and honest writing, shows us exactly his thinking process.

Eysenck was a controversial figure. I met him in the 1970s at a dinner hosted by the Louisiana Psychological Association held on a riverboat that cruised along the shore at New Orleans, before the annual convention. Dr. Ralph Dreger had coaxed Eysenck to Louisiana, back in the days when LSU and LPA were still connected.

Except for a slightly impish look to him, as if he thought everything was just a bit amusing, Eysenck seemed normal. He should have had ray beams shooting out of his forehead. He was the most cited psychologist of his lifetime, one of the most prolific, and definitely one of the most courageous. The next day he explained research on how smoking was not a sufficient cause for cancer.

Eysenck’s book was the most pure. There is the force. There is the innovation, the spark of genius, the passion that seems a fine idea. May the force be with you in 2016.

But I am also convinced, now more than ever, in the value of the individual, rather than the group. I find myself growing cautious and suspicious of groups, but not so with individuals. Just look at the achievements last year, and the years before that.

There is the innovation, the spark of genius, the passion that seems most pure. There is the force.

Eysenck dedicated his Politics, “To Gary – in the hope that he will grow up in a society more interested in psychology than politics.” That seems a fine idea. May the force be with you in 2016.
Governor Orders More Budget Reductions

In the December issue of the Louisiana Register, Governor Jindal ordered reductions in the Executive Branch. He ordered Medical Vendor Payments be reduced by $251,422,176. The next highest reduction was for the Attorney General, a reduction of $2,416,606.

Budget reductions also included $1,000,000 for the Division of Administration, $839,000 for Office of the Secretary, $600,000 for Office of Behavioral Health, and $496,293 for Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities.

LAMP Contributes $10K to New Governor

The Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologist contributed $5,000 to John Bel Edwards and $5,000 to the Victory Fund 2015, with the same address.

The contributions were made in mid-November, along with numerous other contributions of $250 or $500 to legislators, and reported by the LAMP Political Action Committee.

Medical Board Publishes Rules for Complaint Process

For the first time in recent years, the names headed to the Governor’s Office for appointment to the state psychology board will not be including a member of the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists (LAMP). Neither of the two possible appointees, Dr. Leah Crouch nor Dr. Amy Henke, are medical psychologists.

Electronic voting closed on December 31 with 323 psychologists voting, according to Ms. Jaime Monic, Executive Director for the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP). Ms. Monic said that the election results, held by the LSBEP attorney, will be released to both the psychology board and to the Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA) at the board meeting on January 22.

Dr. Marc Zimmermann, medical psychologist and current LSBEP chair, will complete his term in June 2016, leaving only two of five members who are affiliated with LAMP, Dr. Darla Burnett, who takes over as Chair, and Dr. Jesse Lamb. Lamb is a new board member and student member of LAMP. Dr. Phillip Griffin and Dr. Koren Boggs are the other two members.

Last month the president of LPA, Dr. Lacey Seymour, asked the two candidates to comment on current events and shared their thoughts with LPA members.

LAMP members.

In answering a number of questions, Dr. Crouch said that "There should never be an appearance that the LPA or other psychological associations have undue influence over the decisions made by the LSBEP." Crouch also said that the “first issue at hand” for regulating bodies such as LSBEP and the state medical board, is “…for ensuring the protection of the public.”

Dr. Crouch said she had many questions about the matters in the community. “Why are MPs not required to hold dual licenses, similar to professionals that have dual degrees that practice both disciplines (e.g., PhD/JD)?” and “Can the LSBEP thoroughly oversee and investigate a discipline in which the LSBME has various levels of training?”

She also wrote, “…this is a very complex and complicated issue that has been affecting our discipline for many years. I can avow to do my due diligence as a board member to educate myself, research, maintain objectivity and neutrality, in all matters to serve and uphold the mission of the LSBEP.”

Dr. Amy Henke also responded to questions about current events. She wrote, “If elected as an LSBEP board member, I would resign my current position as a Director in LPA to prevent any conflict of interest, but would ideally remain involved in continuing to improve and grow the positive relationship between LSBEP and LPA.”

“I believe strongly that the role of LSBEP is limited to protecting the public and following the law. I do not believe that LSBEP, as a regulatory body, has a role in legislative advocacy. This is where the importance of professional organizations, such as LPA are integral to the protection of our profession. I view these missions as different, yet complimentary.”

Henke noted problems with clarity in terminology in certain areas with the board. And she said, “Regardless of my personal belief, it is important to note the role of LSBEP board members is to follow the law versus engage in legislative advocacy.”

She wrote that she shared the concerns of many colleagues about non-psychologists regulating psychology activities, but said she will “follow the law as written.”

“In an effort to avoid repeating perceived mistakes from past boards regarding this issue, I do not intend to reach beyond the role assigned to the board,” Dr. Henke said.

In the December issue of the Louisiana Register and included scope, definitions, and complaint origination. “Preliminary review of a complaint shall be completed as promptly as possible within one-hundred and eighty days of receipt.”

“If the board determines by a majority vote of the members present and voting at a board meeting that a complaint warrants investigation it shall instruct board staff to initiate a formal investigation. If the board determines that a complaint does not warrant investigation it shall be closed pursuant to §9709F.1. of this Chapter.”

The Rule sets out that formal investigations shall be completed in 36 months. Also, a list of informal and non-disciplinary solutions is listed. The Rule also makes clear that individuals may have legal representation at any point.

The December Rule did not include a section on financial impact, which had been included in the September “Notice of Intent.” In that version, a new position for investigations was to be created, with a cost of about $422,000 in 2016 and about $340,000 thereafter. The medical board is advertising for a physician investigator, with a job posting on its website.

Spokesperson for the Louisiana State Medical Society, Ms. Jennifer Marusak, previously explained to the Times, “There were no limits, no structures, no definitions,” she said. “A complaint of having a poor bedside manner could open up the door so that the investigators could go in and investigate everything in that physician’s office.” Marusak said, “Physicians fear speaking out.”

Clarifications

The death notice on page 4 in our December 2015 issue referred to Dr. Judy E. Hall, a resident of Maryland who earned her PhD from the University of Alabama. Dr. Hall was not from Louisiana.

Please send corrections or clarifications to the Times at psycholatytimes@gmail.com

MPs to Lose Majority on the LSBEP?

Two Psychologists Will Be On “List”

The state medical board published a new Rule to accompany Act 441 which passed in the 2015 legislative session. Act 441 addressed complaints by members of the Medical Society about the lack of clarity and fairness in the investigations at the state medical board.

Act 441 included requirements that the state medical board adopt rules for investigation of complaints that satisfy “minimum due process requirements of the Constitution of Louisiana and the Constitution of the United States…”

Revisions included notice of the investigation, time limits, information about informal settlements, and other topics. The changes also make it possible for board members to be involved in assessing whether complaints need to move into formal investigations. The new Rule takes the Executive Director out of any role as lead investigator.

The new Rule was published in the December 20 issue of the Louisiana Register and included scope, definitions, and complaint origination. “Preliminary review of a complaint shall be completed as promptly as possible within one-hundred and eighty days of receipt.”

“If the board determines by a majority vote of the members present and voting at a board meeting that a complaint warrants investigation it shall
LSBEP Publishes New Rule
Expanding Supervision Rights
For Medical Psychologists

The Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP) published a new Rule on December 20 that provides for medical psychologists to supervise Licensed Specialists in School Psychology and for those with Provisional Licenses. The Rule changes are in part due to Acts 136 and 137, passed in 2014, which created the two new types of credentials under the psychology board.

However, the wording of the new Rule may also allow medical psychologists to qualify as supervisors to all others, such as interns and first year post-doctoral fellows.

In 2014 the psychology board put forth legislation to create the two new credentials. But, the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychology (LAMP) amended both bills before final passage to include medical psychologists as supervisors, even though medical psychologists are not licensed by psychology board.

The issue of supervision of psychology professionals by medical psychologists who are licensed by medicine, has been an ongoing controversy since the reversal of LSBEP Opinion #12 in 2011.

In late 2010 the psychology board confirmed that all supervisors of psychology professionals had to be licensed under the state psychology board. In the spring of 2011, the Chair of the psychology board, Dr. Joe Comaty, was approached by Dr. John Bolter, a leader of the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists, and the Dr. Robert Marier, Executive Director of the medical board. Dr. Comaty was asked to revise the Opinion and allow medical psychologists to supervise. He agreed.

The change made Louisiana the only state where those without a psychology license were supervising those seeking a psychology license. The decision was called "playing with fire" by the Executive Director of the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards, who also noted that the arrangement goes against the model supervision guidelines.

Last year the medical board published a statement "Guidance for Medical Psychologists" which directed medical psychologists to comply with the supervisory obligations of the LSBEP. However, this was only an informal statement.

The new Rule for these laws were proposed or "noticed" in February 2015, when the psychology board published a "Notice of Intent." However, the final step was delayed until December 2015. The reason for the delay is not known.

It is also not clear if the board addressed comments about the proposed Rule after it was noticed. The Times' publisher submitted a comment, hand-delivered to then Executive Director, Kelly Parker.

According to Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, the board is required to reply to all comments. No reply was ever received. And, in a November letter to Senate members of Health and Welfare, Ms. Monic indicated that there were no comments. However, Ms. Parker resigned in 2015.

The psychology board prohibits interviews with the press so no clarification could be obtained.

Some in the community note concerns both about standards and about those students who are licensed in Louisiana and then move to other states.

Others are concerned about how medical psychologists are allowed to supervise specialists in school psychology, noting that medical psychology and school psychology are different specialties.

The prevalence of children diagnosed with ADHD has soared, increasing 43 percent in the last decade, said researchers in the Journal of Clinical Psychiatry using data from Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics, a part of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Statistics from the Center for Disease Control ranked Louisiana first in the percentage of children taking medication for ADHD and third in the percentage of youngsters who have a current ADHD diagnosis.

Data was collected through 2011. According to the CDC, 15.8 percent of children in Louisiana have been told by a health care provider that he or she has ADHD. This compares to 11% nationwide.
LSU’s Dr. Johnny Matson Part of OAR Research Team

Louisiana State University Professor and Distinguished Research Master, Dr. Johnny Matson will be a member of the research team named by the Organization of Autism Research to study predictors of adult outcomes of those with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Matson is an expert in autism, mental disabilities, and severe emotional disorders in children and adolescents. Johnny Matson has produced 700+ publications including 38+ books. He has served as Editor-in-Chief for Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders (Oxford England), Editor-in-Chief for Research in Developmental Disabilities (Oxford, England), and Associate Editor for Journal of Mental Health Research in Intellectual Disabilities (London). Through the years he has served on 80 editorial boards including as Editor-in-Chief for Applied Research in Mental Retardation and the Official Journal of the American Association for University Affiliated Programs.

The research team for the Organization of Autism Research will include collaborators Juhi Kaboski, Ke-Hai Yuan and Megan Cain, all from Notre Dame, and Julie Lounds Taylor from Vanderbilt.

The team will study “Comorbidities in ASD: Developmental Trajectories and Predictors of Adult Outcomes.” The group was awarded as only one of seven projects out of 113 application. According to the announcement, the team will use “three large longitudinal data sets to examine the relationship of comorbid disorders to outcomes in ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) across development, with the goal of providing evidence-based treatments for this population.”

The importance of the study is because there is a lack of knowledge about the subgroup of individual with autism who experience an accompanying psychiatric disorder, and especially a lack of information about their developmental path and adult outcomes, and also evidence-based treatments. The proposed research will address this essential area.

Matson and collaborators will give special attention to the issue with moderating effects of things such as existing treatments, medications, school services, and insurance types.

OAR’s mission and the goal of this sponsored research is to promote studies that yield practical and clearly objective results that contribute to enhanced quality of life for people with autism and provide evidence-based information for use by parents, families, and service providers.

In 2014, Dr. Matson was named as one of the “Most Influential Scientific Minds Of Our Time,” by Thomson Reuters, who use their Web of Science platform to identify the most highly cited researchers in the world. Matson falls into the group of researchers who is highly cited in one of the major fields of scientific endeavor.


Stress Solutions
by Susan Andrews, PhD

Reducing the Room’s Temperature can Increase the Quality of Your Sleep

You probably know how important good sleep is to your overall health. Not only getting enough sleep but the QUALITY of your sleep is the key factor in your protection against many diseases, such as heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. A 2010 study published in the Annals of Epidemiology showed that regularly getting less than six hours of sleep per night can lead to a higher risk of both heart disease and type 2 diabetes. For their study, researchers asked participants to fill out questionnaires about their health and sleep patterns. The researchers analyzed six years worth of data from just under 1,500 participants, all between the ages of 35 and 79. They identified several ways to improve the quality of sleep. One of the most surprising findings was the effects of room temperature on the quality of sleep.

It is best to sleep cool. Have you ever noticed how difficult it is to sleep when it gets too hot? That’s because the core temperature of your body needs to be cool in order for you to sleep well. The optimal room temperature for sleep is between 60 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Any warmer than that, and your body may not be able to cool as much as it needs to for truly restful sleep. Sleeping cool may even help relieve insomnia.

A body of research is finding that regulating sleep temperature may bring some relief to sufferers of insomnia. According to Dr. Cameron Van den Heuvel, a research fellow involved in a 2009 study of body temperature and sleep performed by the University of South Australia’s Centre for Sleep Research: "Temperature regulation is a significant factor in each of the two types of insomnia. The difference is when the insomnia occurs. People with sleep onset insomnia have difficulty initiating sleep at the beginning of the night, taking two to four hours each night in the worst cases; while people with sleep maintenance insomnia fall asleep easily but have trouble staying asleep, waking up multiple times during the night... In both types of insomnia, sleep is not restful and sufferers are tired during the day.”

Studies of sleep onset insomniacs show that they have consistently warmer core body temperature immediately before initiating sleep, when compared with normal healthy adults. This results in a state of heightened arousal that prevents them from falling asleep when they go to bed, probably because they have to wait for their bodies to lose the heat that’s keeping them awake. We’re only talking about a half to one degree but that small temperature change can result in significant differences in arousal between insomniacs and people without sleeping problems.9

If you are slow to fall asleep at night, try cooling down your room.

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).
Janet and Lee Matthews Showcased in *Monitor* for AP Foundation Bequest

Louisiana psychologists Dr. Janet Matthews and Dr. Lee Matthews were featured in an article in the December issue of the American Psychological Association’s national magazine, *Monitor*.

The couple made a contribution to the American Psychological Foundation. In an interview the Matthews said that what inspired the donation were several factors. “We started making donations to APF to honor friends’ accomplishment, as well as in memory of colleagues who had died.” The couple said that they have no children or siblings, and so it was a natural progression. “It is a way to both acknowledge those psychologists who mentored us and had such a profound impact on our development and success in the profession and to support the growth and vision of both our former and future psychology students.”

Dr. Janet Matthews has been a key figure in the national and state psychology community and long-time professor of psychology at Loyola University in New Orleans. She is now retired and Professor Emerita. She served on the APA Board of Directors and also served as Chair of APA Board of Educational Affairs and as President of Division 31, State, Provincial & Territorial Affairs.

During her career she has served on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, and as chair. She has published over 70 journal articles and numerous books and book chapters, including Introduction to Clinical Psychology and Your Practicum in Psychology: A Guide for Maximizing Knowledge and Competence. She has served as Associate Editor of Professional Psychology: Research & Practice. She was named as Distinguished Psychologist by the Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA).

Dr. Lee Matthews was also named as Distinguished Psychologist by LPA, in 2014. He is licensed in clinical and clinical neuropsychology and he holds the Diplomate in Clinical Psychology from both the American Board of Professional Psychology and also from the American Board of Assessment Psychology. He is co-owner of Psychological Resources in Kenner, Adjunct Faculty Associate Professor at the LSU Health Science Center in New Orleans, and consults to Children’s Hospital and South Louisiana Medical Associates at Leonard J. Chabert Medical Center in Houma, Louisiana. He has served on and chaired the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

He is a Fellow of the APA, has authored and co-authored with his wife numerous publications and journal articles served in numerous professional roles, including president of the New Orleans Neuropsychological Society, Secretary/Treasure of the Division of General Psychology in APA, Chair of the Historical Committee for Southwestern Psychological Association, president of the Orleans Psychological Society.

“We can’t predict what areas of research might need funding, but we feel strongly about the importance of personal interaction to stimulate creativity,” they said to the *Monitor*.

“As a dual-psychologist couple, much of our lives has revolved around the discipline. Psychology has been our profession, our personal identity and the source of friendships that would not otherwise have occurred.”

“We believe that giving money to APF is the best way for us to pay it forward.”

Susan Dardard presented one of her South River Stories®, *Indian Santa, The True Story*, to a group of children in St. Francisville, Louisiana recently. Known as “Susie Marie PhD®” in the media, she appeared with her husband, Joe, the original Indian Santa and inspiration for her story and original art. You can watch the video story at [http://southriverstories.com/santa-2/](http://southriverstories.com/santa-2/)

Pages from the December issue of the magazine for the American Psychological Association, *Monitor*. Drs. Janet and Lee Matthews were featured for their donation to the AP Foundation.

Dr. Tom Stigall On The Mend

Dr. Tom Stigall, is on the mend after having a stroke in October. He is making steady recovery, said wife Connie Stigall.

Dr. Stigall is a key figure in the psychology community both at the state level and before retirement, at the national level. He has served as President of the Louisiana Psychological Association, as Chair of the state board, as investigator, and in numerous roles in the political scene. More recently he has served as the President of the Louisiana Photographic Society, and is an award-winning photographer, including two first place awards from the Louisiana Press Association for his photos in the *Psychology Times*.

Connie Stigall said Tom is still experiencing some trouble with his right arm and right leg, but is now involved in home health care and, while “not too happy about the whole thing,” he is on the mend.
A Review of Star Wars by Alvin G. Burstein

Like, apparently most of America, I was caught up in the hoopla that attended the announcement that they were back: Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, Han Solo, Chewbacca, the whole Camelot assembly. And like, apparently most of America, I rushed to see the new movie, Star Wars: The Force Awakens. My reaction is mixed.

The film, viewed with its 3D glasses, has a massive visual impact, augmented by a booming soundtrack. And although Chewbacca seems to be ageless, there was something engaging about seeing Han and Leia showing their thirty years.

What the film’s director/writer, J. J. Abrams, has done is to have repackaged pieces of the original trilogy. The story opens with an orphaned outlander acquiring a droid that conceals a vital bit of information—sound familiar? The orphan, Rey, is repackaged as a woman scavenger and the droid, BB-8, every bit as cute and beepy as R2-D2, propels itself on a roller ball rather than the two legs of the older model. But BB-8 has the same puppy dog, follow-you-home personality as its predecessor.

There is also the interplanetary bar scene populated by a variety of exotic human types with unsavory vocations and unattractive habits. And the Millennian Falcon retains its entertaining combination of ramshackle but remarkable performance.

It’s all there and quite entertaining.

And yet there is a hollowness in the plotting that leaves me feeling like artistry has been displaced by prospect of preparing for a sequel.

What made the original tale so compelling was its reference to the Oedipal theme of Luke’s relationship to his father. Murderous striving is dissolved as Luke matures into an adulthood powerful enough to try to rescue his weakened father. Further, Luke’s power is rooted in a mastery developed in his relationship with Obi Wan and Yoda, male mentors that foster and contribute to his slow and painful efforts to grow rather than seeing them as a challenge—a promise that there can be good enough fathering as well as mothering.

In this sequel Rey, whom this sequel hints will become the first female Jedi knight, displays instinctive powers, unearned by laborious apprenticeship. She bests Ren, Darth Vader’s grandson and successor as an evil force, in a light saber duel. Earlier she spontaneously exhibits mind control powers that Luke had to struggle to achieve. Even her companion/protector, Finn, finds himself able to snatch up Luke’s old light saber and challenge, though unsuccessfully, Ren. For them, potential knighthood seems to come easily, rather than requiring a struggle to develop.

Finn is perhaps the most interesting character in this tale, the only one that shows real change. He makes the transition from being a frightened escapee whose only concern is to protect himself to that of a person capable of heroic self-sacrifice. I was left wanting to see more of him, and I suspect therein lies some frankly commercial artistry.

In the original tale Leia seeks to locate Obi Wan, one of the last of the Jedi, in order to save the Republic from being overwhelmed by the Empire. Here Rey enlists Han and others in the search for the new last of the Jedi, Luke.

Luke, like Obi Wan, has buried himself in obscurity. When Rey finally finds him, the immediate threat from the Empire’s successor, the First Order, has already been defused—and in the same way as the Empire’s Death Star. The movie ends with Luke’s turning to face Rey who offers him his light saber. Will Luke accept it to become Rey’s Obi Wan? Will Ren, whom the evil Supreme Leader Snoke has ordered be brought to him, become the new Darth Vader? What role in Rey’s life will Finn play when he recovers? For that matter, who will Chewbacca and the droids partner with?

Are we being set up for something? Will the Force protect us?
2015 Year In Review
Continued

under the medical board should comply with the supervisory obligations set out by the state psychology board.

LSU Psychology Graduates 22 PhDs. The Louisiana State University Psychology Department announced its recent doctoral graduates for 2014.

UNO’s Dr. Weems Works on Cybersecurity. Dr. Carl Weems, professor of psychology at the University of New Orleans Psychology Department, is part of a team working to understand personality factors related to cybersecurity risks. The research is funded by a $223,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.

Stress Solutions. Dr. Susan Andrews on: “Passing Stress onto the Next Generation: Pass the salt. Pass the rolls. But, please don’t pass the stress.”

FEBRUARY

Stubblefield and Boggs Get Top Votes. Dr. Beverly Stubblefield captured the top number of votes in the psychology board election with 173 votes; Dr. Koren Boggs received 132; and Dr. Jesse Lambert, 71. Lambert, the LAMP candidate, would eventually be appointed.

Dr. Frick Named for Lifetime Achievement. The Society for the Scientific Study of Psychopathy named Dr. Paul Frick, University Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology at the University of New Orleans, as the recipient of the Robert D. Hare Lifetime Achievement Award.

Louisiana Supreme Court Ruling Points to Need for Specialized Training. Forensic and clinical psychologist, Dr. Alan Taylor, reviews a ruling by the Louisiana Supreme Court in a guest article, “Handling of Sexual Abuse Allegations.”

Assn of Family and Conciliation Courts Meets in N.O. The national Association of Family and Conciliation Courts held its annual conference in New Orleans and the state chapter held its annual conference in New Orleans and the state chapter held its annual conference in New Orleans and the state chapter

LSBEP Task Force for New Regulations Formed. The Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists announced the formation of a task force to look at “professionalism” regulations which may include restrictions on free speech.

LSBEP Prohibits Interviews with the Press. The psychology board published a policy prohibiting interviews with the media/press. The Times won a first place from the La Press Assn for an editorial cartoon mocking the decision.

Drs. Choate and Steele New Officers for LPC Bd. Dr. Laura Choate, Licensed Professional Counselor, took over as Chair for the LPC Board. The new Vice Chair is Dr. Kathy Steele.

What is a Conflict of Interest and Who Has It? The Times looked at some examples of possible bias of those on the state psychology board regarding involvement in elections.

Dr. Seay Showcased in Classic Bookshelf. Retired LSU Honors College Dean and psychology professor, and one of the early “monkey man” at LSU Baton Rouge, Dr. Billy Seay, was featured. With fellow LSU professor and development psychologist, the late Dr. Nathan Gottfried, Seay authored The Development of Behavior: A Synthesis of Developmental and Comparative Psychology.

Tulane and Dr. Figley Launch MOOC. Dr. Charles Figley, Professor in the Tulane School of Social Work, and Tulane University, launched Tulane’s first Massive Open Online Course (MOOC). Figley is the Director of Tulane’s Trauma Institute.

Drs. Chaney and Sauley Help LSU Cont Ed Celebrate 50 Years of “Fundamentals.” Louisiana State University Continuing Education celebrated its 50-year anniversary for the popular course, “Fundamentals of Supervision,” the flagship program for the Management and Leadership Institute with instructors Dr. Courtland Chaney and Dr. Kerry Sauley.

Stress Solutions. Dr. Susan Andrews on: “What is Your Sleep IQ?”

Shrink at the Flicks. Dr. Alvin Burstein reviewed: The Great Dictator.

MARCH

Marriage & Family Therapists Bring Author Robert Whitaker to Baton Rouge. Robert Whitaker, an investigative journalist and author of Anatomy of an Epidemic: Magic Bullets, Psychiatric Drugs, and the Astonishing Rise of Mental Illness in America, was the keynote speaker at the Louisiana Marriage and Family Therapist Association. Whitaker pointed to fallacies behind the rampant use of pharmaceuticals as first-line treatment for psychological problems, drawing on long-term studies, population statistics, and a lack of scientific theory behind the $70 billion global psychiatric drug market.

Grassroots Asks Ethics for Advisory Opinion. Grassroots Initiative, a group composed of psychologists and retired psychologists, asked the state Ethics Board if decisions made by the psychology board constitute a conflict of interest. Ethics never published an answer.

Governor Jindal Walks Tightrope in Exec Budget. Governor published his Executive Budget with a 4.7 percent reduction overall and 127 fewer agency positions.

Researchers Presented SEPA. Psychological researchers from Louisiana presented at Southeastern Psychological Association in South Carolina. Stinne Soendergaard, Dr. Amy Brown from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette; and Laura Heisick, Juan Guevara Pino; and a group from Xavier University including Amanda Trice, Rebecca Gillespie, Sehra Polad, Jenny Qin,
Madeleine Thompson, Andrea Winchester, and W. M. Nelson III, who presented multiple studies. Also, Khalil Thompson, Armond Collins, Kwame Jackson, Taylor Smith, and Jeremy Cohen, Mark Dallas, Lisa Gallagher, and Jennifer Thomas, from Xavier, also presented. From Louisiana State University were Dr. Megan Papesh, Laura Heisick, and Juan Guevara Pinto. Dr. Michelle Moore, Dr. Kristin Callahan, and Dr. Tonya Hansel also presented. Dr. Marsha Redden, and also Daniel Chadborn from Southeastern, presented.

IO Returns to LSU. After a two-year shutdown, the Louisiana State University Psychology Department plans on restarting its Industrial–Organizational Psychology Program, said search Committee Chair, Dr. Janet McDonald. Dr. Courtland Chaney is providing assistance.

Harvard Honors Dr. Tucker’s Work. The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, named Dr. Susan Tucker as one of this year’s recipients of the prestigious Bright Ideas awards for innovation. Tucker is Assistant Warden at the Bossier Parish Correctional Center and a licensed psychologist.

Legislature Warming Up. The state Legislature starts soon and bills are being filed.

What Did the PACs Do in 2014? The LA Academy of Medical Psychologist PAC collected $42,500 in 2014, matched only by the LA State Medical PAC, which collected $56,660. Licensed Professional Counselors collected about $4,061, psychologists collected $56,605, and social workers appeared to have collected no funds for their PAC.

DHH Tried Again to Develop Rules for Treatment Facilities, Some Providers. The Department of Health and Hospitals tried again to develop new Rules covering the licensing standards for substance abuse/addiction treatment facilities, mental health clinics, and behavioral health service providers.

State Task Force on ADHD Recommended Better Diagnosis and More Behavior Therapy. The Department of Health and Hospitals reported findings from its task force charged with looking into the unusually high rates of medications for ADHD in Louisiana. The group said to increase the accuracy of ADHD diagnosis and increase access to behavioral therapies.

Supreme Courts Backs FTC In Case of NC Dental Board. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a North Carolina Dental Board violated competition laws by attempting to block non-dentists from performing teeth-whitening services.

ASPPB Working to Streamline Interstate Telepsychology. The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards is working on a method so that psychologists licensed in one state can perform across state lines.

Rules Noticed for Specialist In School Psychology, Provisional License. The state psychology board published a Notice of Intent for Licensed Specialists in School Psychology and for Provisional Licenses.

Continuing Education Rule Noticed for Behavior Analyst. The Behavior Analyst Board published a proposed Rule for continuing education.

Rule for Emeritus Psychologists’ CEUs Proposed. After months of confusion following an October 2013 rule change that deleted the continuing education waiver for Emeritus Psychologists, the psychology board published a notice on the topic.

ASPPB Asked for Comments for New Guidelines on Supervising Psychologists. The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards asked for comments about their draft for Supervision Guidelines for Education and Training leading to Licensure as a Health Service Provider.

We tried hard to decide between these two winners and finally decided to give two Courage Awards for 2015. For the second year in a row, we recognize Dr. Michael Chafetz for leading the scientific battle to update the science base at the behemoth Social Security Administration. We were worried that the Institute of Medicine was going to fall in line with politics, but science won out, with no small efforts from the neuropsychologists and our own Dr. Chafetz. We also honor the Marriage & Family Therapists Association who hosted Robert Whitaker, a force in keeping the debate open and vital about the use and overuse of medication in mental health care. Both our winners have our admiration and thanks, and the Times’ 2015 Courage Award.

Cont next pg
Office of Behavioral Health Lists Training for Suicide Prevention. The Office of Behavioral Health (O BH) developed and posted a list of training resources for suicide prevention. Danita LeBlanc, Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Program Manager for O BH Prevention Services, facilitated the effort which was the outcome of a 2014 effort to push training in suicide prevention by psychologists Drs. April Foreman and William Schmitz.

Drs. April Foreman and William Schmitz, both psychologists, presented their work on the social factors that contribute to suicide. They highlighted the importance of training for mental health professionals in this area and described some effective intervention strategies.

The Unexpectedly Fascinating Association of Social Workers. The 2014 annual conference of the Association of Social Workers Convention was highlighted, with particular emphasis on the work of Dr. Marsha Redden. Her colleagues have been instrumental in pushing training in suicide prevention by psychologists, and they were honored at The Red Shoes in Baton Rouge.

Stress Solutions. Dr. Susan Andrews on: “Children Suffer from Stress, Too.”

Dr. Marsha Redden, a psychologist and clinical neuropsychologist, presented on the unexpected and fascinating research with the Brony Fandom. Her work with the Brony Fandom, perhaps the largest of any story, was featured in her presentation. She discussed the experiences and psychological outcomes of young men who follow the animated television show "My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic."

The Chicago School at Xavier Prepares for 1st Class. The Chicago School launched its new PsyD degree program at Xavier with health and multicultural focus. Dr. Christoph Leonhard is department Chair for the new program. Dr. Matthew Holcomb is clinical neuropsychologist and Assistant Professor in Clinical Psychology in the new program. Dr. Janet Matthews and Dr. Michele LaRuelle helped in an Advisory Committee.

Drs. Sherry Dessel-Nesbitt, Department Chair in the Psychology Department at Xavier University, and Dr. William Schmitz, a psychologist, are experts in suicide prevention and were honored at the conference. Dr. Schmitz, a psychologist, is an expert in suicide prevention and he was a keynote speaker at the Social Workers Convention.

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. Presenters included: Dr. Courtney Baker, Stephanie Aaron, Tracy Evian Waas, Jennifer Erin Mardarelli, Claire Burns, Bjoern Kahrs, Nicholas Fears, Dr. Sarah Gray, Robert A. Reeve, Wendy Jung, Bjoern Kahrs, Brittany DeVries, Madeleine Schwartz, Ashley Smith, Linda Kasak, David Comalli, Lok Yu Glady, Chan, Danielle Kellig, Catherine Tamis-Lemonda, Dr. Jeffrey Lockman, Sneha Radhakrishnan, Karen Adolph, Elizabeth McIntyre, Paulette Carter, Dr. Stacy Overstreet, Katie Simon, Shereen Naser, Paulette Carter, Rose E. Vanderwert; also Drs. Charles Zeanah, Nathan A. Fox, Charles Nelson; Dr. Hung-Chu Lin, Philip Richard, Michelle Grisham, Rebecca Tacke, Jacob Amrose; Dr. Sarah Thomas, Juhi Pandey, Jennifer Mardarelli, Chad Chappell, Lauren Turner Brown, Annette Mercer Estes, Lonnie Zwaigenbaum, Robert Schultz, Grace Baranek, and Joseph Piven.

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routinely performed in many types of Social Security Disability claims, but that the use of symptom validity testing, in particular, is needed when there are questions of credibility. The O'Ms findings are another volley in the now decade-long debate between psychological scientists and policy makers at the Social Security Administration (SSA). At the center of the debate is New Orleans clinical neuropsychologist, Dr. Michael Chafetz.

Dr. Paul Frick Takes the Crumpler Chair at LSU. Dr. Paul Frick is the inaugural recipient of the Roy Crumpler Memorial Chair in Psychology at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge campus. Frick most recently served as the Department Chair in Psychology at the University of New Orleans and is a leading international authority in adolescent diagnosis and behavior.


Researchers Present at APS. Psychological scientists from around the state presented at Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention in New York City. Included were: Jeffrey Brown and Michael Brachfeld from Tulane psychology; Tina Sahakian, Max Seidman, Maxwell Anderson and Dr. Edward Golob Lisa Chinn, Carolyn Pauker from Tulane; Ashanti Anderson and Dr. Katherine Eskine from Xavier; Michelle Grisham, Philip Richard, Rebecca Tacke, Jacob Amrose, Kylie Garber, Taylor Schaff, Dr. Valanne MacGyvers, and Dr. Hung-Chu Lin from U. of Louisiana at Lafayette; Christopher Castille and Marangelle Vega, Camille Baker, Esther Grabow, Victoria Felix, Rebecca Granda, and Dr. Walter Bulowitz; Sarah McConnell, Danielle Newman and Mercedes Gremellion from Louisiana Tech; and Ashley Galsky and Yong Dai from Louisiana State University.

Budget Crisis Draws Host of Bills. Responding with ideas to the $1.6 billion shortfall, legislators have come out with a host of bills to piece together a state budget.

LSBEP's SB 113 Strs Up Controversy, Tries to Delete LPA from Law. The Louisiana State Board of Psychologists Examiners initiated a measure to make several changes in the psychology practice act, including a controversial move to delete the language from the licensing law that gives Louisiana State Psychological Association the role of providing names to the governor. LAMP appeared to be connected. The effect failed because the author, Senator Gallot, said he would not take sides.

A Variety of Legislative Measures Proposed: Bills to increase in court-ordered mental health treatment; to expand treatment for victims of sexual assault; to exempt behavioral health providers from licensure if they work in specialty courts; to exempt those on an attorney's team mandated reporting laws; and others are proposed.

Second Annual Legislative Forum Held. The second Annual Behavioral Health Legislative Forum was co-hosted by the Louisiana Counseling Association and the Louisiana Psychological Association, with the National Association of Social Workers Louisiana Chapter helping moderate. Organizer and founders are Cindy Nardini, LPC, and Carmen Weiser.

LSBEP Coughs Up a Few Documents. The Times asked for the internal policies and procedures for investigations, for job descriptions for staff and paid investigators, for the resumes and job applications, hiring procedures. The board said there were no internal policies and procedures for investigations and no resume for its executive director.

Student Corner: UL Lafayette Student Awarded APA Summer Science Fellowship. Ms. Kyle Garber, a junior in psychology at the University of Louisiana Lafayette, was awarded the American Psychological Association Summer Science Fellowship. Ms. Garber works in the Developmental Science Laboratory at the University of Lafayette and studies has Dr. Hung-Chu Lin, Dr. Valanne MacGyvers, and Dr. Yang Yang.

Dr. Scaramella New Chair at UNO. Dr. Laura Scaramella was named as Chair of the psychology department at the University of New Orleans. She is a professor of psychology, and has served as Graduate Coordinator, leads the Families in Transition Lab, and is Chairperson of a National Institute of Health (NIH) peer review group. She oversees the Psychosocial Development, Risk and Prevention study section of the Center for Scientific Review.

UNO's Drs. Weems, Marsear Head to Iowa State University. Dr. Carl Weems, Professor and Vice Chair of Psychology at University of New Orleans (UNO), will assume the leadership of Iowa State University’s Dept of Human Development and Family Studies beginning this July. Dr. Monica Marsee, faculty member at UNO, will also be taking a new position at Iowa State, as Associate Professor.

LSBEP Executive Director Resigns. In an email to psychologists, Ms. Kelly Parker, announced that she would be leaving her position.

LSPA Honors Members. Louisiana School Psychological Association named Dr. Steven Welsh, retired Dean and Professor from Nichols’ State University, and also Susan Ratterree from the New Orleans College Prep School, with the President's Award for Distinguished Service. Ms. E. Francoise Parr received the President’s Award for Outstanding Leadership. School Psychologist of the Year was James Shorter of the Lafayette Parish School Board. Patrick B. Bell earned the Will Bergeron Memorial Scholarship. Robert Hinton and Sam Tingle, both of the Ouachita Parish School District, were named for Lifetime Achievement. Amber St. Martin was Member of the Year and Dr. Bonnie Nastasi was presented with special thanks for her contributions.

Bookshelf: Intellectual Disability: Civil and Criminal Forensic Issues, by Michael Chafetz, PhD, ABPP.

Stress Solutions. Dr. Susan Andrews on: “Still Not Finding Time to De-Stress?”

Shrink at the Flicks. Dr. Alvin Burstein reviewed: Gone Girl.

JUNE

Lawmakers Plug Holes in Higher Education. In a budget still full of holes, lawmakers leave many problems to public health after cutting and pasting in order to scrape up $664 million for higher education.

Cont next pg
Innovative Whole Child Program Gains Quick Approval. Senators at the Health & Welfare committee offered their hearty support to a measure explained by representatives of New Orleans based Child & Family Learning Foundation, Co-Founder and President, Ms. Phyllis Landrieu, M.Ed., and Connie Bellone, RN, Chief Operating Officer. The measure asks the Department of Health and Hospitals, the Department of Education, the Medicaid managed care organizations, and representatives of the Whole Child Initiative to work together to develop a plan to implement the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model (WSCC) developed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Psychology Board Holds Emergency Meeting to Put LAMP Candidate on List to Governor. The psychology board held an emergency meeting to make the Louisiana Psychological Association place the name of the LAMP candidate on the list to the governor. The meeting was noticed properly and the chair instructed the public not to comment until after the board voted on the issue.

APA Accused of Collaborating with Bush Administration on Interrogation Techniques. An April report authored by human rights activists triggered a New York Times article which in turn prompted the American Psychological Association to hire an independent investigator to look into all allegations that APA secretly worked with the Bush administration.

Letters to the Editor on APA Scandal. Alvin Burstein, PhD, Professor Emeritus, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Denise L. Newman, Ph.D., New Orleans, wrote about their reactions to current events.

Shifts in Types of Behavioral Health Spending in Louisiana. Comparing 2013 to 2014, spending shifted to intensive outpatient and Assertive Community Treatment and also medication management, and away from individual practitioners.

Psych Board Continues to Violate Open Meetings Law. Times reviews a series of issues where the psychology board ignored open meetings and public records laws, including refusing to hear public comments and foot-dragging about release of documents.

School Psychological Association Holds Day at Capitol to Educate Legislators. The Louisiana School Psychological Association held a State Advocacy Day where school psychologists express a voice for children, families, and school psychology, said President, Dr. Chavez Phelps.

Dr. Barbarin in Monitor on Psychology. Tulane’s Dr. Oscar Barbarin was featured in, “Boys and men of color,” in the Monitor on Psychology of the American Psychological Association.

Dr. Frick in Monitor - “Personalities.” Dr. Paul Frick, previous chair at University of New Orleans, now holder of the Crumpler Chair at LSU, was listed in the April issue of the APA Monitor for his Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society for Scientific Study of Psychopathology.

Dr. Alex Cohen Featured in LSU Kaleidoscope. LSU professor and clinical psychologist, Dr. Alex Cohen was featured in The Kaleidoscope, for his pioneering research in the assessment of psychiatric conditions.

Dr. Gormanous Accepts Executive Director of State Psychology Board. Dr. Greg Gormanous, retired Chair of the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences at LSU Alexandria, accepted the position of Executive Director of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. He would resign a few months later.

Psychology board attorney Mr. Lloyd Lunceford (L) with then Executive Director Dr. Greg Gormanous. The board had three different Executive Directors in 2015.

School Psychological Association Convention Highlights “Lifespan” Topics. Presenters at the LPA included Dr. William McCown, Associate Dean of Colleges of Business and Social Sciences; Drs. Lisa Settles, Brian Estève, and Jane Morton; Dr. Conwil Boake, medical psychologist and neuropsychologist at University of Texas-Houston Medical School; Dr. Lucinda DeGrange, LPA president elect; Dr. Kim VanGeffen; and Drs. Darilyne Nemeth, Janet Matthews, Susanne Jenson, Ed Shwery, and Kenneth Bouillion, participants in a symposium on Resilience; and Dr. Gail Gillespie and Sue Josephson.

Dardard to Present SRS. Dr. Susan Dardard premiered her latest South River Stories® production at West Feliciana Parish Library community center. The program will feature Dr. Dardard’s most recent story on bullies and heroes, part of her The Power of T.E.A. series.

The 13th Annual Summer Symposium Held in Marksville. The 13th Annual Summer Symposium, hosted by Professional Training Resources and Dr. John Simioneau, and with Dr. Larry Dilk, Dr. Kimberly Hutchinson, Dr. Byron Simioneau; and Dr. Mkay Bonner.

Sunshine Meets Psychology Contest. Dr. Tom Hanne wins for best quote: “Where the press is free and every man able to read, all is safe.” –Thomas Jefferson

Classic Bookshelf: The Impulsive Cont next pg
Senator Confirms LPC Board Members, Dr. Salcedo for Task Force. The Senate confirmed Ronald “Ron” Cathey, Laura Choate, PhD, Ernest “Ernie’’ Cowger, Penny Millhollon, and Jacqueline ‘’Jackie’’ Mims, PhD, to serve on the Licensed Professional Counselor Board. Ronald Cathey and Penny Millhollon were also confirmed to serve on the Marriage and Family Therapy Advisory Committee. Rafael Salcedo, PhD, was confirmed to serve on the Point of Rescue Publications Task Force.

“School Psychologist Week.” A Resolution designated the week of November 9 as “School Psychologist Week,” and noted that school psychologists are critical players of the school team, ...

Sen. Heitmeier, Rep. Simon Author Resolutions Concerning Psychology. Two resolutions were passed commending the Louisiana Psychological Association as the professional association that represents psychologists in all practice, research, and academic settings.

Psychologist Investigated for Medicare Fraud. The U.S. Attorney’s Office in Eastern District Louisiana is investigating Rodney Hesson, PsyD, for Medicare fraud and for his roles in a psychological testing program in his eight companies across Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. Two of his employees will be named in the investigation eventually.

LSBEP Continues Power Grab. In an email on June 24 to licensed psychologists, the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists issued a policy telling the psychologists to report their work featured in Louisiana Psychological Association to conform to the board’s view of how names should be submitted to the governor. The policy included the warning, “If the Louisiana Psychological Association fails to report all of the information (sic), in one way or another, the Board will also notify the Governor’s Office with the accurate results of the board election."

Psychology Times Wins 14 Awards from La Press Association. The Psychology Times took home 14 awards from the Press Association, including Best Investigative Reporting. Dr. Tom Stigall, for the second time, earned the top spot in Best Photo Package. Times cartoonist, Jake Nelson-Dooley, swept Division C for Best Editorial Cartoon.

Dr. Simoneaux Helps Train Louisiana Judges, Attorneys. Dr. John Simoneaux, clinical and forensic psychologist and owner of Professional Training Resources, presented to an audience of Louisiana judges, attorneys, and legal professionals for a conference hosted by Appellate Judge, Hon. Harmon Drew Jr., and his research attorney wife, Jean Drew, held in Destin, Florida.

VA Psychologists Work to Reach Veterans. Reaching out to service men and women, and linking them with those who care, was the goal of the recent Expo at the Alexandria Veterans Affairs Health Care System. Dr. Sherri Transier spearheaded the mental health section.

LAMP Website Up & Running. The Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists, Inc., published a website which lists members, membership information, meeting dates, and educational activities.

Drs. Daniel’s and Golob’s Work Featured in Tulane Magazine. Drs. Jill Daniel and Edward Golob, researchers in neuroscience and faculty in the Tulane University Psychology Department, had their work featured in Tulane Magazine.

LaTech Grad Student Awarded First in Research Poster. Mr. Marcus Cherry, M.S., graduate student at Louisiana Tech, won first place honors for his research and poster, “Personality and Coping Strategies as Predictors of Help-Seeking Attitudes among Military-Affiliated and Civilian Students.” Cherry’s co-author is Dr. Margaret Cochran, professor at Northwestern State in Natchitoches.

Katrina 10th Anniversary Wellness Workshops Planned. Members of the mental health community and organizers in the Louisiana Psychological Association began development for their resiliency workshops as part of the activities for Katrina 10 years later. Dr. Darlyne Nemeth was Lead Workshop Author and Facilitator. Coordinator was Kerritt Saintal, B.S., a Loyola graduate. Presenters included: Drs. Gail Gillespie, Beverley Stubblefield, Fernando Pastrana, Kim VanGeffen, Carolyn Weyand, Janet Matthews, Lee Matthews, Luinda DeGrange, and Joseph Tromontana. Kathleen Randell served as a community liaison volunteer.

Bookshelf — Colorful Emotions: A Workbook to Help Children Express Their Feelings, by Michelle Moore, PsyD.

Stress Solutions: Dr. Susan Andrews on: “How Does Stress Affect Blood Pressure?”

Shrink at the Flicks: Dr. Alvin Burstein reviewed: Ex Machina, “X Marks the Spot.”
AUGUST

Lafayette Grieves, Pulls Together after Tragic Shooting. A man with a history of mental illness opened fire on movie-goers at the Grand 16 Theatre in Lafayette wounding 11 people and killing two beloved members of the community, Jillian Johnson and Mayci Breaux. The Times spoke with Dr. Glenn Ally, Lafayette medical psychologist at Acadiana Human Services District and the Cancer Center of Acadiana; Dr. Hung-Chu Lin, Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette; and also, Dr. John Simonaux, Dr. Mikay Bonner, and Cindy Nardin, LPC, all of the LA Coalition for Violence Prevention, about their thoughts.

Katrina at Ten: Activities Planned for August

Presentations by Dr. Katie Cherry, Executive Director of the Louisiana State University Life Course and Aging Center, and experiential workshops, staffed and developed by psychologists, the Katrina 10th Anniversary Wellness Workshops, led by organizer Dr. Darlyne Nemeth, were part of the offerings.

LPA, LSBEP Wrest Over Names on “List.” As the delay for two positions on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychology (LSBEP) continues to stretch out, requests from Boards & Commissions point to a continuing effort by the LSBEP to influence which names are sent to the Governor for appointment.

Psychology Board Publishes Emergency Rule about Appointments. The Board of Examiners of Psychologists published an Emergency Rule to set guidelines for appointments. According to the rationale, the new Rule is needed for filling unexpected board member vacancies.

Hoffman Report Rocks American Psychological Association. Chicago attorney Daniel Hoffman rocked the American Psychological Association after he concluded that a 2005 APA members’ task force’s communications had amounted to “collusion” with military psychologists, and therefore with the Department of Defense.

Student Corner ULM Super Student Mary Medlin. The Times featured Mary Medlin, an award-winning researcher who is building up an impressive list of studies, and who happens to be the trainer for Capri, LaTech’s mascot Warhawk. Medlin shared the credit of her success with professors—Drs. Killian Garvey, Jack Palmer, Bill McCown, Joe McGahan, Cecil Hutto, and Rick Stevens. Janelle McDaniel, and David Williamson, who instilled her “crazy love of statistics.”

Louisiana Tech Industrial–Organizational Psychologists Help Ruston Increase Tourism. City of Ruston and the Applied Research for Organizational Solutions, the consulting group at Louisiana Tech, are working to increase tourism. The team includes Drs. Mitzi Desselles, Tilman Sheets, Frank Iguon, Steven Toaddy and students Ann-Marie Rabalais, James De Leon, Christopher Huyhn, and Brittani Plaisance. Also among the graduate students are Christopher Patton, Evan Theys, Bharati Belwalker, Richard Chambers, Lindsey Anderson, William Scanu, and Brandon Dennis.

Researchers Present Their Work at APA. Researchers from around the state presented their work in Toronto for the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association. Included were Drs. Peter WInsauer, Patricia E. Molina, and Angela M. Amedee; Dr. Lore Dickey, Drs. Joseph Tramontana and Darlyne Nemeth; Drs. Stacy Overstreet, Courtney Baker, and Michael Cunningham; also Jorge Verlinden, Dr. Bonnie Nestasis, Laura Cornell, Heather Henderson, Meredith Summerville, and Emiliya Adelson; Dr. Wyndolyn Ludwikowski, Thuy-Loan Nguyen, and Alex Williams; Dr. Karen Koperia-Frey, Dr. Guler Boyraz, PhD; Kathryn A. Simon, Elizabeth M. McIntyre, Dr. Stacy Overstreet; Corey L. Black, Camille R. Hardin, Ashley Galsky, Michael Brachfeld, and Jeffrey Brown; and Dr. Christoph Leonhard. Dr. Daniel Mochon served as the Program Chair for the Society for Consumer Psychology.

Dr. Matthews Speak at Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Drs. Janet and Lee Matthews organized and presented at the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology.

Dr. Baker Heads to World Masters. Dr. Robert Baker heads to Europe to compete in the Decathlon at the World Masters championships.

Louisiana Behavior Analysis Assn to Host 3rd Annual Gulf Coast BA Conference in New Orleans. The Behavior Analysis conference was held in New Orleans, with keynote speaker Dr. Dorothea Lerman, Professor of Psychology and Director of the Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities at the University of Houston, and previously Associate Professor at Louisiana State University.

Stress Solutions: Dr. Susan Andrews on: “Stress As Positive.”

Shrink at the Flicks: Dr. Alvin Burstein reviewed: “Creepy Crawlly. A review of Ant-Man.”

SEPTEMBER

Governor Appoints Drs. Boggs, Lambert – LAMP Keeps Majority on LSBEP. Governor Jindal appointed Dr. Koren Boggs and Dr. Jesse Lambert to serve

Cont’d next pg

2015 Year In Review
Continued

The Psychology Times
2015 Community Award

Altruism

LPA & Katrina Anniversary Workshop Team

This year’s Altruism Award goes to those who gave their time and efforts to help Katrina victims still suffering after 10 years, psychologists from the Louisiana Psychological Association and organizer Dr. Darlyne Nemeth. The group included Kerrit Sainat, B.S.; Drs. Gail Gillespie, Beverly Stubbiefield, Fernando Pastrana, Kim VanGeffen, Carolyn Weyand, Janet Matthews, Lee Matthews, Lucinda DeGrange, and Joseph Tramontana, and also Kathleen Randall. For their unselfish concern for others, they have our esteem.
Psych101: Teaching the Theory of Everything—Human. Psychology departments at Louisiana universities and colleges provide one of the most popular courses for undergraduates. The Times talked with Mary Livingston, PhD, Professor in the Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Department at Louisiana Tech in Ruston; Gilda Werner Reed, PhD, a top-ranked teacher by Princeton Review, from the University of New Orleans students; Dr. Janet Matthews, Professor Emerita from Loyola; Dr. Marsha Redden, previously at Wofford College; and Matt J. Rossano, Ph.D., Professor and past Chair of Psychology at Southeastern Louisiana University, about teaching.

Letter to the Editor – Tribute for David Burkart, Dr. John Magee, Lead Psychologist at Overton Brooks VA Medical Center writes about his friend and colleague.

Pres Obama Signs Executive Order to Use and Recruit More Behavioral Scientists for Programs. President Obama signed an Executive Order directing administrative agencies to identify policies, programs, and operations where applying behavioral science insights may yield substantial improvements in public welfare, program outcomes, and program cost-effectiveness.

Tulane, LSU, LaTech in Top Tier Universities. U.S. News & World Report ranked Tulane University (#1), Louisiana State University (#129, and was also #62 in public schools), and Louisiana Tech University (#199, and #116 in public schools) in top schools.

Medical Board to Publish New Rules on Investigations; To Hire Full Time Physician as Investigator at $175K. The Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners intends to publish new rules reforming its investigation process, following the passage of Act 441, lobbied by the state Medical Society. The new rules will govern the investigation of complaints.

2015 Year In Review

Dr. Pettigrew Retires from Psychology Board. Dr. Clinton (Gary) Pettigrew will retire from his position as Complaints Coordinator at the end of October, after more than 10 years with LSBEP. He expressed that the role was not pleasant, and said, “I think it’s somebody else’s turn.” He received thanks and praise from the board members for his service.

Jaime Monic Returns as LSBEP Executive Director; Dr. Gormanous Steps Down. Dr. Greg Gormanous resigned from his position as the new Executive Director of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists accepting the position in the summer. Ms. Jaime Monic returned to the position. She left in 2010 in order to spend additional time with her family.

Dr. Stewart Named to Endowed Professorship. Dr. Tiffany Stewart was named to the Dudley and Beverly Coates Endowed Professorship, at Pennington Biomedical. Stewart is an Associate Professor at Pennington and Director of the Behavior Technology Laboratory, Eating Disorders & Obesity, and Founder of CSO, Body Evolution Technologies, Inc.

Dr. Cherry’s Work, Book Helps Understand Stress Impact of Natural Disasters. Louisiana State University psychology professor, Dr. Katie Cherry, executive director of the LSU Life Course and Aging Center, presented her work on “Survivors from the Coastal Parishes,” and also has a new book, Traumatic Stress and Long-Term Recovery: Coping with Disasters and Other Negative Life Events.

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Dr. Pettigrew speaks with press about her work with coastal parish residents and disasters. Cherry is the executive director of the LSU Life Course and Aging Center and a faculty member at LSU psychology. Her new book is on stress and recovery from trauma. (courtesy photo)
Dr. Comaty, Advocate Present in New Mexico. Clinical & Medical Psychologist, Dr. Joseph Comaty, and Louisiana State University Emerita Professor of Psychology, Dr. Claire Advocat, were featured speakers at the State Psychologist Association of New Mexico, held in Albuquerque.

Dr. Chaftez Presents at National Administrative Law Judge Conference in New Orleans. Dr. Michael Chaftez, clinical neuropsychology from New Orleans, spoke at Administrative Law Judge Annual National Educational Conference in N.O.

The Secret Life of Board Complaints — Molehills to Mountains? The Times looked into the complaint program, an obscure, confusing and anxiety-causing situation for those who are pulled into the process.

Student Corner Loyola Student Earns LPA Top Research Poster Honor. Sarah Scalese, a graduate of Loyola University who studied physicians’ perceptions of psychology consultations, won the first place undergraduate research poster at the recent Louisiana Psychological Association convention. Scalese worked with Dr. Amy Henke for the research.

LA Counseling Assn Hosts Record Crowd at September Conference. The Louisiana Counseling Association served almost 1,200 attendees at its convention in Baton Rouge.

La School Psychological Association Gathers in Lafayette. The Louisiana School Psychological Association held its 35th Annual Conference, with theme, “Promoting Accessible and Sustainable School Mental Health Services.”

Stress Solutions: Dr. Susan Andrews on: “Tips for Reducing Stress.”


NOVEMBER

Our WWII Fathers—Special Veterans Day

Feature. As the last of the WWII Veterans fade from life's stage, the Times honors Veterans by sharing three stories, by psychologists, about their WWII fathers. Drs. Susan Andrews, Julie Nelson, and John Magee share some of what they remember about those in the Greatest Generation.

Moral Injury. Dr. John Magee writes about another view of war trauma.

Tulane’s Dr. Overstreet Leads in Helping Build Trauma-Sensitive Schools - $2.7 Million Grant from Institute of Justice. Tulane’s Chair of Psychology, Dr. Stacy Overstreet, leads a group of psychologists and community partners in a first-of-its-kind study for learning how schools can best meet the needs of traumatized youngsters.

Letter to the Editor: Dr. Tom Hennie talks about the LSBEP's problems.

DOJ to Investigate More Psychologists. The Justice Department announced they would investigate two more psychologists, this time the employees of the companies owned by Dr. Rodney Hesson. Dr. Beverly Stubblefield and Dr. John Teal are to be investigated along with Dr. Hesson about nursing home psychological services.

State Medical Board to Work With Medical Society on Time Limits for Investigations. The Louisiana Medical Society is looking for key changes in the way the state medical board manages investigations, as rules are developed.

Alexandria VA Health Care System Launches New Internship. The Alexandria VA Health Care System is funding a new pre-doctoral psychology internship program, and was approved, said Dr. Leslie Drew, psychologist and Director of Training for Psychology Training Program.

LSU Working to Restore APA Accreditation for Clinical Program. The Louisiana State University doctoral clinical program coordinators are working with the American Psychological Association consultant to address three issues that led to the program being put on probation.

ULM’s Online Graduate School Ranked in Nation’s Top 50. The online graduate school at the University of Louisiana Monroe was given a top rating by GraduatePrograms.com.

Spirituality Panel at LCA Examines Complex Issues. The Times talked with members of the Spirituality panel discussion at the recent Louisiana Counseling Association Convention; Dr. Judith Miranti, Director of the Graduate Counseling Program at Xavier and past President of the National Association for Spirituality, Ethics, and Religious Values in Counseling; Dr. Iman En-Nabut, President-Elect of LCA; and Dr. Paul Ceasar, previously with Our Lady of Holy Cross College as faculty member, Director of the counseling program, and also interin President of the College.

Dr. John Magee in the arms of his father, a World War II Veteran. Dr. Magee wrote for a special feature on WWII Fathers, in the November issue of the Times. (Courtesy photo.)
Dr. Frye’s Team Awarded $690,000 Grant to Help Link Kids with Older Adults for Reading. University of Louisiana at Monroe’s Gerontology program, led by psychologist Dr. Karen Frye, and partnering with the DeSoto Parish Police Jury, and Department of Community Services, was awarded at $690,000 grant for a Foster Grandparent reading program in DeSoto Parish.

Psychologist Mom Has Son Zach’s Back as UL Ragin’ Cajun. Zach DeGrange attends University of Louisiana Lafayette and is one of the football team’s key contributors. Psychologist mom, Dr. Lucinda DeGrange, is proud, worries a little, but completely enjoys Zach’s love of the game.

Louisiana Counseling Association Honors Members. Cindy Nardini LPC, was honored with the President’s Award; Dr. Reshelle C. Marino was given the Distinguished Professional Service Award; the Advocacy Award was presented to Alice Cryer; the Graduate Student Award went to Chris Lauer of the University of New Orleans.

Dr. Patterson Heading Up Tulane’s Clinical Training. Dr. Constance Patterson was named Director of Clinical Training for the School Psychology Program at the Psychology Department, Tulane.


Louisiana Psychological Association Fall Conference at Ralph & Kacoo’s, BR. Psychologist Dr. Amy Henke co-presented with psychiatrist, Dr. Arwen Podesta; Drs. Lacey Seymour and Gail Gillespie, spoke on private practice; and Drs. William “Gig” Costelloe and Julie Nelson conducted a workshop on ethics and group dynamics.

La School Psychological Association Meets. The Louisiana School Psychological Association held its 35th Annual Conference in Lafayette. This year’s theme is “Promoting Accessible and Sustainable School Mental Health Services.” Dr. Debra Duhe. Dr. Krisin Johnson, Dr. Howie Knoff, and, Dr. Jerome Sattler presented. Other presenters included Dr. John Simoneaux, Dr. Kevin Jones, Dr. Constance Patterson, and Dr. Stacy Overstreet.

Shrink at the Flicks: Dr. Alvin Burstein reviewed: "Bridge of Spies" in "Out of the Past, Thundering Hoof Beats: Review of Bridge of Spies."

DECEMBER

LSBEP Election Drs. Crouch, Henke to Run. Dr. Leah Crouch and Dr. Amy Henke qualified to run for the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

More Cuts for Public Health, Higher Ed. State officials are looking at more cuts, due to an unexpected $370 million shortfall; deep cuts to health care and higher education are unavoidable, say experts.

School Psychologists Honor Seven. La School Psychological Asan Secretary, Dr. Katherine Wickstrom, reported that the group honored seven this year. Jackie Landry of St. Tammany Parish was named School Psychologist of the Year; Dr. Debra Duhe was honored for Lifetime Achievement; Dr. Carmen Broussard, Professor of Psychology at Nicholls State, and Candice Dozier of St. Tammany Parish were both honored with the Presidential Distinguished Service Award; Sean Duncan, from Nicholls State was the Will Bergeron Memorial Scholarship recipient; Regional awards went to Geri Futch from Jefferson Davis School Board, and Kayla LaFosse, from Acadia Parish School Board; Keever Hoffman was named Member of the Year.

Psychologists in Family Court-Worth a Second Look. Dr. Alan Taylor authored a guest feature on the elements involved in forensic psychology. He is president of the Louisiana chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.

Close-Up — Dr. Addison Sandel. We featured the life

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of Dr. Addie Sandel, including her early employment as a “Government Girl” in the 40s, her work at Fort Polk, and some of her life as a military wife. She also took up a career in psychology and she is still going strong—she just turned 89.

The Secret Life of Board Complaints Part II – Disciplined for What? We looked at actual disciplinary outcomes for the psychology, counseling, and social work boards. We found low rates of disciplinary acts, between .001 and .003 for discipline relative to numbers of licensees. Improvements in transparency, validity, and cost effectiveness are needed.

LSBEP Holds Long-Range Meeting. In a planning meeting the psychology board discussed legislative needs; if health care psychologists should be separated from non-health care; changes in the continuing education requirements; and time limits in investigations, and other topics.

Federal Judge Sides with John Roseman In Lawsuit Against Kentucky Psych Bd. A U.S. District Judge found that the Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology was “unconstitutional” when they issued a restraining order against newspaper columnist, John Roseman, who writes a national column on parenting.

ACLU Files Against Mitchell, Jessen. The American Civil Liberties Union of Washington brought a lawsuit against the two Air Force psychologists, James Mitchell and Bruce Jessen, who helped design “enhanced interrogation techniques” for the CIA during the aftermath of 9/11.

PEW Finds Trust in Government at 19%. Just 19% say they can trust the government always or most of the time.

Dr. Buckner’s Team Presents At Assn of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies. LSU professor, Dr. Julia Buckner, and her team of graduate researchers presented at the Annual Convention of the Association of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies. Graduate students from Buckner’s Anxiety and Addictive Behaviors Laboratory & Clinic who presented were Tony Ecker, Sonia Shah, and Kim Dean.

Tulane’s Dr. Lockman Showcased in APA “Psychology: Science in Action.” The American Psychological Association is showcasing the work of Tulane professor Dr. Jeffrey Lockman at the new blog “Psychology: Science in Action.”

Dr. Settles Presents at Tulane’s Brain and Behavior 2015. Dr. Lisa Settles was one of the speakers at this years Brain & Behavior conference, hosted by the Tulane University School of Medicine. Dr. Settles spoke on, “The Complexities and Controversies of Autism” and also offer a workshop, “Autism through the Lens.”

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