



Current Vice Chair of the state psychology board, Dr. Koren Boggs, with past member Dr. Phillip Griffin.

## Stabilized funding for higher education State Budget Finally Stable Says Governor Edwards

This week Gov. Edwards authored a guest column in *The Advocate* detailing the progress Louisiana has made since overcoming the state's fiscal challenges.

"... Louisiana is projected to have a \$300 million surplus for the fiscal year 2018," the Governor said. "This surplus is available to us because Louisiana businesses are doing better, more Louisianans are finding work, and

Cont'd pg 3



Dr. Bill McCown at a conference. He and co-editors Dr. McKay Bonner and Dr. Burt Ashworth are creating a new journal.

## Southern Psychology Journal Set to Launch in December

Psychologists aiming to reboot the well-respected, regional journal, from the 1980s, *The Southern Psychologist*, are planning a December launch, said Dr. Bill McCown, co-editor and Associate Dean for Research in the College of Business and Social Sciences at the University of Louisiana– Monroe (ULM).

Cont'd pg 9

## Board Opens Nominations, Proposes New Regulations

The state psychology board is seeking nominations for next year's opening and proposing changes to rules. Included is a new Emeritus category, clarifying language in the neuro-psychology specialty language, and authorizing more training providers.

### Calls for Nominations

The Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP) is calling for nominations for a seat opening next July, when current Chair, Dr. Jesse Lambert will complete his term.

In a message to licensees, Executive Director Jaime Monic wrote that the self-nomination period opens on October 2 and ends on November 1, 2018.

Nominations will be opened at the board's Long Range Planning Meeting scheduled for November 30, 2018, a public meeting. A 30 day, electronic election will follow, noted the announcement.

Those accepted to run must be a U.S. citizen and resident of Louisiana; have rendered service, teaching, training, or research in psychology for at

Cont'd pg 4



### INSIDE

State, LSU and Ochsner Make Deal in North – Pg 6

Changes Coming with Masters Level Professionals in Psychology  
Drs. Dilks & Ashworth – Pg 7

LSU's Dr. Zhang Discovers the Dark Side – Pg 9

Stressed? Get Involved  
Dr. Andrews – Pg 13

*Shrink at the Flicks*  
Dr. Burstein Reviews  
A Simple Favor – Pg 14



## Life's Illusions Psychologists look at ethics and self-deception

"It's life's illusions I recall, I really don't know life, at all." — Joni Mitchell's *Both Sides Now*

In this feature we talk to two experts, Dr. Jack Palmer and Dr. Matt Rossano, about the concept of self-deception and the upcoming workshop with legendary Robert Trivers. We consider the changing landscape for the scientific study of ethics in human behavior.

Plato warned, "The worst of all deceptions is self-deception." Nietzsche, in *The Will to Power*, wrote, "It is a self-deception of philosophers and moralists to imagine that they escape decadence

Cont'd pg 11

# Editorials and Opinions

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Law of Thermodynamics is the 1<sup>st</sup> Law of Journalism (and Psychology)

by Times publisher, J. Nelson

Next week is National Newspaper Week, an event sponsored by the national association of newspaper managers to help promote and celebrate the contributions of journalists. They send us some art, banner logos, and some editorials.

This year's editorials included some bitter complaining about the "fake news" label being used by the President, and how this damages the journalism brand.

Puzzling. The newspaper industry has been well aware for two decades of the serious slide in the public's trust.

Before Trump was elected, Pew Research reported that only 27% of liberals and only 15% of conservatives felt that information from national news organizations was "very trustworthy."

In two years, little has changed. Currently, only 35% of liberals agree that news organizations are very trustworthy. For conservatives, only 12%.

Nor does the public think that the national news media does a very good job at keeping them well informed. For liberals only 28% in 2016 and only 27% in 2018 agreed that national journalism was doing their job well.

The picture is worse for conservatives. In 2016 only 24% felt the national outlets kept them well informed and in 2018 this fell to 11%.

It seems that the only remaining thing that the two parties can agree on is how abysmally bad the national news media is.

Complaining about Trump's "fake news" label seems to be a post hoc error—Trump came after low trust in journalists. Maybe it is reversed, maybe the journalists caused Trump.



Screen shot of Walter Cronkite, CBS Evening News, sometime in the 1960s. Cronkite was named "The most trusted man in America." His political leanings could not be determined by his audience.

Gone are the days of Walter Cronkite journalism—"The most trusted man in America." I grew up in the newspaper family with two real, true journalists and I now think that those days, the 1950s and 1960s, might have been a golden age for journalism. My work with the *Times* has been a lovely echo of that past, a faded melody of the intersection of high ideals, information and the human condition. Perhaps an illusion, but a nice one.

It was in the 1970s, while in graduate school at LSU, that my major professor, Don Glad, exposed me to systems theory. Like most systems theorists Don loved the 2<sup>nd</sup> Law of Thermodynamics.

The Law says that in a closed system, information and structure degrade (entropy) and, eventually the system dies. Steven Pinker describes it this way: "...the second law defines the ultimate purpose of life, mind, and human striving: to deploy energy and information to fight back the tide of entropy and carve out refuges of beneficial order."

Evolutionary psychologists John Tooby and Leda Cosmides write "The 2<sup>nd</sup> Law of Thermodynamics is the 1<sup>st</sup> Law of Psychology."

Don Glad was a newspaperman before he became a clinical-community psychologist and university professor. After Don died, Ralph Dreger called him an "irascible genius," who applied that genius to "the most pressing problem of the times..." Ralph was referring to race relations in the south in the 60s. "There was no single individual more influential in bringing about communication in days when there was transition from segregation to desegregation and integration...", Ralph said about Don.

Today also, we are in very strange times. The system is perturbed. Fast think reigns. We are in a slow boil. The usual majority rule is now unworkable—we are split down the middle. Subgroups are over-boundaried. No valid information flow. Not much likelihood of a true consensus.

There is plenty of entropy these days. And psychology has some of the best ideas around for helping our communities and nation.

*[Julie Nelson is a licensed psychologist, journalist, and organizational consultant, and publisher of the Times. She also holds other various positions in the community. However, her opinions here are those of her own, and do not represent any group or association. She and the Times receive no compensation other than paid advertizing. Email her at [drj@drjulienelson.com](mailto:drj@drjulienelson.com), —she welcomes feedback.]*

## The Psychology Times

Member, Louisiana Press Association

Published monthly  
by Nelson News, LLC.

[psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com](mailto:psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com)

Publisher: Julie Nelson, PhD

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

Columnists/Reporters:  
Susan Andrews, PhD, Alvin Burstein, PhD

Cartoonist: Jake Nelson-Dooley

Photography: Yael Banai, PhD, Mike Dooley, MBA  
Tom Stigall, PhD

Copy editor: Susan Brown

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

The *Times* is NOT affiliated with any organization, other than the Press Association.

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

## Corrections & Clarifications

We did not receive corrections for last month. Send your corrections to:  
[psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com](mailto:psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com)

## Stabilized funding for higher education Budget Finally Stable Says Governor Edwards

Continued

the improving economy has allowed corporate tax receipts to outpace expectations. Since I've been governor, the unemployment rate has fallen from a high of 6.2 percent to its current rate of 5 percent. But our good news doesn't stop there."

Gov. Edwards said that Louisiana now has long-term budget stability.

"For the first time in years, we have a stable budget structure that does not rely on one-time money or gimmicks, and we have put an end to the annual cuts to higher education that have threatened our children's future. Republicans, Democrats, and Independents did all of that, and we still reduced the tax burden on the people of Louisiana by nearly \$600 million."

"Within weeks the national credit rating agencies removed Louisiana from the negative watch list. Our universities began the fall semester with nearly every campus' enrollment at record levels because for the second year in a row, we stabilized funding for higher education and fully funded TOPS and Go Grants."

"Bipartisanship has served our state well in other areas as well. Louisiana has taken the courageous step of implementing historic bipartisan criminal justice reforms. The reforms have been in place for just over a year, and the early results show that they are working. The state is no longer the incarceration capital of the world, a title we held for decades. In addition, the reforms have saved Louisiana \$12.2 million, money that we are reinvesting into public safety and efforts to reduce recidivism. Our reforms were focused on nonviolent, non-sex offenders and were based off efforts in other Southern, conservative states, and we are proud to continue working with the White House and other states hoping to follow Louisiana's lead."

In a September 25 press release, the Governor announced that Louisiana was second in the nation for personal income growth in 2nd Quarter of 2018, behind only Texas, based on Bureau of Economic Analysis. Personal income in Louisiana grew at a rate of 5.9 percent, outpacing the national average of 4.2 percent, said the statement.

"Last week, we announced that the state ended the last fiscal year with a surplus. Today, the Bureau of Economic Analysis confirmed our assumptions – Louisiana's businesses are doing better and people are bringing home more in their paychecks. This is excellent news, and just another sign that Louisiana is moving in the right direction. Our economy is growing, more people are working, and we have a stable budget structure for the first time in many years. While this is all positive news, we still have more work to do, but there is no denying that the momentum we have in Louisiana is real."

The good news comes as a feature of the nationally based economic boom but also after painful legislative battles for the Governor.

## Gov. Edwards Resists Attorney General Landry's Decision on Pre- Existing Health Coverage Issues

In September the Governor issued a statement, "Attorney General's Lawsuit threatens health coverage for 849,000 Louisianans with pre-existing conditions."

The Governor commented that Attorney General Jeff Landry's unilateral decision to enter the state of Louisiana into a lawsuit that eliminates health care protections for people with pre-existing conditions would deny people coverage.

On September 10, the attorney general appeared on CNN to discuss his effort. During the interview, said the statement, Landry made clear that prior to joining the lawsuit, he did not have a plan in place to ensure insurance companies do not deny coverage for the 849,000 people in Louisiana who could lose health care because they have a pre-existing condition.

"In Louisiana, 849,000 people have a pre-existing condition that could lead to an insurance company denying them healthcare if Attorney General Jeff Landry is successful in his latest lawsuit," said the Governor.

"It's deeply disturbing that he has committed the state to this effort without consulting anyone and even worse, without having a plan in place to ensure these individuals do not lose their health care. Entering into this lawsuit should not be an impulse decision. It requires thoughtful consideration of the repercussions to the people of Louisiana. After seeing the attorney general's interview on CNN this morning, it's clear he did not think this through. Everyone acknowledges the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has flaws, and we should be working together to fix what's broken. Protecting coverage for people with pre-existing conditions is one area where there is broad, bipartisan support. If successful, this lawsuit would cause chaos within the health care system, and the people of Louisiana would be left to pick up the pieces."

The attorney general appeared on CNN to discuss the lawsuit. Pressed by a reporter

about his plans for the 849,000 people in Louisiana who would lose health care if the court strikes down the pre-existing condition provision, he had no answer, indicating the attorney general had not spoken to anyone for a "Plan B" prior to filing the lawsuit. The interview is available here.

The press release also offered background, including the following:

According to a Kaiser Family Foundation study, approximately 849,000 in Louisiana have a pre-existing condition that could allow an insurance company to deny them health coverage.

A poll conducted by the UNO Survey Research Center in 2014 found that 76 percent of the people of Louisiana supported "requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone, even if they have a pre-existing medical condition."

NOLA.com|Times Picayune: "The crux of Paxton's and Landry's argument is that Congress has repealed the "individual mandate" that required people to carry health insurance or pay a tax penalty, which means that the whole law should be declared unconstitutional. Paxton and Landry argue that the mandate for health insurance companies to cover people with pre-existing conditions cannot work if the individual mandate to carry health insurance will no longer be in place in 2019.

"...But even if he doesn't succeed at getting Obamacare thrown out, Paxton has asked the court to still strike down the requirement for insurance companies to cover pre-existing medical conditions in the 20 states participating in the lawsuit, including Louisiana.

"...The Texas Attorney General's office argued both in written briefs and court Wednesday that states -- not the federal government -- should get to decide whether health insurance companies are forced to cover people with pre-existing medical conditions." [NOLA.com|Times Picayune, 9/7/2018]

After a total of seven special sessions since 2016, and three special sessions this year, Governor Edwards and legislators finally wrestled the budget into some type of order this past spring, by the passage of an extra .45 percent sales tax, in down to the wire negotiations that ended last week. The move sidestepped drastic cuts to public health and higher education and provides several years of stability.

The new sales tax, a partial renewal of an expiring one percent sales tax, gave

the lawmakers some respite from the yearly battles with the budget. The .45 brings the state sales tax to 4.45.

In the special sessions lawmakers were attempting to deal with the state's budget crisis when more than \$1 billion in taxes would expire on June 30, 2018. The two earlier special sessions floundered after the House repeatedly rejected increased taxes.

The House passed a budget that made dramatic cuts to TOPs, universities and state agencies. That budget was vetoed by the Governor.

## State & National News

### Nominations Open And New Rules Proposed at LSBEP *continued*

least five years; have held a doctoral degree in psychology from a school or college as defined in La R.S. Title 37, Chapter 28 for a period of five years, and shall be licensed with the LSBEP.

This past legislative session, a measure by Senator Fred Mills, now Act 515, and effective August 1, 2018, transferred the LSBEP and other health boards to the Louisiana Department of Health, and also added a consumer member to the board, to be appointed through the Governor's office. The Governor's office put out an announcement after the measure was signed, encouraging citizens to apply directly to the office of the Governor.

According to the new law, the governor shall ensure that his appointments demonstrate race, gender, ethnic, and geographical diversity. The consumer member must never have been licensed by any of the licensing boards identified in R.S. 36:259(A), nor shall he have a spouse who has ever been licensed by a board identified in R.S. 36:259(A).

The consumer member shall be a full voting member of the board with all rights and privileges conferred on board members, except that the consumer member shall not participate in the grading of individual examinations. The consumer member shall be selected from the state at large.

With the consumer member, the LSBEP will have six voting members. For the last opening, the board received only one qualified applicant.

#### Rule Changes Proposed by Board

The psychology board is proposing several changes and some additions to the Louisiana Administrative Code, also known as the Rules. The proposed changes were announced last month and in a "Notice of Intent" published in the *Louisiana Register*.

Some changes in definitions for the provisional licensee



Past LSBEP board member, Dr. Darla Burnett (L) and current Executive Director Jaime Monic look over information at a 2016 presentation. The LSBEP has struggled with financial issues over the last several years primarily due to legal consulting fees.

descriptions are included as well as updating the number of continuing professional development (CPD) hours to 40 for a two-year cycle.

Also included is a clarification in §307 for clinical neuropsychology. The board proposes adding the following language: "These regulations are not meant to constrain or limit the practice of licensed psychologists who through education, training, and experience have acquired competence in the use of psychological assessment instruments that measure various aspects of function to include but not limited to general intelligence, complex attention, executive function, learning and memory, language, perceptual motor, and social cognition."

The Notice of Intent includes the effort to create a new Emeritus license category for non-practicing, retired individuals who want to maintain a license. An Emeritus Status Psychologist will have an exemption from continuing professional development requirements.

Also, "A licensee granted Emeritus Status under this provision shall be prohibited from engaging in the practice of psychology; rendering psychological services in any form; and/or engaging in any activity that might be construed as the practice of psychology within the state of Louisiana."

"An Emeritus Status Psychologist is eligible to reinstate their status

to Licensed Psychologist and resume the practice of psychology upon submission of the required renewal fee, renewal application form and fulfillment of all continuing education requirements as defined in LAC 46:LXIII, Chapter 8."

Changes to the consultation and supervision and area of the new continuing professional development categories includes wording to define acceptable supervision arrangements: "Acceptable consultation is regularly scheduled interactions with colleagues, licensed in a health care profession, in a structured and organized format. Examples include case consultation groups, journal clubs, regional research groups, and shadowing a colleague. Acceptable supervision is one-to-one general professional, specific case discussion, or skill training that is provided under Chapter 7 of this Part by a qualified supervisor."

A change that would broaden the board's authority to approve providers of professional training is proposed. The Notice adds the language to §805, "Acceptable Sponsorship, Offerings and Activities," that "The board may endorse a specific continuing education program as an Approved

Sponsored ..." and collect fees.

Presently the Rule specifies seven, predefined categories. They are:

1. accredited institutions of higher education;
2. hospitals which have approved regional medical continuing education centers;
3. hospitals which have APA approved doctoral internship training programs;
4. national, regional, or state professional associations, or divisions of such associations, which specifically offer or approve graduate or post doctoral continuing education training
5. American Psychological Association (APA) approved sponsors and activities offered by APA (including home study courses);
6. activities sponsored or approved by the Board of Examiners of Psychologists; and
7. activities sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Health or its subordinate units and approved by the chief psychologist of the sponsoring state office.

Under the new Rule, the board would be authorized to endorse others outside of these categories.

Public comments are open until October 10, 2018, and should be sent to Ms. Monic at the board's address.

## State & National News

### State Contracts Cut by 30% Over Last Two Years

The Governor has cut state contracts by 3,574 from a high in 2016 of 14,125.

In September, Elizabeth Crisp of the *Advocate* reported that after the two years, the contract debate has grown quiet but Gov. John Bel Edwards' administration says that they have curtailed the number of outside consultants, as critics requested, and they continue to try to address the issue.

Crisp asked the question, What has happened with efforts to cut Louisiana state contracts?

The state contracts with thousands of companies and individuals for various state services. Contractors provide consulting on legal and land issues, review insurance disputes and help address the state's opioid crisis, among other functions – often for tens of thousands of dollars.

The next day the Governor's Office answered, saying that in In 2016, Edwards, by executive order shortly after taking office, instructed all agencies, boards commissions and other budget units of the executive branch to review all professional, personal and consulting contracts to look for ones that can be eliminated or reduced.

In the years since, the number of state contracts reported has officially gone from 14,125 in July 2016 to 10,551 this July. Many are deemed "non-discretionary," which means they are viewed as essential government functions, though it's not clearly defined what that is or why an agency may give the distinction.

In April this year, the psychology board voted to continue contracts with Taylor, Porter, Brooks, and Phillips (current \$6435 and tabled a discussion to amend the amount)

They continued the contract with Dr. Sasha Lambert (\$100/hour and not more than \$12,000), and also with Statewide Surveillance (\$60 an hour and not more than \$12,000).

They tabled a discussion to renew until further investigations about rates regarding the firm of Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson. This is the firm of Mr. Jim Raines.

The members continued their regular contracts with the CPA and also the website management and IT contracts were renewed.

#### POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

### Nicholls State University Department of Psychology, Counseling and Family Studies

**Assistant Professor, tenure-track  
Immediate Opening - position advertised through  
September 30, 2018, or until filled**

**Minimum Qualifications:** Earned doctorate in school psychology from NASP or APA approved program • Minimum Licenses Required: License as school psychologist (or eligible to apply) by LA State Board of Examiners Other Minimum Requirements: n/a • Test(s) Required: n/a • Preferred Education: n/a • Preferred Experience: Graduate-level teaching; history of employment as a full-time school psychologist; supervision of school psychologists; proven or demonstrated potential for scholarly productivity; solid evidence of an Applied Behavior Analysis background in training, publication, and work history. • Preferred Licenses: Licensed Psychologist (or eligibility for licensure) with a declared specialty in School Psychology by the Louisiana Board of Examiners of Psychologists. BCBA certification also a plus.

**Salary Range: commensurate with experience**

**Duties & Responsibilities:** •10% Participate in Program; Department; and Unit accreditation processes; assume role of university-based supervisor for field experiences upon licensure •10% - Serve on faculty committees •10% - Scholarly activities and research •20% - Advise students and mentor undergraduate research projects; advise graduate students •50% - Teach Graduate Course work in School Psychology and undergraduate courses.

Please find the position application at <http://jobs.nicholls.edu>

## Choose your career path with confidence!

Costelloe & Associates Inc. has been assisting young adults select college majors and career paths for over 40 years.



William H. Costelloe III Ph.D.  
(Industrial Organizational psychologist,  
President)

William H. Costelloe IV B.A.  
(Career Consultant Vice President)



Like us on Facebook • Costelloe & Associates Inc.  
call: (504) 293-0022

Unsure about your future? Call us today!  
Costelloe & Associates specializes in Career Counseling  
services for high school students, college students and adults of all ages.

## State & National News

# Ochsner Health System and LSU Health Shreveport Join Forces in North La State of Louisiana, LSU and Ochsner Finalize Hospital Partnership

BATON ROUGE – In a September 24 press release, the Governor’s office announced that the State of Louisiana (“State”), the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College (“LSU”) Board of Supervisors on behalf of LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport (“LSUHSC-S”) and the LSUHSC-S Faculty Group Practice, and Ochsner Health System (“Ochsner”) announced today that they have signed the final Public Private Partnership Agreement in Shreveport and Monroe. Ochsner and LSU Health Shreveport will jointly form Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport to oversee and coordinate activities between the health sciences center and the healthcare delivery system. Under the new structure, Ochsner will bring their nationally-recognized expertise to the management of operations for partner hospitals in Shreveport and Monroe, clinics and the clinical activity of the LSUHSC-S Faculty Group Practice. LSU will continue to successfully oversee the LSUHSC-S School of Medicine, School of Allied Health Professions, School of Graduate Studies, Graduate Medical Education, and research initiatives.

Under the new structure, the partners announced the following expansions and investments:

Facility Investment will initially be focused on renovation of select operating rooms and the surgical intensive care unit in addition to the overall infrastructure of facilities. Investments in technology enhancements will include but are not limited to enhancing functionality of electronic medical records with a goal of enhancing coordination of care and upgrading lab and monitoring equipment;

Investments in people and programs to improve quality including hiring a new Chief Quality Officer to maintain a relentless focus on improving outcomes in both our hospital and clinic settings; launching a hospitalist program in both hospitals to provide additional care for our inpatients, and more effective coordination with their primary care and specialty physicians; and implementing best practices regarding quality, and safety analytics and processes;

Expansion to improve access to care including identifying opportunities to open new facilities outside of the current campuses, such as an ambulatory care clinic, diagnostic imaging center, urgent care clinics, and convenient, community based primary care clinics; investment in centralized and online appointment scheduling, and through recruitment of new physicians to support specialized needs;

Advancement in digital and telehealth, as well as post-acute care, to add capabilities that provide new options designed to improve the overall patient experience in north Louisiana;

Increased focus on the health and wellbeing of the community by

broadening our primary care network, implementing programs that empower patients to stay healthy while managing chronic disease, expanding preventative screenings, and developing new community partnerships.

“I’m excited about this opportunity for the people of North Louisiana and for our state,” said Governor John Bel Edwards. “Our commitment has been to finding the right solutions that enable us to take care of more Louisianans, while preserving medical education in Northwest Louisiana. We are able to do that without additional financial burden on the state or our citizens. It takes innovative thinking and I believe this partnership will enable Ochsner and LSU to bring that same expertise to strengthening and growing the medical school, improving facilities, and ultimately delivering better health care to everyone in this region.”

“Today marks a new beginning for healthcare delivery in north Louisiana. LSU is proud to partner with Ochsner as we continue to train the nation’s finest healthcare professionals in Shreveport and across Louisiana,” said LSU President F. King Alexander. “I’d like to thank our faculty and staff for never wavering in their commitment to the people of this critically important region, and also Gov. Edwards and his administration for supporting LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport and its teaching mission.”

Chuck Daigle has been named Chief Executive Officer and Dr. David Lewis will be the Chief Medical Officer of Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport. Dr. Chuck Fox will serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the LSUHSC-S Faculty Practice Group. These leaders will work together to establish a bold vision that builds on the strengths of Ochsner and LSU Health Shreveport.

This new partnership with Ochsner Health System is very exciting for our patients, students and the local economy. I am grateful to Governor Edwards, Commissioner Dardenne, LSU President King Alexander, the leadership teams of Ochsner and LSU Health Shreveport for their unwavering commitment to create this partnership that may well become the benchmark for public private healthcare operations. I also want to acknowledge and thank our dedicated employees, who even during very challenging times, remained acutely focus on our mission to teach, heal and discover,” stated LSU Health Shreveport Chancellor G. E. Ghali DDS, MD.

As a part of the new agreement, a new governing board will be formed with representation from LSU Health Shreveport, Ochsner and the North Louisiana communities being served.

“This is an historic day and one we know that means a great deal to the state and to the people of north Louisiana,” said Warner Thomas, President and CEO, Ochsner Health System. “We are committed to drive healthcare innovation in our state, to make the investments needed to expand patient-centered technology, to advance care, and to develop new models that deliver more to patients, physicians, students and residents. With LSU, and through new relationships in the region as well as participation in new programs, we will work to ensure the financial stability of the new organization and identify opportunities for continued growth. I am excited that the Governor and LSU sought out Ochsner as a partner who can bring our nationally recognized quality and healthcare management expertise to the partnership.”

Under the terms of this agreement, Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport will go in to effect October 1, 2018.

*American Board of Medical Psychology*



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

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

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

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

[www.amphome.org](http://www.amphome.org)

# Psychologists' Changing View of the Role of the Master's Level Provider

By Lawrence Dilks, PhD & Burton Ashworth, PhD

For over hundred years, the profession of psychology has advocated an appropriate level of training necessary to independently, and ethically offer services to the public. Heretofore, the educational standard required was a doctorate degree in the related field of practice, in many states. However, some states offer licenses and certification, for the master level provider though the privileges and scope of practice is typically very limited, and usually conducted under close supervision.

As time has passed, and as a consequence of many events, our profession led by the American Psychological Association (APA), has proposed reframing this issue and is now emphasizing the need to franchise master level providers with a greater role in service delivery.

This change in orientation by the APA was necessitated by a United States Supreme Court ruling (North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners v. Federal Trade Commission, 2015). In essence, there must be a balance between privileges and training. The ruling indicated that individuals cannot be prohibited from offering services to the public if they have appropriate training. Individual state board prohibitions that are representative of blanket restraint of trade, are now considered illegal. This ruling impacts all professions where mid-level providers are under supervision or are prohibited from practicing.

Several states, such as Texas, have responded to this wind of change. At this moment, Texas is considering a restructuring of its master's level licensing statutes including independent conduct of psychotherapy and some psychological testing. At this time, to qualify for such privilege's individuals must complete a more structured training program which is currently under investigation. Those already licensed, and practicing must retake the EPPP and pass with a score of 70 percent to qualify for the new privileges.

The object of contention that must be addressed by each state centers on the scope of practice and the credentials necessary to participate. Doctoral level psychologists are not in agreement with one another on just how extensive privileges should be and how to integrate master level practitioners into the professional environment.

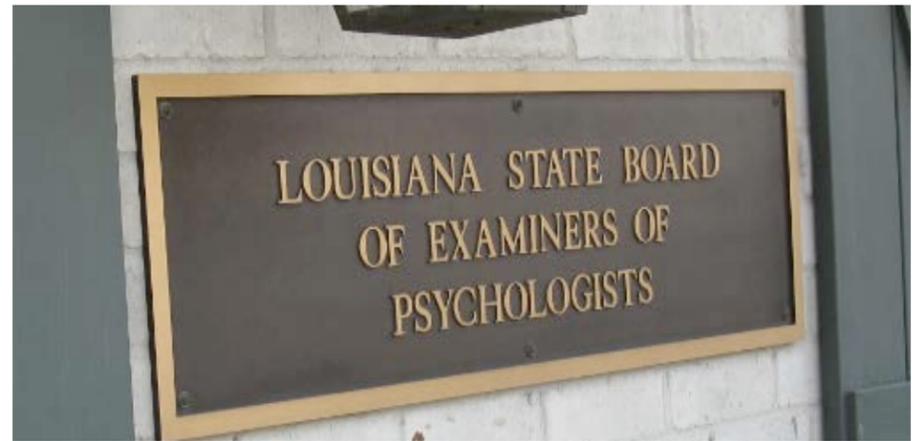
APA is seeking to contribute to this situation by establishing a model training program that will ensure master level individuals will achieve competency. Preliminary work by APA seems to favor a 3-year, 60-hour training program with a rigorous curriculum including practicum and internship. Additionally, there would be a post-graduation supervision requirement with a licensed psychologist. APA is considering accrediting master level programs to ensure consistency of training.

This movement is quickly gaining momentum and each state must seek to define the responsibilities and the degree of independence to be awarded. Louisiana Psychological Association has formed an investigative committee, which is now evaluating how Louisiana will address this issue in the future.

\*\*\*\*

[Editor's Note: Last issue we reported on APA actions, which included: The Board of Educational Affairs (BEA) had formed a task force. The task force shall be charged to outline a plan by which APA could pursue development of an accreditation system for master's programs in health service areas (clinical, counseling, school) of psychology.]

Goals are: 1) Developing a statement that broadly delineates the scope of accreditation for training at the master's level as contrasted with the current scope at the doctoral level; 2) Prioritizing possible pathways for APA to establish accreditation of master's programs in psychology; and 3) Identifying the necessary expertise for the accreditation decision-making body.]



## From the Minutes Selected Items from August 3<sup>rd</sup> Discussions of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists

[Editor's Note: August 3<sup>rd</sup>, Special Meeting. The regular board meeting took place on August 24 and minutes are not yet posted.]

### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. *LEASE PROPOSAL: 4334 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70816 – The board reviewed the revised proposal to eliminate the operating cost adjustment and replace it with the following increase per square foot: 3,325 rentable square feet, 2,891 useable square feet, located in Building B, (C150, 2,111 and C175, 1,214 rentable square feet). Five (5) years, commencing October 1, 2018 for Months 1-24: \$4,502.60 payable monthly (based on \$16.25 per rentable square foot per year) and Months 25-60: \$4,571.88 payable monthly (based on 16.75 per rentable square foot per year).*

*By motion of Dr. Amy Henke, the Board moved in favor of accepting the proposal as discussed. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote as follows: Boggs- YEA, Henke – YEA, Crouch YEA.*

2. *2018-19 Budget Review and Recommendations – The Board reviewed and discussed budget impacts of the new lease rate, along with reinstating per diem and mileage reimbursement to board members in conjunction with final projections for receivables. Consideration was also given to Dr. Gregory Gormanous's request to be reimbursed for overnight stay during regular board meetings. After review, by motion of Dr. Crouch, the board moved in favor of reinstating per diem and mileage reimbursement to board members. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote as follows: Boggs- YEA, Henke – YEA, Crouch YEA.*

*With regard to Dr. Gormanous, Dr. Crouch moved in favor of awarding Dr. Gormanous per diem for one day for regular board meetings and reimbursing the amount in excess of the \$75 per diem that is spent toward a hotel. The amount reimbursed for a hotel shall not to exceed the approved state rates. Further that reimbursement for car rental, in lieu of mileage for regular meetings would be reimbursed provided the rental is leased in accordance with PPM 49 and reimbursement shall not to exceed the standard mileage reimbursement. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote as follows: Boggs- YEA, Henke – YEA, Crouch YEA.*

3. *LAC 46:LXIX. Chapters 1-7 Related to Dietitians and Nutritionists, Definition of Nutrition Counseling - The Board reviewed the proposed regulations of the dietitians and nutritionists board, published in the July 20, 2018 Louisiana Register. Dr. Henke agreed to review the proposed regulation and prepare recommendations to present to the LSBEP at their regularly scheduled meeting on August 24, 2018.*



## Southern Psychology Journal to Launch in December 2018

continued

McCown is a Co-Editor along with Drs. MKay Bonner and Burt Ashworth, also with University of Louisiana at Monroe. The working title is *Contemporary Southern Psychologist*.

“The journal is coming along as scheduled,” said McCown. “We are now getting funded from Burt Ashworth’s endowed chair in Gerontology. That means that the first issue has to primarily be dedicated to--well--gerontology! But we have six articles as well as an introduction to the direction of the journal. Most are empirically-based, which is exciting.”

“We are aiming for a release of around December 1,” said McCown, who is the 2018 Louisiana Psychological Association’s Distinguished Psychologist, and also Coordinator of the Psychology Department at ULM. “Our University has actually purchased software for the journal...,” he said. “While not quite turn-key, it is pretty close.”



Dr. Bill McCown speaking at a previous conference. He is a co-editor, along with Drs. MKay Bonner and Burt Ashworth, of new journal to replace the *Southern Psychologist* of the 80s. The mission of the new journal will be to emphasize what psychology can do for our region,” McCown said.

## LSU’s Dr. Zhang Uncovers the Dark Side in Employment Interviews

Louisiana State University Assistant Professor, Dr. Don Zhang and co-authors have uncovered an element of the dark side in seemingly innocent employment interviewing methods.

Zhang found that brainteaser questions, frequently used by companies such as Xerox, Microsoft, and Zappos, are related to characteristics of the “Dark Triad.”

The Dark-Triad is a composed of measures of Machiavellianism, psychopathy, and narcissism. Machiavellianism items include “It’s not wise to tell your secrets,” and “Avoid direct conflict with others because they may be useful in the future.” Psychopathy items include “People who mess with me always regret

it,” and “People often say I’m out of control.” And, narcissism items include “I have been compared to famous people”, and “I insist on getting the respect I deserve.”

Brainteaser questions are a variant on the “stress” interview. Zhang and co-authors explain that the brainteaser items have the “goal of keeping the candidate off-balance and examining his or her ability to tolerate high-pressure interview tactics,” note the researchers.

The study, published in *Applied Psychology*, relied on employment questions such as “Why is a tennis ball fuzzy?” “Why are manhole covers round?” and “How many cows are in Canada?”

Brainteaser interview questions include those like “Estimate how many windows are in New York” and are just one example of aggressive interviewer approaches that lack “evidence for validity and is unsettling to job applicants.”

What does Dr. Zhang think is most important about the findings? “We found that managers’ willingness to use the ‘brainteaser’ interview questions was a reflection of their so called ‘dark traits,’ which are: narcissism, sadism, and Machiavellianism.”

“Our data shows that managers who ask these questions are on average less able to empathize with the interviewee. I think these results support our expectation that differences in personality, specifically the dark traits, may play a role in a manager’s decision to ask these brainteaser questions during employment interviews.”

The employment interview has been a standard method in applicant assessment for many decades. However, there is ample evidence, the authors explain, that the regular, unstandardized interview has very little predictive value, only about four percent of the variance for job performance.

Why do so many hiring managers continue to use these methods, despite their lack of usefulness?

“There are many explanations,” Zhang said. “First, the academic field could do a better job communicating the research findings to practitioners and stakeholders. Most practitioners may not be aware of the research evidence nor are they equipped to interpret the evidence in the context of their work.”

“Second, people have innate need for control and autonomy, which can bias their preference toward using their own interview questions, despite the lack of validity,” he said.



Dr. Don Zhang (L) discusses IO psychology with colleague.

Cont’d pg 16



# THE UNIVERSITY of NEW ORLEANS

**POSITION TITLE: Assistant Professor in Applied Developmental Psychology**

**POSITION #: 9999**

**DEPARTMENT: Psychology**

**POSITION SUMMARY:**

**Tenure-Track Assistant Professor in Developmental Psychopathology.** The psychology department at the University of New Orleans (UNO) is seeking applicants for a full-time tenure-track faculty position at the level of assistant professor. Recently recognized as the highest ranked PhD program at the University of New Orleans, the psychology department has a group of energetic and highly productive faculty. The department has two strong and unique Ph.D. programs: one in Applied Biological Psychology and one in Applied Developmental Psychology. In addition, the department offers a terminal M.S. degree in Applied Psychology. There is a strong context of collaboration and integration across research labs, faculty, and the programs. More information on the department is available at <http://www.uno.edu/cos/psychology/index.aspx>.

We are particularly interested in candidates with a strong potential for externally funded research and whose area of research complements existing research programs in the department. Candidates with a research emphasis in child psychopathology, particularly in the area of clinical psychology, prenatal/infant development, socioeconomic disadvantage, early childhood development, disruptive behavior disorders, internalizing disorders, and attention related disorders are encouraged to apply. We are in the process of expanding our assessment clinic and expanding our clinical course offerings. We encourage candidates who are eligible for licensure and with an interest in clinical assessment, clinical supervision, and/or behavior analysis to apply.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Develop an extramurally funded research program, supervise graduate students, and teach at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

**REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:** Ph.D. in developmental psychology, biopsychology, neuroscience, clinical psychology or related field. Preferred qualifications: Supervised internship or post-doctoral training.

**DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:** Interest in teaching and supervising clinical assessment, clinical supervision, and/or behavior analysis.

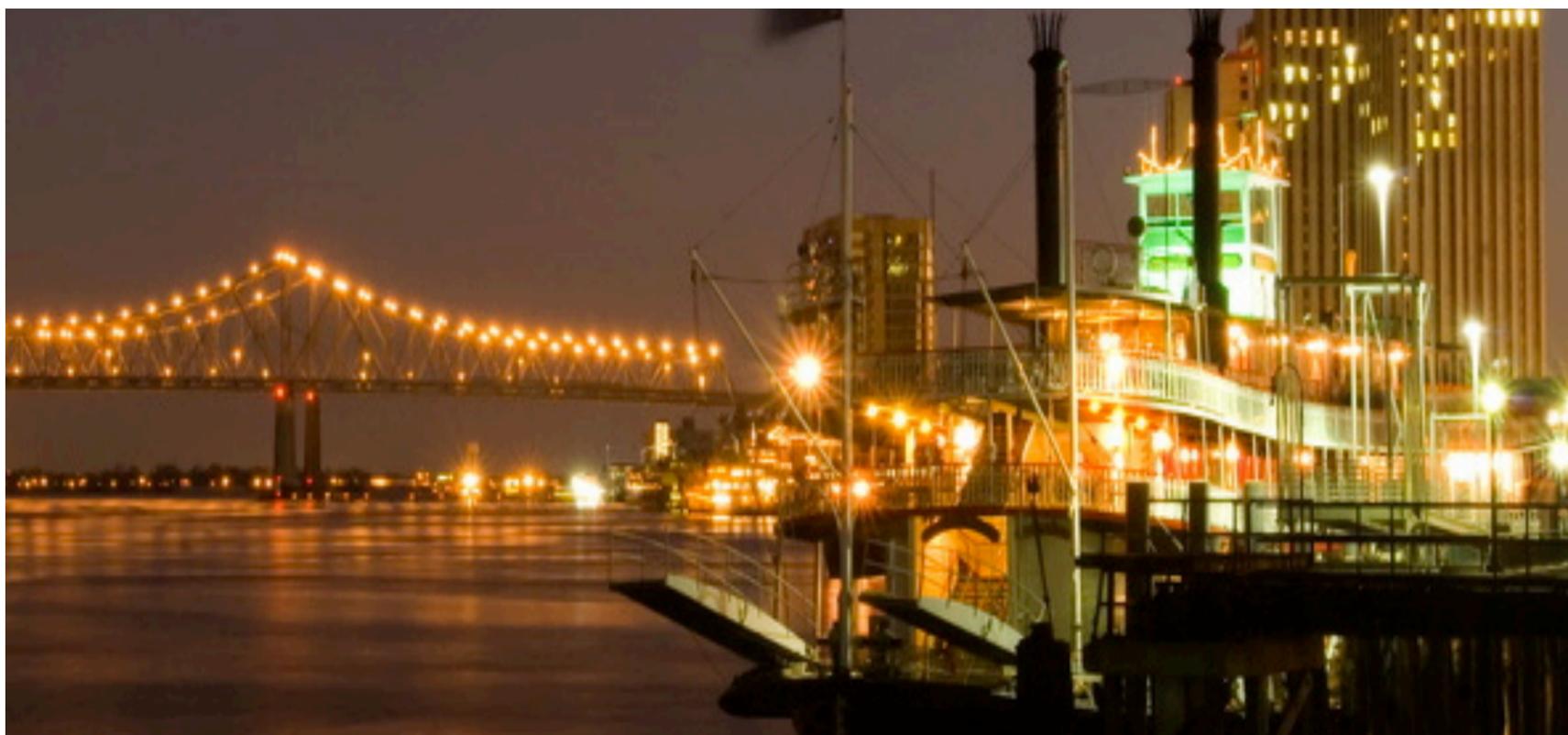
**SALARY:** Commensurate with experience

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE:** Applicants should submit (a) letter of application, (b) curriculum vita, (c) research and teaching statement, (d) representative reprints, and (e) three letters of recommendation (enclosed or sent separately by the letter writers). Materials should be sent electronically as a PDF document to [senelson@uno.edu](mailto:senelson@uno.edu) or through mail to: Chair, Faculty Search Committee; Department of Psychology; 2001 Geology and Psychology Bldg.; New Orleans, LA, 70148. Informal inquiries about the position can be sent to Elliott Beaton PhD, search committee chair, at [ebeaton@uno.edu](mailto:ebeaton@uno.edu) or Laura Scaramella PhD, department chair, at [lscaram@uno.edu](mailto:lscaram@uno.edu). The University of New Orleans is an Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity employer. Women, ethnic minorities, veterans and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

**CLOSING DATE:** Position will remain open until filled. To assure full consideration, applications should be received by November 15, 2018.

All applicants will be considered for employment without regard to retirement status and without regard to an applicant's having previously accused the UL System Board or any of its universities of unlawful discrimination. Retirement status shall not be considered in the hiring process by any University in the UL System.

*The University of New Orleans is an Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity employer.  
Women, ethnic minorities, veterans and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.*



# Life's Illusions – Psychologists look at ethics and self-deception, continued

by opposing it.” Swedish-born American philosopher and ethicist, Sissela Bok, said “...to see the self as deceiving itself has seemed the only way to explain what might otherwise be incomprehensible.”

In the past, the study of self-deception has been more the province of philosophy and religion, than of psychology. Freud put one foot on the ground through careful observations of behavior, but it wasn't until the 1970s that a young evolutionary biologist, Robert Trivers, changed the paradigm for our understanding of human behavior by placing it firmly on the bedrock of its biological foundations. Nowhere was the impact of this shift more apparent than in moral behaviors and the psychological science surrounding it.

From the more unusual defense mechanisms and altered recollections, to everyday biases and false impressions, to a host of cognitive errors and distortions in information processing, to the cluster of traits we call the psychological immune system, self-deception is a construct that today that

scientists are examining with new precision.

In his 1976 introduction to Dawkins' *The Selfish Gene*, Trivers set the wheels in motion when he pondered how the trait of self-deception might be explained through the logic of natural selection.

“If . . . deceit is fundamental to animal communication,” wrote Trivers, “then there must be strong selection to spot deception and this ought, in turn, select for a degree of self-deception, rendering some facts and motives unconscious so as not to betray – by the subtle signs of self-knowledge – the deception being practiced.”

Harvard's Steven Pinker said that the sentence “...might have the highest ratio of profundity to words in the history of the social sciences.”

It took another six years before Trivers and Black Panther leader, Huey P. Newton, authored, “The Crash of Flight 90: Doomed by Self-deception?” in *Science Digest*. Finally, in 2000 Trivers set out the details in his, “The elements of a scientific theory of self-deception in the *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*.

“An evolutionary theory of self-deception—the active misrepresentation of reality to the conscious mind—suggests that there may be multiple sources of self-deception in our own species, with important interactions between them,” wrote Trivers. “Self-deception (along with internal conflict and fragmentation) may serve to improve deception of others; this may include denial of ongoing deception, self-inflation, ego-biased social theory, false narratives of intention, and a conscious mind that operates via denial and projection to create a self-serving world.”

He considered how self-deception might emerge from internal genetic conflicts, how selection favors suppressing negative phenotypic traits, and the positive aspects of self-deception and its costs.

Dr. Trivers will speak at the Winter Workshop of the Louisiana Psychological Association on November 9, in New Orleans. Professors and evolutionary psychologists, Dr. Jack Palmer, from University of Louisiana at Monroe, and Dr. Matthew Rossano, from Southeastern Louisiana

University, will join him to discuss these concepts at the workshop.

A comprehensive theory of self-deception would not have been possible without the scientific breakthrough explaining reciprocal-altruism, deception and the co-evolutionary struggle out of which self-deception emerges.

Dr. Palmer, author of the evolutionary psychology textbook, *Evolutionary Psychology: The Ultimate Origins of Human Behavior*, understands the interplay of altruism and deception.

“The evolution of altruism is complex and multifaceted,” explains Dr. Palmer, “Trivers describes cognitive specializations for reciprocal altruism, including the ability to predict others' behavior. Reciprocal altruism may require the individual to have at least a rudimentary ‘theory of mind,’ where the individual perceives the other as experiencing a mental state like one's own.”

“Empirical evidence has shown that humans, chimpanzees, and other great apes exhibit behavior that

Cont'd next pg



# Life's Illusions

## *continued*

demonstrates theory of mind," said Palmer, "so one would expect to find many more examples of reciprocal altruism among primates."

Dr. Palmer has studied at the University of Georgia and nearby Yerkes Primate Research (Field) Center, and focused on physiological and comparative psychology with a particular emphasis on primatology and cognition.

"The risk in any altruistic system is the cost incurred by the altruist," he said. "This is particularly problematic in systems based on reciprocity where there is the potential for cheating or freeloading. The human capacity for language has given our species unique capabilities but it has also exponentially increased the potential for cheating," Palmer explained.

"Ethical behavior involves a complex mix of cognitive, psychological, biological, proximate, social, and other mechanisms/factors—and of course, self-deception is in the mix," Palmer said.

Including the psychological forces at work may not be widespread when it comes to ethics training, however. Researchers Ann Tenbrunsel and David Messick address this in their, "Ethical Fading: The Role of Self-Deception in Unethical Behavior."

They argue that self-deception is a cause of unethical choices. "Self-deception causes the moral implications of a decision to fade, allowing individuals to behave incomprehensibly and, at the same time, not realize that they are doing so," they write. The authors say that typical efforts to improve ethical decisions, such as today's ethics training, do not consider



Dr. Jack Palmer is Professor of Psychology & Graduate Coordinator at University of Louisiana at Monroe. He has authored at textbook in evolutionary psychology. (Courtesy photo.)



© Art family

the important role of these psychological forces, and so produce only limited effectiveness.

Since the typical ethics training includes a discussion of ethical guidelines and case-studies, but fails to acknowledge the innate psychological tendency for individuals to engage in self-deception, what might help?

Dr. Palmer suggests a variety of causes and remedies when it comes to self-deception and ethical issues.

For cognitive factors and self-deception, he includes impaired awareness, where individuals may act unethically without being aware of it, due to self-deception.

He also includes impaired judgment. Individuals may be aware of the ethical considerations of a situation, but may have the delusion that they are acting ethically when they are not, he explains.

Other traits may include low conscientiousness, impulsiveness, narcissism, biological factors and the immediate social situation,

such as in Milgram's and Zimbardo's famous experiments, he said.

Dr. Palmer also suggests we can increase awareness and practice mindfulness—to stay in the moment. Meditation, rest and relaxation may help. "Stay connected to your values: Keep a daily diary of your ethical values and your successes and failures with them. Reflect on why."

He also suggests recognizing the role of self-deception. "It helps to know that we are all self-deceived to some degree or another. Honest self-examination can help see and overcome our blind-spots."

"We evolved to survive, and this impetus does not always promote ethical, prosocial, or selfless behavior," Dr. Palmer said. "It can take effort or energy to transcend innate selfishness, to see our blind-spots, and to act in ways that are ethical."

Dr. Matt Rossano, professor of Psychology at Southeastern Louisiana University, is an evolutionary psychologist whose research focuses on the evolution of ritual,

religion, and uniquely human cognition.

"I'm skeptical of any single 'root cause' for any complex human trait or behavior, and I include moral judgment in that category," said Dr. Rossano. "Any specific moral judgment is likely to be affected by a variety of factors, past and present, weighing on the individual at the time of the judgment."

"That said, self-deception can certainly play a role in bad decisions – not just unethical ones, but reckless, unwise, inconsiderate, and just downright stupid ones," he said.

Dr. Rossano has authored or co-authored dozens of scholarly works including, *Supernatural Selection: How Religion Evolved*, *Mortal Rituals: What the Story of the Andes' Survivors Tells us about Human Evolution*, and *Seeking Perfection: A Dialogue about the Mind, the Soul, and What it Means to be Human*.

"Confirmation bias plays a big role," he said. "We tend to see world the way we

**Cont'd next pg**



Matt Rossano is a Professor of Psychology at Southeastern Louisiana University. He has authored numerous books and scholarly papers. His work has appeared in diverse outlets including: *Men's Health*, *New Scientist*, *The Huffington Post*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, and *Psychology Today*. (Courtesy photo)

## Life's Illusions

*continued*

want to see it. We eagerly embrace any meager evidence confirming our pre-existing biases and avidly reject mountains of evidence challenging them. Self-deception is at work here in that we typically don't even realize that our irrational biases are just that – irrational biases."

"This gives us even greater confidence in the righteousness of our view – a confidence magnified even more so by the natural tendency to surround ourselves with others who think as we do," he said.

"While this unfounded certitude can serve us well – it saves cognitive energy, reduces emotional stress, and makes us attractive to others – it is not the firmest foundation upon which to make critical judgments, and so it should not be surprising that some of those judgments turn out badly."

What are some ways each of us might avoid the "ethical fading?"

"Here is where religion may have more direct effects," Dr. Rossano explained. "Most of the studies that have looked at religion and moral behavior have found that religious practice—attending church, engaging in ritual activities such as prayer—are far better predictors of moral behavior than professed belief."

"One reason for this is that ritual practice can serve to remind people of the ethical norms associated with the religion. The more those norms are kept accessible in one's consciousness, the more likely they will influence behavior," he said.

"In many respects moral behavior is similar to physical skills – practice improves performance and ritual activity serves as 'moral practice.' With enough 'practice' moral behavior can become habitual – it runs off automatically similar to well-learned motor skills."

Drs. Trivers, Palmer and Rossano will speak at the Winter Workshop of the Louisiana Psychological Association on November 9, in New Orleans, on these and related issues.

## Stress Solutions

by Susan Andrews, PhD

### Getting Involved Can Reduce the Stress Caused by Today's Politics

One psychologist, Dr. Tammy Savoie, has taken those words to heart. Dr. Savoie decided to run for office because of the same stress that 63 percent of Americans reported last December in an APA poll. The stress – simply put – is concern about the division of neighbors and families over partisan bickering and an ineffective Congress, concern about the future of our country.

"Americans Are Freaking Out" was the headline conclusion of the 2017 Stress in America poll conducted for the APA by Harris. As I reported last year, nearly two-thirds of the people who responded to the Harris poll said that this is the lowest point in US history – and it is keeping a lot of them up at night. The poll, which was the 11th annual Stress in America survey done by the APA, was conducted online between August 2 and August 31 and included 3,440 respondents, aged 18 and over.

Those who are being kept up at night reported that they are worried about health care, the economy and an overall feeling of division and conflict between them and their neighbors. More Democrats (73 percent) than Republicans (56 percent) agreed that this was their top concern. Nonetheless, the sentiment was this is the lowest point in our nation's history spanned generations, which includes World War II, Vietnam, and 9/11.

As we approach the mid-term elections, that stress has been building for many of us. Actually, many of us have complained for years about the qualifications of the politicians who are supposed to represent us. We complain but most of us will tell you that in truth they have not gotten involved, even with the local School Board elections. Sure, the most frequent answer: "Sorry, I am just too busy to volunteer." And, forget putting your hat into the Ring. That really would take too much time.

This year is different, and as one who never volunteered before but complained a lot, I have been volunteering for Dr. Tammy Savoie's campaign for two reasons:

1. She is a Clinical Psychologist, trained at Emory U., served for 23 years in the Air Force and retired in 2016 as a Lieutenant Colonel. Dr. Savoie was born and raised in the New Orleans area. As a Clinical Psychologist in the Air Force, she is naturally concerned about our veterans. As a Clinical Psychologist, Dr. Savoie understands the importance of a good education, proper child care, and good health care. Further, most people who choose a career as a Clinical Psychologist care about people and want to help them. More psychologists need to get involved actively in politics. We need people trained in critical thinking and objectivity; and Dare I Say It, more women.

2. I have been so stressed with concern about the future of our country that when I saw a woman with recognized credentials, not a professional politician, that I decided to put my time and energy where my mouth was.

And, it has worked. Win, Lose, or Draw, I feel better knowing that I got involved. I hope we can have many more qualified candidates, like Dr. Tammy Savoie, in the future. I hope you Get Involved!



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) and 2016 Distinguished Psychologist of the Louisiana Psychological Association.

# A Shrink at the Flicks

## *A Simple Favor* Review

by Alvin G. Burstein, PhD

The film's opening credits are backed with a shifting array of images and pop songs, a neat foretaste of the complicated tale to follow. The story opens on an ongoing charmingly amateurish vlog (video-log). Stephanie Smothers is regaling her audience of mothers with a mélange of homemaking advice. We quickly learn that the vlog is designed, not only to help her viewers, but to enable her to keep her and her child afloat financially after the death of her husband in an auto accident.

As we follow Stephanie picking up her child at school, we come to see her as a Type A fixit problem-solver and perennial volunteer. At the school, she encounters Emily Nelson, the mother of a classmate of Stephanie's son. Blonde Emily, in a knock-out white vested pants suit, golden pocket watch chain, and spike heels is a striking contrast to the slightly frumpy brunette Stephanie, but they strike up a friendship.

A pattern ensues of after school visits to Emily's palatial home, where the children play, and the women drink martinis mixed by the hostess. Stephanie is swept into an idolizing and sexually tinged relationship with her new friend.

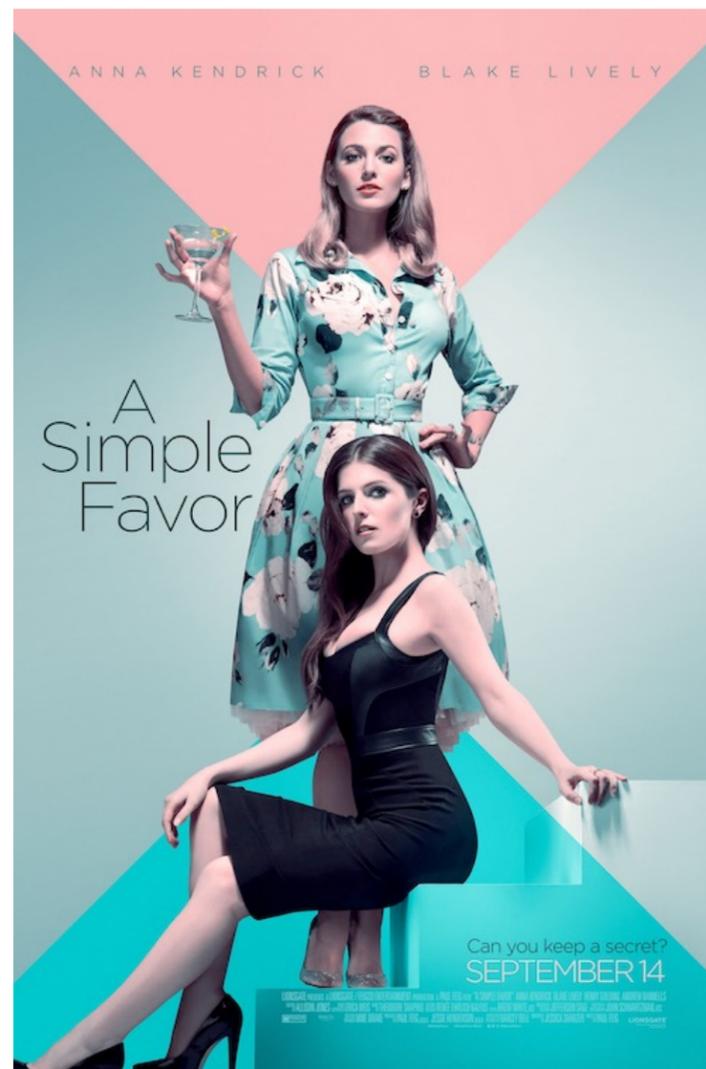
One day, she gets an urgent call. Emily must leave town to deal with an emergency. Her husband has gone to visit his dying mother. Can Stephanie pick Emily's son up at school and child-sit him until his mother gets back? A simple favor.

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. 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.



But Emily does not come back that night. Or the next nights. When Stephanie, panicked, manages to contact the husband, he returns, but has no knowledge of where or why his wife might be. They call the police.

The unfolding mystery has a quick-silver quality. Just as a solution appears, it skitters off in a new, surprising direction. I will refrain from spoiling the pleasure of experiencing those twists and turns, and content myself with comments on the film's style and approach.

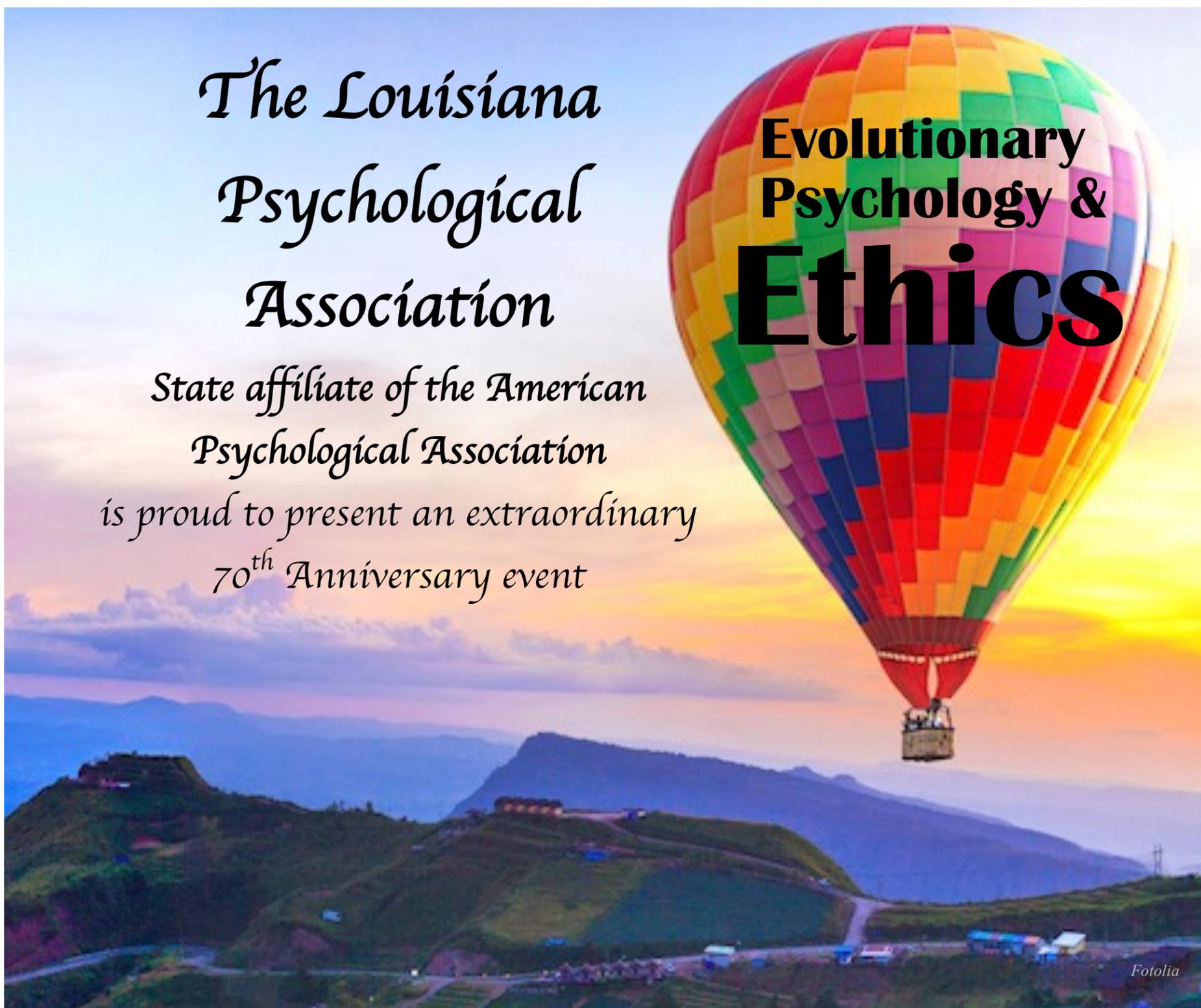
When Emily is making the first martini, after shaking the gin and vermouth (just a touch), she pours the drink into long stemmed crystal glasses and twists a bit of lemon rind over them. We see the mist of zest evanesce. That image captures the lightness, delicacy, of this movie. The film cocks an eye at the contrast between high and low culture. It smiles at sisterhood and motherhood. It verges on slapstick humor, paradoxically heightening the fun by artfully scant allusions to human misery.

After the tale twists and turns its way to its climax, the audience is presented with an epigraph outlining what has become of those whose lives we have been following. It is an apt, updated version of the Looney Tunes' "That's All Folks."

# The Louisiana Psychological Association

State affiliate of the American  
Psychological Association  
is proud to present an extraordinary  
70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event

## Evolutionary Psychology & Ethics



Fotolia

Featuring the legendary **Robert Trivers, PhD**, evolutionary biologist who explained the scientific foundations of *reciprocal altruism* and *self-deception*. *Time Magazine* named him one of the top 100 scientists and thinkers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Steven Pinker has said, "I consider Trivers one of the great thinkers in the history of Western thought. It would not be too much of an exaggeration to say that he has provided a scientific explanation for the human condition..."

For this special event we will also have Dr. Jack Palmer, from U. of Louisiana Monroe, author of *Evolutionary Psychology: The Ultimate Origins of Human Behavior*, and Dr. Matthew Rossano, from Southeastern Louisiana University, author of *Supernatural Selection: How Religion Evolved*. In applications we'll have Dr. Michael Chafetz on malingering research, Dr. Michael Cunningham on diversity, and Dr. Denise Newman on psychoanalytic concepts.

Join us to Celebrate 70 years of Psychology in Louisiana



ANNIVERSARY

**Friday, November 9, 2018**  
**Hotel Monteleone, New Orleans**

Register at:

<http://louisianapsychologicalassociation.org/>

# Up Coming Events

## LSU's Dr. Zhang Uncovers the Dark Side, continued

“And third, there are individual characteristics, such as the ones we examined in our paper, that may influence a manager's preference for these types of questions. Often, the job interview serves multiple purposes, one of those is to fulfill the interviewer's motivational need to exert influence or authority over the interviewee. The type of questions that get asked—for example, brainteaser questions—may partly reflect those motivations.”

What would help more managers use better and friendlier techniques for employee selection? “I think media exposure of research helps,” Zhang said. “But more importantly, researchers need to find more ‘customer-friendly’ ways to communicate the value of their research findings.”

Dr. Zhang's lab is conducting research on various aspects of the interview process. “Specifically, we are interested in managers' reaction toward evidence-based interview questions and how to bridge the gap between research and practice in job interview practices. We are also interested in job applicants' reactions to nontraditional interview questions. When companies use stressful questions, they may turn away good applicants. We hope that our research will better inform interview practices in organizations by making them more valid, more fair, and more friendly.”

“My lab is always looking for organizational collaboration in engaging in mutually beneficial research. If any local organizations are interested, I would love to get in touch.”

Those interested can reach Dr. Zhang at ([zhang1@lsu.edu](mailto:zhang1@lsu.edu)) or check out some of the recent research in his lab at his website (<https://sites01.lsu.edu/faculty/zhanglab/>)

## LPA to Hold Ethics Workshop November 9, at the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans

The Louisiana Psychological Association will host the legendary evolutionary theorist, Dr. Robert Trivers, at their winter workshop, to be held Friday, November 9, at the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans.

The one-day event, “Evolutionary Psychology & Ethics,” will address the scientific foundations of ethical and moral behavior. Dr. Trivers will speak on “Ethics and Social Theory: The Evolution of Reciprocal Altruism,” and then on “The Logic of Deceit and Self-Deception.”

Also presenting and participating as discussants will be Dr. Jack Palmer, from University of Louisiana Monroe, author of *Evolutionary Psychology: The Ultimate Origins of Human Behavior*.

Dr. Matt Rossano, from Southeastern Louisiana University, author of *Supernatural Selection: How Religion Evolved*, will also present.

Dr. Michael Chafetz, known for his extensive work in malingering research, and Dr. Denise Newman, chair of the Louisiana Psychological Association Psychotherapy Interest Area and a psychoanalytic psychologist, will present along with Tulane Professor Dr. Michael Cunningham, chair of LPA's Diversity Committee.

Registration is open at <http://louisianapsychologicalassociation.org/>

## 6th Annual Gulf Coast ABA Conference to be Held October 12-13, New Orleans

The Louisiana Behavior Analysis Association will hold its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Gulf Coast ABAC on October 12 and 13, in New Orleans, at The Westin on Canal.

Keynote Speaker is Dr. Mark Dixon, BCBA-D, who received his PhD in Psychology from the University of Nevada and has been a Board Certified Behavior Analyst for over a decade. He is the founding President of the Illinois Association for Behavior Analysis and has also held the President position for the MidAmerican Association for Behavior Analysis.

Other presentations include, “The Ins and Outs of Supervision and Field Supervision,” “Protecting Your Career: Troublesome Ethical Situations to Avoid and Manage for Practicing Behavior Analysts,” “Legal Update on ABA Coverage and Practice Issues: What You Need to Know,” and “Continuing Towards the Functional Analysis of Behavior,” and “Virtual Reality and the Future of Delivering ABA Therapy.” For more information and to register: [www.labaa.net](http://www.labaa.net)

## The Psychology Times

### Winner of 75 Louisiana Press Association Awards

including  
 Editorial Sweepstakes  
 Best Investigative Reporting  
 Best News Coverage  
 Best Continuing News Coverage  
 Best Column  
 Best Editorial Cartoon

The *Psychology Times* is a free, independent source for news, features and editorials. The *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.

We are **not affiliated** with any professional organization other than the Press Association. We receive no financial benefits from any source other than direct, paid advertising.

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

Subscriptions are free. For back issues and to subscribe go to the *Times* at <http://thepsychologytimes.com/>