

No Deal: Special Session Ends

“Usually the day after session is a day of relaxation after a long few months of hard work and a little late night celebration,” said Keli Williams, with Ourso Consulting.

“Last night was a late night, but there was no celebration. With the last 30 minutes of the special session, which had to end at midnight, the House began taking up the budget bill, HB 1, and the revenue bills, HB 12 and HB 27.”

This special session was the second session and the sixth financial session in the last two years, attempting to deal with the state’s budget crisis when more than \$1 billion in taxes are scheduled to expire on June 30. The earlier special session floundered after the house repeatedly rejected increased taxes. At the same time, dramatic cuts in health care services and what the Governor called “could face a catastrophic cut” to higher education had been threatening.

This week the House approved HB 1 but it makes dramatic cuts to TOPS, universities and state agencies, and is similar to the budget that the Governor previously vetoed, explained Williams to the *Times*.

But the deal collapsed when lawmakers failed to take up the two revenue bills that would have filled the gaps, something the Governor put forth in his hoped for compromise plan.

“HB 12 and HB 27 were both sales tax measures that would have increased the sales tax by 1/2 to 1/3 penny, respectfully, and cleaned some exemptions from the remaining pennies,” said Williams.

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Governor Signing Bills Into Laws

The Office of the Governor has been announcing a steady stream of measures being signed into law by Gov. Edwards.

Included in the recent list is the Zero Suicide bill, which authorizes the Louisiana Department of Health to create a program that helps healthcare professionals to prevent suicide. He also signed Act 43, which expands the substance

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La. Researchers Present at SWPA

A host of professors, psychological scientists, and students presented their work at the recent Convention of the Southwestern Psychological Association held in April in Houston Texas. The theme for this year was, “Tomorrow’s Challenges. Psychology’s Solutions.”

Among those supporting the convention as program

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Psychologists listened to Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser speak about the importance of thinking outside-the-box to help solve Louisiana’s problems. Here Dr. Jim Van Hook (front left), Dr. Paula Zeanah (center), and Dr. Christoph Leonhard (back) applaud as the Lt. Governor wraps up his talk at LPA Convention last month.

Lt. Governor Nungesser and Dr. Scott O. Lilienfeld Look at Psychology’s Role

Lt. Governor William (Billy) Nungesser and nationally recognized clinical psychologist, Scott O. Lilienfeld, delivered the welcome and keynote to attendees for the 70th Annual Convention of the Louisiana Psychological Association, held last month in Metairie.

Nungesser highlighted the need for those in Louisiana to think “outside the box” when it comes to Louisiana’s critical needs, helping launch the 2018 theme, “Psychology: Essential Partner for Solving Critical Problems.”

In his remarks, the Lt. Governor pointed to the natural beauty and strengths of the state’s diverse population and environment, and his belief that the state’s culture, history and people are the key to making the state great and working out the problems, he said. Nungesser also spoke on how he and others have addressed natural disasters and built resources through the programs in the Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism.

Lt. Governor Nungesser has been called one of the state’s top CEOs, for his ground-up business development and his can-do approach to crises like Katrina and Deepwater Horizon. He also spoke about his business background and how problem-solving and innovation was essential.

Nungesser closed with the new branding video and slogan, “Feed Your Soul,” unveiled at Mardi Gras 2018. He explained the method for the

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ULM’s Dr. William McCown Named 2018 Distinguished Psychologist

The Louisiana Psychological Association has named Dr. William McCown the 2018 Distinguished Psychologist, an honor announced at the group’s award ceremony on Friday at the 70th Annual Convention, held May 18–19 in Metairie.

Dr. McCown is a professor, author, researcher, and currently Associate Dean for Research in the College of Business and Social Sciences and also Coordinator of the Psychology Department at the University of Louisiana–Monroe. He has also served as Director of the Graduate School and

Left: Dr. William (Bill) McCown speaking at the Annual Meeting of LPA last month.

Sponsored Programs and Research to Interim Associate Provost.

In his varied professional and scientific roles, Dr. McCown has had far-reaching impact on the welfare of those in our community, noted the awards committee officials. “Through his applications and research contributions to our science, including his authoring of seminal texts that help distribute knowledge-based psychological approaches, and now his work to provide higher education to guide the contributions of our state’s

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Editorials and Opinions

No Trust without Genuine Communication

by Times publisher, J. Nelson

I had the pleasure listening to Scott Lilienfeld at the annual convention of the Louisiana Psychological Association last month, who spoke about the public's skepticism of scientific psychology and what we could do to remedy this problem.

The public doesn't trust us as a scientific profession, he said. While clients trust their individual psychologists, Lilienfeld presented evidence showing that the public is skeptical about what we do, think that psychology is just common sense, and confuse us with psychotherapists and psychiatrists.

He said that only 30% agree that "psychology attempts to understand the way people behave through scientific research" and even an APA Presidential Task Force found that psychology "...is not fully accepted as a science by the general public."

Why? Lilienfeld gave some troubling reasons:

- **We don't police ourselves well.**

He pointed out examples of poor standards in the profession, including at APA, where we allow, and even endorse, those marketing pseudoscience. He's written an eye-opening book on this matter.

I've noticed over the decades that we seem to have lost the colleague feedback norm that was part of our culture in the 70s and 80s. I'm even unsure if we currently have the necessary group climate, which seems more conflict avoidance than a problem-solving style.

- **The public confuses psychologists with psychotherapists, psychiatrists, or psychoanalysts.**

This is a huge problem for us and relates to the lack of an easy way to describe what a psychologist is and does. I discovered in our 2015

strategic planning think tank, when Gig Costelloe and I recruited four of the clearest thinking psychologists we could find, and that even after six meetings, we still could not come up with a user-friendly description of a psychologist.

I like Lilienfeld's words: "... trained psychologists are virtually unparalleled among rival professions in one crucial respect: our ability to apply scientific reasoning and rigorous methodology to assessing, evaluating, and alleviating human problems, ..." But even that idea is not easily translated to tangible benefits clear to a layperson.

Since our profession exists at the fringe of the medical pharmaceutical industrial complex, our challenge is to differentiate ourselves as an applied scientific discipline—no small feat.

- **The Illusion of Understanding: "Everybody's a psychologist, it's all just common sense."**

Unlike chemistry, physics, biology and other sciences, psychology is saddled with the human tendency to believe we understand the internal psychological mechanisms of our family, friends and associates. We are the only science that has to overcome this mindset which is pervasive. Turn on the red or blue news and what you hear these days is psychologizing about everybody and every thing. And not a psychologist in sight.

- **We mix politics and psychology.**

Lilienfeld treaded softly on this issue—and with good reason, with our community falling at 94% liberal and strong feelings about social issues. But he gently warned us that psychology should stay clear of politics. Otherwise, we risk confusing the public about science, stirring mistrust in those with a different worldview, and even being biased ourselves. I support Lilienfeld's recommendation, that on all issues we are to resist temptations inherent in politics (power issues) and instead, make sure to "think like a scientist" on all topics.

- **One Remedy—More psychologists need to speak out about our science and our contributions.**

One of the remedies Scott suggested was that more psychologists needed to be writing and speaking to the lay public. "The public face of psychology," he said, "is not represented by psychological scientists. "Psychologists are rarely called on by the media to comment on psychological findings; when they are, they are rarely scientific psychologists," he said.

"Academic and practicing psychologists have not spent enough of their time disseminating science to the public, combating bad science, and correcting misconceptions of the field," he said. "We must play a more active role in educating laypersons about psychology's scientific side and confronting its nonscientific side," he said.

Psychologists (Argyris, Zand, Rogers, McGregor, and so on) have known for a long time that communication—genuine, authentic communication—is essential for trust.

This is something we can do—we can change how and what we communicate.

And if you agree, and can help, contact me.

[Julie Nelson is a licensed psychologist, journalist, 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. —she welcomes feedback.]

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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.

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Corrections & Clarifications

We did not receive corrections for last month. Send your corrections to:

psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com

No Deal on Budget

continued

“Neither bill was able to gain enough support to pass before midnight,” she said. “With two minutes left, HB 12 was brought up for reconsideration. Rep. Seabaugh went to the microphone to oppose the bill for the purposes of running out the clock, per his own statement at the microphone. A second vote on HB 12 was not taken as time expired.”

As of publication there is no news yet about another special session.

This past weekend the Senate Finance Committee put forth a measure that would begin in July and would cover over \$500 million of the state’s \$600 million problem.

This is more than the house wanted to cover but not the entire amount that was asked for by Gov. Edwards.

In a May 25 statement Gov. Edward said, “We have a very short window left to fix the fiscal cliff and fund our critical priorities. Right now, the Senate is waiting on bills to come from the House and, with the clock ticking, any day not spent solving this crisis is simply unacceptable to the people of Louisiana. I am here and ready to work, and I’d hoped that the House would do the same. While I’m disappointed that we haven’t made more progress to close the budget gap, the fact that a majority of both the Republican and Democratic caucus members supported renewing a portion of the expiring revenue gives me hope that we can come to an agreement very soon.”

The Republican delegation responded on May 29, “Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed the Republican Spending Reduction Plan that makes sure our critical services like nursing homes and hospitals are funded by renewing one-third of the one-cent sales tax and requires government to reduce it’s spending by 1.3%.”

“The basis for our compromise is that government reduce its spending. Asking state government to cut its spending by 1.3% is not unreasonable. We simply cannot continue to grow the size of government while Louisiana’s GDP is shrinking, businesses are leaving and our population is falling. Again, asking government to reduce its spending by 1.3% is not unreasonable, it’s the most responsible thing we can do.”

In Gov. Edwards’ 2018 Second Special Session opening remarks he said, “The House of Representatives and the Senate passed wildly differing budgets. One completely decimated health care in Louisiana, the other funded health care but decimated higher education and other critical state services like education and public safety, while ignoring that a nearly 25 percent cut to our state agencies would leave thousands of our fellow Louisianans out of work and our agencies unable to do their work.” He asked them to do better.



Senator Riser puts forth a measure to return control of Worker’s Compensation funds to the administration of Worker’s Comp Assistant Secretary for Office of Workers’ Compensation Administration, Dr. Sheryl Kellar (on left of panel). Senator Riser is in center and Ava Dejois, Ex. Director, is on right, at meeting of Appropriations this week.

La. Department of Health Publishes Emergency Rules Terminating Services

On May 20, Rebekah E. Gee MD, MPH published Emergency Rules to reduce or eliminate services to deal with budget shortfalls. In the *Louisiana Register* Dr. Gee authored and published a notice of the declaration of emergency for the office of behavioral health, adult behavioral health services

“As a result of a budgetary shortfall in state fiscal year (SFY) 2018-2019, the department has determined that it is necessary to promulgate an Emergency Rule to amend the provisions governing adult behavioral health services to terminate coverage for community psychiatric support and treatment (CPST) services and psychosocial rehabilitation services for Medicaid recipients 21 years of age and older,” Gee wrote.

“This action is being taken to avoid a budget deficit in the Medical Assistance Program. It is estimated that implementation of this Emergency Rule will reduce expenditures in the Medicaid Program by approximately \$39,610,680 for state fiscal year 2018-2019.”

Also effective July 1, the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing repeals all of the provisions governing Medicaid reimbursement for ambulatory surgical center services. This results in savings of \$15,641,124, Dr. Gee wrote.

Cutbacks also include the elimination of outpatient substance use disorders services for adults, with reductions of \$46,912,253.

Hospitals were also affected. Dr. Gee said that changes to revise and clarify the criteria for payments to public state-operated hospitals and Louisiana low-income academic hospitals are to reduce expenditures by \$451,810,562.

Also reduced was the Medicaid eligibility when the Medically Needy Program was terminated and reductions of approximately \$32,730,908.

Also the provisional Medicaid program was terminated, with reductions of \$106,579,573.

Nursing facility services were reduced to eliminate payments for leave of absence

days for patients who are on leave due to hospitalization or visits to home and/or family members, a \$2,972,805 reduction.

Pediatric Day Health Care Program Termination Rule will reduce expenditures in the Medicaid Program by approximately \$30,326,012.

Gov. Launches Initiative to Improve Cancer Outcomes

On May 11, Gov. John Bel Edwards announced a new partnership between health care, business, government and community leaders from across the state aimed at curbing cancer in Louisiana, which has the fourth-worst cancer outcomes in the US. The goals of the new efforts are to improve early detection, patient care, and outcomes, by aligning policies and practices across the state.

Gov. Praises New Orleans Sports Foundation for 2024 Super Bowl Bid

Gov. John Bel Edwards released a statement congratulating the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation for leading the effort that secured the Super Bowl 24 would be held in New Orleans: “This is an exciting time to be in Louisiana, and we couldn’t be happier about hosting the Super Bowl in New Orleans for the 11th time. This decision by the NFL is further proof that New Orleans is a top tier destination for major sporting and entertainment events. With a \$480 million impact to New Orleans, the Super Bowl stands to be a major economic boost to the region. I want to congratulate the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation for leading the effort, and Mrs. Gayle Benson and the entire New Orleans Saints organization for serving as tremendous ambassadors for Louisiana as they made the final pitch. ...”

Governor Signed Bills into Laws in May, continued

abuse probation program to include treatment for mental health and Act 251 which creates a pretrial diversion program for veterans diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder. Act 352 provides for oral and telephonic orders of protections under exceptional circumstances and Act 480 prohibits state agencies from contracting with lobbyists.

Following are some of the measures the Governor signed into law in May:

ACT 38 – SB 275 Authorizes individuals to indicate that part of their refund go to the La. **Coalition Against Domestic Violence** for education of women who are victims of domestic violence.

ACT 103 – HB 711 Moves the Louisiana Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, to the office of the governor, and changes the name to the **La. Council on the Success of Black Men and Boys**, which is to be the leading entity that provides and promotes an environment that is conducive to prosperity, success, and excellence for all black men and boys in the state.

ACT 152 – SB 284 Amends the present law regarding **Disaster and Emergency Medical Services** Committee of the Louisiana State Medical Society, by removing some references to the Medical Society and the Society's approval of Rules.

ACT 193 – HB 145 Provides limitations on diagnosing of the disorder commonly known as "**Munchausen syndrome by proxy**", and on initiation of child welfare proceedings.

ACT 227 – SB 24 Provides relative to **social work practice**. New law provides that a faculty member who has obtained a master's degree or license in a field other than social work and who teaches a course in a social work program other than a clinical course, a clinical practicum, or any other course involving the scope of practice of social work at an accredited Louisiana institution of higher education shall not be construed as practicing social work or subject to the licensing of a social worker.

ACT 236 – SB 199 Creates the Advisory Council on **Historically Black Colleges and Universities**.

ACT 251 – SB 548 Creates a **pretrial diversion program for veterans diagnosed with**

posttraumatic stress disorder. In addition to any existing pretrial diversion program, the district attorney for each judicial district, alone or in conjunction with the district attorney of an adjacent judicial district, may create and administer a special pretrial diversion program for defendants who meet requirements.

ACT 263 – HB 79 Creates the **crime of abuse of persons with infirmities** through electronic means and provides for criminal penalties and exceptions. The crime is where a person transfers an image that was obtained by any camera, videotape, or other device, of any person with an infirmity. "Person with an infirmity" means a person who suffers from a mental or physical disability, including those associated with advanced age, which renders the person incapable of adequately providing for his personal care.

ACT 270 – HB 524 Requires policies prohibiting sexual harassment and annual training on **preventing sexual harassment** for public officers and employees.

ACT 271 – HB 735 Establishes a **workforce training pilot initiative to serve public assistance recipients** in certain regions. Proposed law

requires the executive director of the La. Workforce Commission, the secretary of the Dept. of Children and Family Services, the secretary of the La. Dept. of Health, the state superintendent of education, and the president of the La. Community and Technical College System, referred to collectively in proposed law as the "state partners", to collaborate to design and implement a workforce training and education pilot initiative for public assistance recipients.

ACT 273 – HB 394 Establishes the **Post-Conviction Veterans Mentor Program** and the procedures by which a veteran is determined to be eligible for the program and the procedures for the veteran's participation in the program.

ACT 281 – HB 775 Provides relative to the **reimbursement of healthcare providers**. Provides for payment to a new provider in a contracted network of healthcare providers and authorizes recovery of certain amounts upon denial of an application for credentialing.

ACT 290 – HB 875 Provides relative to **health insurance network provider directories**. Requires the posting and regular updating of a directory of a health insurance issuer's network of providers. Requires

the directory to be both electronically searchable by name, specialty, and location and publicly accessible without necessity of providing a password, a user name, or personally identifiable information.

ACT 320 – HB 466 Provides relative to **court-appointed special advocates**. Grants authority to court appointed special advocate program (CASA) volunteers to access a child's home and to attend all administrative review hearings and family team meetings related to the case, and provides for the screening of CASA staff members or members of the board of directors.

ACT 324 – HB 539 Provides for an **expedited licensing process** and associated fees for facilities and providers licensed by the La. Department of Health, including Adult day health care facility; home health agency; hospice; hospital; intermediate care facility for people with developmental disabilities; psychiatric residential treatment facility; therapeutic group home; crisis receiving center; home- and community-based service provider; adult residential care provider.

ACT 352 – SB 72 Provides relative to the execution of an **order for protective custody**

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Please welcome
Heather Pedersen, PhD
to the community!

Dr. Pedersen is a clinical neuropsychologist with experience assessing memory disorders, dementia, multiple sclerosis, and other neurocognitive problems. She will be joining us at Algiers Neurobehavioral Resource, LLC in May 2018 when she moves here from Arizona.



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Governor Signed Bills into Laws in May, continued

and examination. New law provides that a coroner or his staff may apply to the court for an order of protective custody that allows law enforcement to use forced entry to gain access into premises when executing an order of protective custody. New law provides for accompanying documents for an order for protective custody and provides for both oral and telephonic orders of protections under exceptional circumstances.

ACT 353 – SB 99 Extends legislative authority for the **Louisiana Behavior Analyst Board**. New law changes the year of termination from 2018 to 2028.

ACT 354 – SB 101 Creates the **Louisiana Sexual Assault Oversight Commission**. New law replaces the current task force with the La. Sexual Assault Oversight Commission (the commission) within the office of the attorney general to develop recommendations for a standardized sexual assault collection kit and protocols for forensic medical examinations to be used statewide.

ACT 359 – SB 147 Provides relative to a **defamation claim** brought by an alleged perpetrator of sexual misconduct against the alleged victim. New law provides that a court shall stay proceedings in cases of defamation of character, libel, slander, or damage to reputation brought by an alleged perpetrator of sexual misconduct against the alleged victim. Further provides that the stay shall remain until the completion of all investigations, hearings, or proceedings relating to the allegations of sexual misconduct.

ACT 361 – SB 166 Requires the National **Human Trafficking Resource Center** hotline information to be posted in additional locations.

ACT 375 – SB 306 Provides relative to **Assistive Outpatient Treatment**. New laws outlines matters for involuntary outpatient treatment, including: The court shall not order involuntary outpatient treatment unless an examining physician, psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, or psychologist develops and provides to the court a proposed written treatment plan, which specifies a provider that has agreed to provide services.

ACT 392 – SB 558 Provides relative to **incarcerated women**. Requires wardens or sheriffs of a correctional facility to make certain healthcare products available, in housing units and in the medical area, to all women incarcerated in a correctional facility at no cost and in a quantity that is appropriate to the needs of the woman without a medical permit.

ACT 402 – SB 66 Provides relative to admission to treatment facility for mental illness pursuant to **emergency certificate**. New law retains prior law but requires physicians executing an emergency certificate to be licensed or permitted by the La. State Board of Medical Examiners.

ACT 409 – SB 207 Extends and provides for the Louisiana **Obesity Prevention and Management Commission**.

ACT 412 – SB 291 Provides relative to family violence and domestic abuse as factors to consider in determining

visitation and custody. New law retains prior law and provides relative to restriction on visitations for a parent who has subjected a child, stepchild or other household member to a history of family violence or has willingly permitted abuse to his or her children or stepchildren despite the ability to prevent it.

ACT 424 – HB 198 Provides relative to distribution of funding from the **Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund**. Requires that the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund is used as a fund of last resort following the exhaustion of Medicare and Medicaid funding.

ACT 431 – HB 440 Expands DPS&C's **substance abuse probation program** to include treatment for mental health issues. The program shall provide substance abuse counseling and treatment for defendants, and develop contracts with local governmental entities or the office of behavioral health, training facilities, and service providers.

ACT 450 – HB 148 Provides for implementation of the **zero suicide initiative** and a state suicide prevention plan. The initiative requires the office of behavioral health to ensure that administrators of all healthcare facilities licensed by LDH and that all healthcare professionals licensed by any Louisiana board or commission have ready access to informational resources and technical assistance necessary for implementation of the zero suicide initiative.

ACT 454 – HB 189 Provides for processes, including public comment, to identify agency

rules that may be contrary to law, outdated, unnecessary, overly complex, or burdensome. Prior law allows any interested person to **petition an agency regarding a rule**. New law requires the agency to conduct a public hearing for the purpose of comments and to consider fully all submissions.

ACT 458 – HB 488 The mandatory **reporting of crimes of sexual abuse of a minor** will include female genital mutilation.

ACT 475 – SB 528 Provides relative to **physician assistants**. New law increases number of physicians' assistants that a supervising MD may supervise from four to eight. Physician assistants may apply for prescriptive authority if he/she has 500 hours of clinical training and meets other requirements.

ACT 480 – SB 25 Provides relative to prohibited conduct by state employees and agencies. New law **prohibits state government employees from contracting with lobbyists** or for lobbying services by use of a contract, memorandum of understanding, cooperative endeavor agreement, or other similar agreement.

ACT 489 – SB 507 In **Medicaid managed care organizations**, among other requirements, each MCO is to be responsible for ensuring that any provider it contracts with has attained and satisfies all Medicaid provider accreditation requirements and all other applicable state or federal requirements in order to receive reimbursement for providing services to Medicaid recipients.

ACT 495 – HB 474 Requires additional **training for peace officers in domestic violence** awareness, including Dynamics of domestic violence, Predominant aggressor determination, communication with hearing impaired, and other topics.

American Board of Medical Psychology



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Psychology Board Engages Three Psychologists for Complaints Work

According to documents approved April 20 and posted with the March minutes of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, board members passed three resolutions to retain the services of the current Complaints Coordinator, but also engaged two other psychologists to assist when required, as Complaints Coordinators.

The resolutions were dated March 16, 2018, and noted, "... the nature of the functions performed by the Board require the continuing services of a COMPLAINTS COORDINATOR who is a licensed psychologist, with experience in forensics, to review complaints and direct the investigation of complaints; and

"WHEREAS potential conflicts of interest may arise, the Board requires more than one individual to serve in this role; ..."

The resolution noted that Sasha J. Lambert, Ph.D. has been found to be qualified for this position and previously contracted with Board to provide these services to the satisfaction of the Board and her fees would be \$100 per hour for a review but not to exceed \$200 per case in a Request for Investigation.

The document noted that Dr. Lambert would receive \$100 per hour for review of an Administrative Complaint pleading not to exceed \$100, and also \$100 per hour for meetings with attorneys,

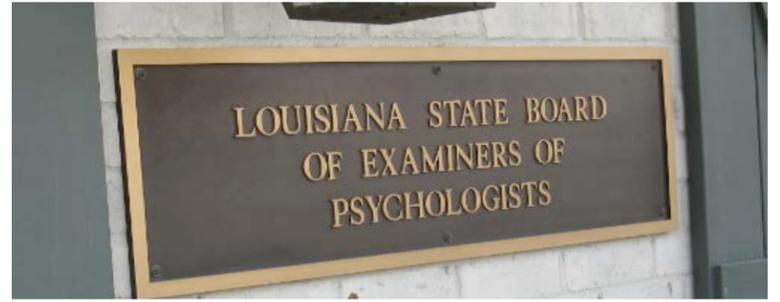
investigator, executive director, and board for preliminary hearings.

The board is to offer Dr. Lambert a multi-year contract as Complaints Coordinator I from July 2018 to 2021 for an amount not to exceed \$36,000.

A second resolution put forth by the LSBEP noted:

"WHEREAS Erin Skaff Vandenberg, Psy.D. has been found to be qualified for this position and previously contracted with Board to provide these services to the satisfaction of the Board;" and is to be engaged as a Complaints Coordinator I, for a fiscal-year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019 for an amount not to exceed a maximum of \$5,000, according to the resolution.

A third resolution noted, "Mark P. Vigen, Ph.D. has been found to be qualified for this position and previously contracted with Board to provide these services to the satisfaction of the Board;" and approving engaging with Dr. Vigen also at the fees of \$100 per hour not to exceed \$200 per case and \$100 for Administrative Complaints. Dr. Vigen is to provide services as Complaints Coordinator III, for a fiscal-year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019 for an amount not to exceed a maximum of \$1,999.



From the Minutes Selected Items from March Discussions of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists

Executive Director Report- Eric Cerwonka, Plaintiff, filed a Rule to Show Cause in the 19 1h JDC, for assessment of specific court costs and attorney fees in the matter No. 656,587, Sec. 24. The matter was heard on March 5, 2018. Judge Caldwell denied Plaintiff's Rule to Show Cause.

Finance Committee Report

Dr. Griffin reported that he reviewed and approved Leave Reports for Ms. Monic. Dr. Griffin reported that he reviewed and approved Bank Reconciliations prepared by Ms. Monic from February 2018. The Board reviewed and by motion of Dr. Henke accepted the Financial Statements for February 2018 prepared by Valerie Dominique, CPA. Ms. Dominique's report stated that: "We currently have budgeted to have a Net Income (Income- Expenses) of \$5,737. With 4 months remaining in this fiscal year, you currently have a Net Income (profit) of \$161,503.86. Total Income is under budget by \$10,593.53. Total expenses are under budget by \$166,360.39. We have completed 8/12 months for the year. The % of Budget column should be at or below 67%. In the attached Budget report I have yellow highlighted several expense accounts that are already over 67%, so we need to be careful about spending in these categories. Otherwise, your financial position looks good."

Contract Renewals for July 1, 2018 - The Board agreed to continue contracts with Courtney P. Newton, Esq. (Attorney), Sasha J. Lambert, Ph.D. (Complaints Coordinator I), Erin Skaff Vandenberg, Psy.D. (Complaints Coordinator II), Mark P. Vigen, Ph.D. (Complaints Coordinator III), Statewide Surveillance (Licensed Investigators) and Valerie Dominique (CPA) by formal resolutions adopted this date, attached as part of these minutes. Sparkhound will be considered at a later date upon receipt of a quote to upgrade platform and develop online Jurisprudence Examination.

Draft Rule Revisions -The Board reviewed the final drafts of rules revising Continuing Education, Inactive Status, Emeritus Status, Fees, and Provisional Licensure. Ms. Monic was directed to distribute the drafts for comment prior to filing for publication.

Dr. Lambert moved to enter Executive Session pursuant to LSA R.S.42:17.A(4), to review credentials and vet nominees to the LSSP Committee, review matters under litigation, and conduct oral examinations and file reviews. By motion of Dr. Boggs, the board unanimously agreed to close executive session to enter the following into the record:

Dr. Crouch recused herself from discussions regarding pending litigation, specifically:

U.S. DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA- LAFAYETTE DIVISION, Eric Cerwonka v. LSBEP Civil Action No.6:17-cv-01095-UDJ-CBW and JST LOUISIANA CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS, No 2017-CA-1199, Appeal from the 191h JDC

Appointment to LSSP Committee to fill the July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2021 seat- In accordance with the LAC Title 46 Part LXIII, Subpart 2, §3202, the Board, reviewed the self-nominations of Jessica Clark, S.S.P. and Stacey L. Johnson, M.A., S.S.P. in Executive Session. After careful consideration of the two qualified nominees, the LSBEP confirmed the appointment of Jessica Clark, S.S.P., to the LSSP Committee for the term beginning July 1, 2018- June 30, 2021.



Louisiana Board of Examiners of Psychologists member Dr. Leah Crouch (L) and Executive Director Jaime Monic at a meeting last year. The board has been making changes in the staffing of the Complaints subcommittee, and recently passed resolutions to add more psychologists to assist with reviews.

State & National News

ULM's Dr. Bill McCown Named Distinguished Psychologist continued

citizens, he exemplifies what it means to advance psychology for the benefit of the larger society."

Dr. McCown's research in impulsivity and its prevention has ranged from non-pharmacological addictions, including gambling and chronic procrastination, to explorations of nonlinear behavior models as described by chaos theory. His books include *Treating Gambling Problems, The Best Possible Odds: Contemporary Treatment Strategies for Gambling Disorders, Strange Attractors: Chaos, Complexity, and the Art of Family Therapy, Family Therapy of Neurobehavioral Disorders, Procrastination and Task Avoidance: Theory, Research, and Treatment*, and *The Impulsive Client: Theory Research, and Treatment*.

Dr. McCown attended Loyola University Chicago's Child and Adult Clinical Psychology program. He moved to Louisiana for a clinical internship at Tulane University Medical Center under Dr. Phil Griffin. His first position as a psychologist was at the New Orleans VA Medical Center where he worked with the chronically homeless and wrote a grant on the hormone ACTH and posttraumatic stress. He left Louisiana to accept a position at Hahnemann University in Philadelphia, where he became associate professor.

While at Hahnemann, he secured funding for a novel treatment program for HIV positive, pregnant, substance-abusing women and their families. He performed outreach research regarding HIV prevention with high-risk populations and was a volunteer AIDS educator in rural areas. He also had a popular public affairs radio show focusing on psychological topics.

Following Hahnemann's purchase by a managed care group, he left for the Nathan Kline Institute for

Biological Psychiatry, an affiliate of the World Health Organization, where he obtained a position as a Geriatric Neuropsychologist. There, he conducted research on Alzheimer's disease and stress and also on nonlinear systems theory.

Dr. McCown returned to what was then Northeastern Louisiana University in Monroe and began a research program in chronic

procrastination and disordered gambling. He has remained at what is now University of Louisiana at Monroe for 23 years, chairing over 50 theses and dissertations and coauthoring or coediting eight books. He has more than 50 professional articles and over a hundred presentations.

He is a charter member of the Association of Psychological Science, a founding member of the

Society of Chaos Theory in Psychology and Life Sciences, a fellow of the International Society for the Study of Affective Disorders, and a previous winner of his college's researcher of the year award.

Bill lives in Ruston with his wife Wendy, a Montessori teacher, and his two boys. Aside from teaching, research, and family, his major activity is as a volunteer in the Louisiana Association of

Compulsive Gambling, where has been a board member for 16 years and is currently Vice President. This group answers the gambling hotline for 27 states and provides residential and other treatment at no cost for Louisiana residents in need. He also provides volunteer support for adults who have been recently diagnosed with epilepsy, a disorder he shares with three million Americans.

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Dr. Michael Chafetz Receives Award for Scientific Contributions

The Louisiana Psychological Association has recognized the work of Dr. Michael Chafetz and named him the recipient of the 2018 Contributions in Scientific Psychology Award at their ceremony last month.

Chafetz has made national and international news after he and colleagues began studying malingering in disability claimants and publishing research in 2006.

In a series of research articles, Dr. Chafetz and colleagues demonstrated that base-rates of malingering in social security claims come to 41.8 percent. This is higher than the 30 percent that is typically found in legal cases. Chafetz is one of the top researchers in this area, and he has had his work published in a string of peer-reviewed, scientific journals and presented to audiences nationally and internationally, including by invitation at the American Psychological Association.

Chafetz was asked to consult on these issues to a U.S. Senator, Tom Coburn, who noted publically the seriousness of the issues and the scientific findings:

“Translating these base-rates of malingering to benefit payments is alarming,” Senator Coburn wrote. “Considering only adult beneficiaries asserting mental disorders and using the widely accepted figure of 40 percent malingering in medicolegal cases,” he wrote, “SSA paid approximately \$20.02 billion in SSI and SSDI benefits in 2011 for claims based on malingered mental disorders alone. If one considers that ‘disability,’ which is defined as an inability to work, can be feigned no matter what the illness, then the agency spent approximately \$68 billion (or 40 percent of \$170 billion in total net benefit payments) in 2011 on disability beneficiaries who were likely malingering.”

Among his many other achievements, Dr. Chafetz is board certified in Clinical Neuropsychology and a reviewer for *Applied Neuropsychology*, *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*. He has authored books and published numerous articles in refereed journals, including “To Work Or Not To Work: Motivation (Not Low IQ) Determines SVT Findings” (*Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*), and “The Psychological Consultative Examination for Social Security Disability” (*Psychological Injury and Law*, in press). He presented “The Role of the Psychologists in the Psychological Consultative Examination for Social Security Disability,” an invited talk at the 2011 APA Annual Convention for the Division of Neuropsychology. He has been elected to the Board of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology and he is a Fellow in the National Academy of Neuropsychology and previous Fellow of American Psychological Society.

In addition to consulting for a United States Senator, he testified at hearings at the Institute of Medicine, and consulted for the Office of the Inspector General on these issues.

Dr. Chafetz is also the author of *Intellectual Disability: Criminal and Forensic Issues*, published by Oxford Press, which includes many of these issues. Recently he has authored a chapter for the *Textbook of Clinical Neuropsychology*, published in December by Taylor & Francis. Chafetz contributes the chapter on Disability, in Part III: Forensic, Ethical and Practice Issues. The *Textbook* is considered a standard in the field, in its scope and scholarship.

Dr. Chafetz is a board certified clinical neuropsychologist working in independent practice in New Orleans, La. His research program has involved validity assessment in low functioning children and adults being assessed for Social Security Disability, state rehabilitation, and child protection. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed articles on a variety of psychological topics.



Dr. Mike Chafetz (seated) speaking with Dr. Jim Van Hook, at a previous conference. Dr. Chafetz was honored with the award for Scientific Contributions from the Louisiana Psychological Association.

ULM Forensic Psychology Program Ranked in Top Online Programs

College Choice Ranking has placed the University of Louisiana – Monroe’s Forensic Psychology masters program as one of the top ten for quality training and as first in the country for affordability.

The raters said, “The most affordable program on our list with a net price of just \$9,145 per year, the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) is a public university with a lot to offer. Its online branch, eULM offers over 30 degree programs, and was recently named the #1 online program in Louisiana.”

“ULM runs a well-respected and established Department of Psychology. The Forensic Psychology concentration within the Master of Science degree is just one of three other areas of

focus. You can complete this concentration online. In addition to your core credits, you’ll take forensic-specific classes like: Psychopathology, Counseling in Criminal Justice, Minorities, Crime, and Criminal Law, and Psychological Assessment.”

College Choice Ranking also said, “This program strives to give students as many options as possible. While a thesis track is not required in this particular curriculum, the program allows you to pursue it alongside a faculty member. A final thesis project is especially important for students hoping to continue on to a doctorate program.”

College Choice Ranking draws their data team at College Choice, the quality resources at *U.S. News & World Report*, and the data at Payscale.com.

Louisiana Employment Hits All-Time High

On May 18, Gov. Edwards released the following statement on the announcement that Louisiana hit an all-time high in the number of employed individuals since publishing began in 1976. According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) as of April 2018, Louisiana recorded its all-time record of seasonally adjusted employed. As a result, Louisiana has the lowest unemployment rate in a decade at 4.5 percent. “This is incredible news for our state, and it is further proof that Louisiana moving in the right direction when it comes to job availability and having a workforce that is ready to meet the demands of our growing economy,” said Gov. Edwards. The largest gain came in Education & Health Services, with 7,800 jobs added this year so far. Next was Construction, with 2,300 jobs added. Baton Rouge and Lake Charles were the highest areas.

Louisiana Opportunity Zones Certified by U.S. Treasury Department

On May 17 Governor Edwards announced the U.S. Department of the Treasury has certified all 150 census tracts nominated by the Governor to be Louisiana "Opportunity Zones." These Zones will feature tax incentives to attract investments to low-income communities in the state. Part of the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, the Opportunity Zones program will establish low-income communities as tax-advantaged areas for new long-term private investment.

The Treasury Department administers the program through its Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, or CDFI Fund, noted the announcement. That office sought nominations from Louisiana, with the state including a public comment period in March and soliciting statewide input to identify census tracts with the greatest need and the most potential for new investment, development and job creation. With input from a broad range of stakeholders, Gov. Edwards nominated Louisiana census tracts in April.

"We're pleased that all 150 census tracts we nominated are now qualified as Opportunity Zones," Gov. Edwards said. "This federal certification means we have new tools at our

disposal to bring much-needed investment and new jobs to the areas of Louisiana who most need them. Through a collaboration of private investors, state agencies and local communities, we can work hand-in-hand to ensure that new opportunities for growth are created in Louisiana through this program."

With public input, Gov. Edwards nominated the maximum 25 percent of Louisiana's low-income census tracts for the Opportunity Zones program. The Treasury Department will issue additional guidance about how investors may qualify for the program through equity investments in the selected Opportunity Zones.

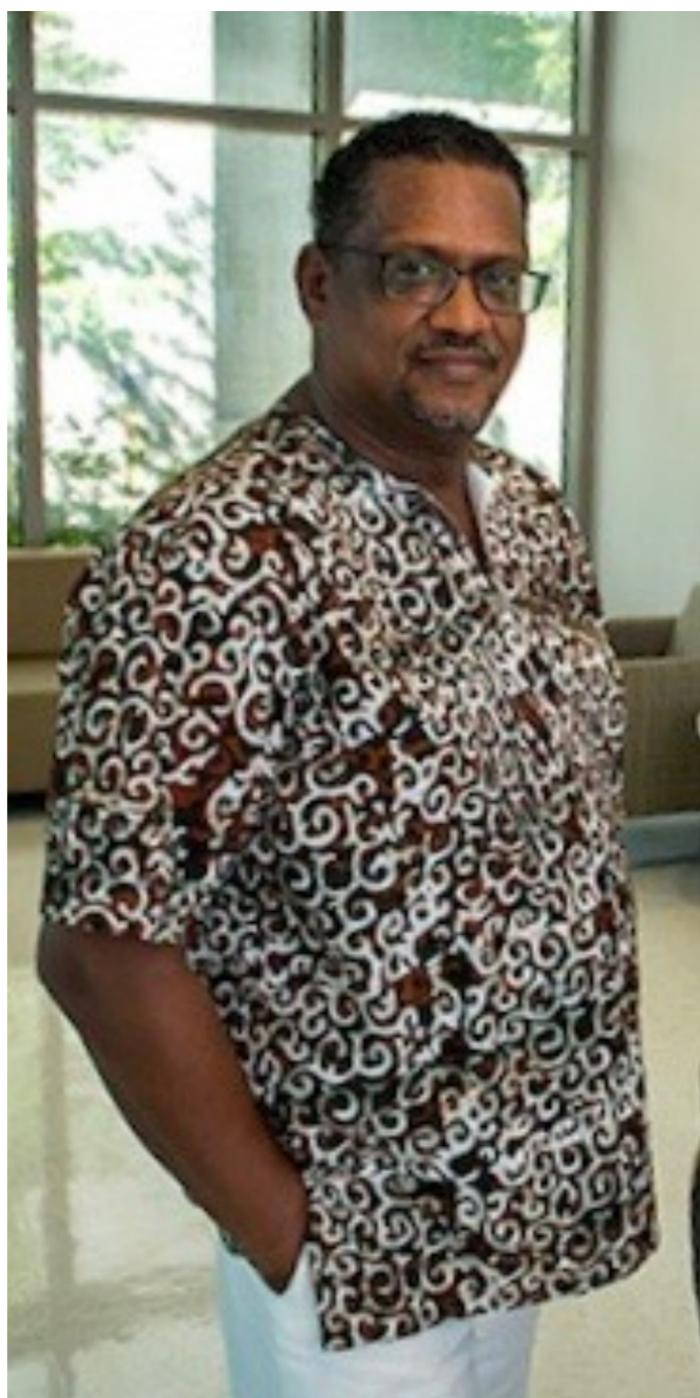
The public may view Louisiana's Opportunity Zones on an interactive map. Visit OpportunityLouisiana.com/business-incentives/opportunity-zones.

Congress and the Treasury Department advised governors to consider lower-income areas where existing state, local and private economic development initiatives are underway to attract new investment and to foster startup activity. The zones can include

previously designated Empowerment Zones, Renewal Communities, or New Markets Tax Credits project areas that help attract investment to under-served areas.

For investors, the primary attraction of Opportunity Zones is deferring and lowering federal taxes on capital gains. For a qualified Opportunity Zones investment, capital gains taxes may be deferred the first five years; after Year 5, taxes may be cancelled on 10 percent of the original capital gains investment and deferred for the remaining capital gains; in Year 7 through Year 10, taxes may be cancelled on 15 percent of the original capital gains investment, and the remainder may be deferred through 2026; for Opportunity Zones investments lasting longer than 10 years, investors are exempt from capital gains taxes on the Opportunity Zones investment itself, in addition to the other benefits for capital gains carried into the investment.

For more information on the Opportunity Zones program at the federal level, visit CDFIfund.gov/Opportunity-Zones.



Tulane's Dr. Michael Cunningham Honored for Psychology in Public Interest

Dr. Michael Cunningham, Professor of Psychology at Tulane University, and who holds a Joint Appointment as Provost in the African and African Diaspora Studies Program at Tulane, has been named the recipient of the 2018 Award for Psychology in the Public Interest by the Louisiana Psychological Association.

"Dr. Cunningham has led a personal and professional life at the intersection of the science of psychology and issues of diversity, especially of racial issues of African Americans, a topic of great importance to the state of Louisiana, where children still exist in third generation poverty in some areas. Dr. Cunningham is an outstanding leader in our community in the area of diversity, an African American, a psychologist, educator and scientist who epitomizes excellence and service to his community," said the awards committee.

Dr. Cunningham's work is uniformly esteemed and he was honored in 2013 with the Distinguished Contributions Award from the prestigious Society for Research in Child Development, among others. He is Editor for *Research in Human Development* (2018-2024), Associate Editor for *Child Development* (2007 – present), and on the Editorial Board Member *Journal of Negro Education* (2011 – 2017), among many other scholarly activities where his expertise in the psychology of racially diverse individuals is utilized.

His research focuses on resilience and vulnerability in adolescent populations and context specific phenomena associated with mental health and academic outcomes among African

Americans. He has authored an extensive list of research on areas of importance for understanding young African Americans, including "African American adolescent males' perceptions of their community resources and constraints: A longitudinal analysis," in the *Journal of Community Psychology*; "The Black Male Experiences Measure," in *Handbook of Tests and Measurements for Black Populations*; "School and community-based associations to hypermasculine attitudes in African American adolescent males," in *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*; and "Sex role influences of African American adolescent males: a literature review" in *Journal of African American Male Studies*.

Dr. Cunningham teaches Introduction to African American Psychology, Adolescent Psychology, Black Youth: Developmental Psychology Perspectives, Research Methods in Urban Communities, New Orleans Youth: Resilience and Vulnerability in Tomorrow's Leaders, Advance Adolescent Psychology and Children of Color, at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

He was invited to participate at the National Science Foundation's sponsored Colloquy on Minority Males in STEM, and is the recipient of the Barbara E. Moely Award for outstanding Service Learning Teaching, Tulane University. Dr. Cunningham is also the Suzanne and Stephen Weiss Presidential Fellow at Tulane and was recently named for his mentoring of young people to leadership roles in STEM sciences, by *Insight into Diversity Magazine*.

Dr. Michael Cunningham is the 2018 recipient of the Psychology in the Public Interest Award from the Louisiana Psychological Association. The organization is the state affiliate of the American Psychological Association.

(Tulane photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

Lt. Governor Nungesser, Dr. Lilienfeld Speak at 70th Louisiana Psychological Association Convention, continued

branding effort was data-driven, pointing to the evidence-based methods and thinking-outside-the-box for the outcomes.

Followed with hearty applause by attendees, the video included an appealing, baritone narrator who said, "Louisiana isn't for spectators. It's for participants, for those who want to feed their soul, to not only live in the moment, but to become the moment."

The video can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EnGR-fDaMU4>

Nationally recognized speaker and Emory Professor Dr. Scott O. Lilienfeld, continued the theme with "Being the Essential Partner: Understanding and Overcoming Skepticism about Scientific Psychology."

Dr. Lilienfeld, recipient of the James McKeen Cattell Award for Lifetime Contributions to Applied Psychological Science from the Association for Psychological Science, reviewed the evidence for the public's skepticism of psychology as a science and why the public has doubts about information from psychological science.

Among his findings he cited that only 30% agree that "psychology attempts to understand the way people behave through scientific research" and 41% see psychological research as less rigorous than medical research. Along with many findings he noted that an APA Presidential Task Force found that, "Despite psychology's foundation in science and its standing as the science of human



Lt. Governor William (Billy) Nungesser speaking at recent convention of the state psychological association about solving problems in Louisiana.

behavior, it is not fully accepted as a science by the general public."

After Dr. Lilienfeld reviewed the common criticisms of psychology's scientific status he discussed rebuttals of the criticisms, and

gave main reasons for negative public views of psychology.

He noted that the public face of psychology is not represented by psychological scientists. "Psychologists are rarely called on by the media to comment on psychological findings; when they are, they are rarely scientific psychologists," he said.

He pointed to "The Illusion of Understanding—We're all 'psychologists' in everyday life, so psychology seems easy."

Among the problems he included the "Confusion Between Psychologists and Psychotherapists," as an important factor.

He also said that that scientific psychology is challenged by the "scientific impotence excuse," and that "When psychological findings conflict with our deeply held intuitions, we may resolve that cognitive dissonance by dismissing a scientific approach to the questions at hand..."

Among the remedies, Dr. Lilienfeld said that, "Academic and practicing psychologists have not spent enough of their time disseminating science to the public, combating bad science, and correcting misconceptions of the field."

"We must play a more active role in educating laypersons about psychology's scientific side and confronting its nonscientific side," he said.



Dr. Scott O. Lilienfeld speaking about the public face of psychology and how to improve conditions.

Cont'd next pg

Science & Education

Lt. Governor, Dr. Lilienfeld at Conference continued

Lilienfeld's work has been cited over 21,295 times. He delivered the Award Address, "Psychology's Public Image Problem: Why Many Laypersons and Politicians Don't View Our Field as Scientific," at APS. He is also a researcher and test author in areas of psychopathy, and also presented, "The Multifaceted Nature of Psychopathy."

Also highlighted this year was neuropsychologist David Schwartz, PhD, from the Concussion Institute in Atlanta; April Foreman, PhD, licensed psychologist and Suicide Prevention Coordinator for Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System; and Canadian psychologist, and expert in nutritional mental health, Bonnie Kaplan, PhD.

Denise Newman, PhD, chaired a panel with Drs. Alvin Burstein, Dana Labat, and Sandra Loucks, on the "Heart of Change in Psychotherapy."

"Ethical Issues and Health Disparity," was presented by co-chairs ValaRay Irvin, PhD and Chris Leonhard, PhD, APPB. Alan Coulter, PhD, and Courtland Chaney, PhD, presented a cross specialty presentation on "Opportunities for Organization Development Interventions in Schools: The Interface of Two Specialties."

Members of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists and staff presented, "Laws, Rules & Ethics Update."

Tiffany Jennings, PsyD, presented, "Highlights on Rural Health: Utilizing Telehealth to Increase Access to Care, Support, and Peer Consultation."

Jill Hayes, PhD, lead a round table discussion on "Ethical and Legal Issues for Misdiagnosis," with Drs. Denise Newman, John Fanning, and Marc Zimmermann.

A Scientific Poster Session was chaired by Drs. Ashley Jefferson and Melissa Dufrene, and the Science Café was chaired by Drs. Scott Smith and Bridget Sonnier-Hillis.

The Convention included an Industrial-Organizational Psychology Mini-Conference, with presentations by Richard Flicker, PhD, Courtland Chaney, PhD, Jim Stodd, MS, Barry Vose, BS, William Costelloe, PhD, Tyree Mitchell, PhD, John-Luke McCord and Brian Doyle, and Jared LeDoux, PhD.

Stress Solutions

by Susan Andrews, PhD

Last column I started to describe a list of "20 Scientifically Backed Ways to De-Stress Right Now" from the HuffPost. We only got through 10 of the suggestions. The list is creative and offers some easy and very fast ways to take a quick relaxation break. I have tried the Naam Yoga Hand Trick and found that it totally works in moments. Apply pressure to the space between your second and third knuckle (the joints at the base of your pointer and middle fingers); it creates a sense of instant calm. Author Sharon Melnick of *Success Under Stress*, said that "it activates a nerve that loosens the area around the heart, so any of that fluttery feeling you feel when you are nervous will end up going away."

The article suggests that if you do not have music or headphones handy, try humming or making your own music. Another suggestion was to use the internet to find guided meditations and/or uTube music for relaxation. A good laugh is always a winner to break into the mood. For example, a viral video. The Mayo Clinic explains that "laughter enhances your intake of oxygen-rich air, stimulates your heart, lungs and muscles, and increases the endorphins that are released by your brain." Or, remember one of those times you were so tickled that you laughed until you cried.

Another of the 20 tips was to Eat a Banana (Or a Potato!). By way of explanation of the science behind this suggestion, the article said that potassium help regulate blood pressure. Eating a banana or potato also provides energy. They quoted the American Psychological Association as recommending eating a banana or potato to "stave off the physical detriments of stress."

Try the Eagle Pose if you are a yoga practitioner. This is supposed to open the shoulders and relieve neck tension. The Eagle Pose, also known as Garudasana, improves your balance and stretches your upper back, shoulders and outer thighs. Regularly practicing this pose can strengthen your leg, knees and ankles. Your spine should be erect and hips and shoulder face forward.

Mindfulness and meditation teacher, Dr. Herbert Benson, has suggested that knitting fulfills two criteria of mindfulness practice: "the repetition of a sound, word, phrase prayer, or movement, and the passive setting aside of intruding thoughts and returning to the repetition."

Finally, the list offers "Chew a Piece of Gum!" Honestly, the explanation is that chewing can relieve anxiety, improve alertness and reduce stress. They quote a 2008 study on the benefits of chewing gum.

To sum up the unusual list of 20 Scientifically Backed Ways to De-Stress Right Now:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Go for a 10-minute Walk | 11. Eat ONE Candy |
| 2. Breathe Deeply | 12. Find web-based stress mgt program |
| 3. Visualize | 13. Chew a Piece of Gum |
| 4. Eat a Snack (Mindfully!) | 14. Watch a Viral Video |
| 5. Buy Yourself a Plant | 15. Progressive Muscle Relaxation |
| 6. Step Away from the Screen | 16. Seriously, Turn off your phone |
| 7. Pucker Up | 17. See your BFF |
| 8. Naam Yoga Hand Trick | 18. Eat a Banana or Potato |
| 9. Hang up, Then Turn Off Your Phone | 19. Try the Eagle Pose |
| 10. Put on Some Music | 20. Knit or cross-stitch |



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.

Researchers Present at Southwestern Psychological Association

continued

reviewers were: Burton Ashworth – University of Louisiana Monroe; Brooke Breaux – University of Louisiana at Lafayette; Daniel Chadborn – Southeastern Louisiana University; Manyu Li – University of Louisiana at Lafayette; Cynthia Lindsey – Northwestern State University; Valanne MacGyvers – University of Louisiana at Lafayette; Janelle McDaniel – University of Louisiana at Monroe; and Seth Tackett – University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Teresa Wozencraft, University of Louisiana – Lafayette, was honored as a financial supporter.

Research and researchers from across the state included a list of papers and presentations by the Lake Charles Research Group. This group branches through the state and includes: Burton Ashworth, University of Louisiana Monroe; Grishma Poudel, University of Louisiana Monroe; Seth Tackett, University of Louisiana Monroe; Melissa Thorne, University of Louisiana Monroe; Lawrence Dilks, Lake Charles Memorial Hospital; Kimberly Hutchinson, Lake Charles Memorial Hospital; Sandra Viggiani, Lake Charles Clinical Trials; and Billie Myers, Lake Charles Memorial Hospital.

Members of the Lake Charles group authored presentations for: “Rutter Theory and A LONGSCAN Cohort,” “Caregiver Psychopathology and Child Mental Health Status,” “Has the Time Arrived to License Master Level Psychologists?” “2018 And 2020 APA Rule Changes for Admission to Doctoral Programs,” “A Pilot Study of The Relationship Between the SLUMS and Moca,” “Case Study of An Individual with Multiple System Atrophy,” “An Analysis of The Neuropsychological Consequences of Bilateral Stroke,” “How to Gain Admission to A Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology,” “Is a Soft Answer Always Optimal in Turning Away Wrath?” “Relationship of Caregiver Neglect and Conduct Disorder,” and “A Five Year Analysis of Hemorrhagic and

Ischemic Cerebral Vascular Accidents.”

Melissa Hawthorne, Louisiana State University-Shreveport, presented, “A Multi-Factor Approach to Student Success: Motivation, Social Support, And Study Skills.”

Louisiana Tech University had several presentations. Nathalie Campsen and Walter Buboltz presented, “Internet Use, Well-Being, And Sleep:

Examining the Relationship Amongst College Students.”

Nathalie Campsen, Dylan Harrell and Walter Buboltz presented, “College Students’ Lifestyle Appraisal, Well-Being, And Sleep: What Is the Relationship?”

Kim Ernst and Camila Casaw, both from Loyola University New Orleans, presented, “Effect of A Body Surveillance Manipulation on Young Adults’ Body

Satisfaction Perceptions.”

McNeese State University also had several presentations.

Bianca Augustine and Jimmy Trahan, both McNeese University, presented, “Conformity in Social Media Postings,” with Nicholas Skinner.

“Come Here, Go Away: Familiarity and Willingness to Interact with Mental Illness,” was presented by Bianca

Augustine, Kevin Yaudes, and Jessica Taylor, all with McNeese State University

Bianca Augustine and Linda Brannon, McNeese State University, presented, “Is Beauty in The Ethnicity of the Beholder?”

McNeese’s Bianca Augustine and Kevin Yaudes presented, “When Clients Are Best Served by A Team: A Collaborative Counseling Model.”

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Researchers at Southwestern Psych Assn

continued

“Perceptions of Academic Dishonesty,” was presented by McNeese’s Dena Matzenbacher, Linda Brannon, and Bianca Augustine, with Kane Vest.

Cynthia Lindsey, Northwestern State University, chaired a SWPA Talk Session: Cross-Cultural 2, and presented, “Mediation of Parental Acceptance and Fear of Intimacy in African American Students,” with Shaila Khan, of Tougaloo College.

Ayla Owens, also with Northwestern State University, presented, “Criminal Thinking as a Predictor of Recidivism Within a Louisiana Inmate Population.”

Paula Varnado-Sullivan, Southeastern Louisiana University, Paris Williams, Southeastern Louisiana University, and Frank Mons, Southeastern Louisiana University, presented, “So Is It Fake News?”

Daniel Chadborn, Southeastern Louisiana University, served as a reviewer but also presented a range of work including:

“The Cheerleader Effect: Successful Replication and Attempted Expansion;”
 “Perceived Stigma, Social Identity, And Group Norms as Predictors of Prosocial Behavior,”
 “Bottom Prejudice: Negative Evaluations of Sex Role Identity in The Gay Community,”
 “Losing Heterosexuality: Straight Men Who Sleep with Men and Sex Roles,”
 “Welcome to The Rainbow? Evaluations of Trans-People’s Sexuality;”
 “All Play and No Work: Examining Dominant and Submissive Fantasies,” and
 “A Social Identity Perspective of Personality Differences Between Fan and Non-Fan Identities.”

Also from Southeastern were Casey Waters, Nicole Thibodeaux, and Suzanne Booth-Ledoux, presenting, “The Modern Student: Examining Supervisor Influence on School Role Overload and Wellbeing.”

“Helping Students Help Themselves: An Assessment of Recovery in College Students,” was presented by Suzanne Booth-Ledoux, Faith Allen, and Casey Waters, all of Southeastern Louisiana University.

The University of Lafayette had the largest showing in the state, including Finalist in the Student



(L to R) Dr. Alesia Williams, Dr. Richard Niolon, Dr. Valanne MacGyvers, and Dr. Randy Lemoine discuss research from Dr. MacGyvers’ lab at University of Louisiana–Lafayette at a 2017 conference. Dr. MacGyvers recently presented her research along with students and colleagues, at the Southwestern Psychological Association annual meeting held in April in Houston, Texas.

Competition, Alyssa LaCour and Brooke Breaux.

Sydney Andrews, Valanne MacGyvers, and Savannah D’aubin, all with University of Louisiana at Lafayette, presented, “Autism Knowledge Among College Students.”

“A Multi-Media Study on Immersion Levels and Aggressive Cognitions,” was presented by Laken Mckenzie, Taylor Laviolette, and Amy Brown, all University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Raven Douglas, Eva Lieberman, Emily Alleman, and Amy Brown, University of Louisiana At Lafayette, presented “Effects of Relationships on Bystander Perceptions of Sexual Violence.”

Alyssa Lacour and Brooke Breaux, presented, “Understanding the Relation Between Depression, ADHD, and Rumination.”

“Death Anxiety of a Loved One in A Cross-Cultural Study,” was presented by Andre Rodriquez, University of Louisiana at Lafayette Psi Chi.

“Dispositional Qualities Behind Behaviors in Response to Socially Rejecting Moments,” was presented Ashley Hughes.

Dylan John, Aline Gossen, and Amy Brown, all University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL), presented, “Perceptions of Safety and Effectiveness into Bystander Scenarios.”

“Adolescent Sexual Education: The Role of the Internet,” was presented by Michelle Simon, Layne Hardy, and Valanne MacGyvers, ULL.

“Effects of Mortality Salience on News Media Interpretation,” was presented by Trey Delcambre, Brooke Breaux, and Hanh Vu, ULL.

Melanie Schanke and Amy Brown, presented, “Factors Influencing Post-Traumatic Distress and Growth Following Sexual Assault.”

“Adaptive Functioning and Attachments in Adult-Children of Early Childhood Divorce,” was presented by Alexis Mayeux, ULL.

Valanne MacGyvers, Kristine Melancon, both ULL, and Audra Jensen, presented, “The Role of Parent Involvement and Supervision in The Prediction of College Success.”

Caitlin Daigle, Elizabeth Bakies, and Theresa Wozencraft, all ULL, presented, “Parental Loyalty Conflict and Psychological Maltreatment: Risks and Resource.”

“Anxiety/Depression in College-Aged Population Who Experienced Parental Loyalty Conflict Behaviors,” was presented by Taylor Mayer, ULL.

“The Role of Self-Efficacy and Perceived Reward and Recognition in Undergraduate Education,” was presented by Manyu Li, University of Louisiana at Lafayette and Sandi Van Lieu.

Researchers from the University of Louisiana–Monroe, presented a number of projects.

Mary Elizabeth Bridges, Seth Tackett, and Janelle McDaniel, all from The University of Louisiana Monroe, presented, “Ethnic Differences in General Fear of Failure in College Students.”

Janelle McDaniel and Seth Tackett, also presented, “Ethnic and Cultural Influences on College Students’ Self Efficacy.”

Seth Tackett and Jack Palmer, both University of Louisiana Monroe, presented, “The Relationship Between the Dark Triad and Altruistic Behavior.”

And “Effects of Gender on Rating Culpability and Punishment for Crime,” was presented by Melissa Thorne and Jack Palmer, University of Louisiana Monroe.

A Shrink at the Flicks

A Quiet Place Review

by Alvin G. Burstein, PhD

A Quiet Place is not just another horror flick retreading the well-worn *War of the Worlds* trope. It involves us in an exploration of the meaning of family, introducing themes of tenderness, loss and love. It takes us from horror to terror, involving us with a family that demonstrates courage and resilience in the face of near unmanageable threat. There is a hint of stereotyping in the emphasis on women as givers of life, and fathers as providing security. But the former is consonant with the unearthing of prehistoric female idols; the latter, with the patriarchal mode of both Christianity and Freudian Oedipal theory.

The Abbot family are survivors of an invasion of the world by blind monsters with hyper-acute hearing. They attack anything that makes noise. The movie opens with the family scavenging for supplies in an abandoned, near ruined store. They move in scrupulous silence, a silence that endures for most of the film. The three children and their parents, adept at ASL because the oldest child, Regan, a pre-teen, was born deaf, silently communicate by sign language. Her two younger brothers are Beau, four, and Marcus, a few years younger than Regan. In the store, Beau is fascinated by a battery operated toy rocket ship. His father, Lee, takes it away from him because of its noise making potential. To be safe, Lee removes its batteries but Regan covertly returns the toy to Beau, who, when no one is looking, impulsively grabs the batteries.

On the long, silent trek back to their farm, Beau, trailing the others, sets off the toy and an extra-terrestrial flashes across the screen, killing him. The rest escape to the silent safety of their farm dwelling.

A year passes as the family grieves but Regan is burdened with guilt. In his underground workshop Lee tries to reach other survivors by short wave radio, and

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.



works on a cochlear aid that will help Regan hear. Regan, guilt and resentment smoldering, refuses to try his device. When Lee takes Marcus on a field trip to teach him survival skills, Regan feels rejected and leaves the home to visit Beau's grave.

The mother, Evelyn, has become pregnant. While the others are away, she leaves the basement to visit Beau's bedroom one last time. Her amniotic bag bursts, and in her hurry to return to the sound proofed basement, she impales her heel on an exposed nail in the stairs. She clumsily breaks a picture frame, bringing a monster to the basement. Struggling to remain silent in her labor, she triggers a signal light to alert the family to the emergency, and immerses herself in the bathtub to give birth. When Lee sees the lights, he sends Marcus to set off fireworks to distract the monsters and returns home to find Evelyn and the newborn son. Evelyn insists that Lee go to find Regan and Marcus.

As the plot unfolds, gender related issues take surprising, perhaps unsettling, twists, the details of which I will leave for the audience. I will point out the synchronicity between Regan's deafness and the monsters' auditory hyper-acuity and raise the question of the symbolic meaning of Evelyn's wound. And I will risk the spoiler of saying that the movie ends with Regan and her mother facing extra-terrestrials on their own.

Otto Rank, one of the early psychoanalysts, argued that the unspoken trauma of birth leaves a deep, equally unspeakable, mental residue. Ernest Becker built on Rank's views, insisting that the uniquely human, terrifying knowledge of one's mortality is only partially counterbalanced by symbolic rituals warding off that awful recognition. Horror/terror films are such rituals—a kind of controlled terror seeking mastery of that experience.

But the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins warns us:

*"O the mind, mind has mountains; cliffs of fall
Frightful, sheer, no-man-fathomed. Hold them cheap
May who ne'er hung there."*

The Southern Psychologist to Be Reincarnated

A team of psychologists aiming to reboot the well-respected, 1980s, regional journal, *The Southern Psychologist*, announced last week that they are in the final stages of development and will be launching the new publication, currently with the working title of *Contemporary Southern Psychologist*. The Co-Editors are Bill McCown, PhD, MKay Bonner, PhD, and Burt Ashworth, PhD, all from University of Louisiana at Monroe.

“Our mission will be to emphasize what Psychology can do for our region,” said Dr. McCown, Associate Dean for Research in the College of Business and Social Sciences and also Coordinator of the Psychology Department at the University of Louisiana–Monroe.

“The South, perhaps for reason that no one still understands, has been slow to embrace this potential contribution. The results of this failure are all around us. The mental and overall physical health of southern citizens is poor. The southern education system is often disconnected from advances in cognitive and social psychology. Southern criminal justice systems desperately need changes that are informed by behavioral science. In the private sector many corporations inadequately understand what organizational psychology now can offer. Consequently, they are not maximally competitive beyond our region.”

“We want to provide a venue for what a more psychological approach can

accomplish for improving life in the South and beyond. To do this we propose a peer-reviewed, open source journal. Our mission statement will be to reflect issues relevant to behavioral sciences in our region-and beyond. We want to link theory and practice.”

McCown explained that the original *Southern Psychologist* was published by LSU Psychology Department during the mid-1980s. “Unfortunately, it was a victim of the budget cuts of that era, the first of many. Despite its brief press run, however, it was influential and earned positive comments from such well-known psychologists as Hans Eysenck, Raymond Cattell, Richard Gorsuch, and Luciano L’Abate, to name just a few.”

“The reason was its professional relevance and timeliness. Its editor, Dr. Ralph Dreger, ensured its content was pertinent to both practitioners and researchers,” said McCown. “It focused on topics important to the South and beyond. This is the spirit we hope to follow.”

“While we will remain editorially independent of other groups, a nonfinancial affiliation with the Louisiana Psychological Association is natural,” said McCown.

“This is a deeper opportunity for Psychology to assert its identity to a region that has not recognized what we do and can do well. This

is very much in the spirit of the original publication and we hope is a way of celebrating 70 years of LPA’s successes in our state.”

Dr. MKay Bonner, Associate Professor, Criminal Justice & Psychology, College of Business & Social Sciences, University of Louisiana at Monroe, said, “Our plan and goal is to publish the first issue before the end of 2018. We are utilizing a co-editor system which will help reduce the workload for any one person,” she said. “Also, our co-editors have a very diverse background with collaborations in many areas. This will help increase the diversity of topics in the journal as well as the utilization of experts from around the region and the southern U.S.”

“I am so very excited to be part of this endeavor,” Dr. Bonner said.

“Psychology has so much practical information to offer to many fields including education, criminal justice, and business, to name but a few. Our hope is to use this journal as a venue to make psychological research, theory, and knowledge easily accessible to everyone to help their work and lives. Psychology should not be stuck in a lab or lecture hall,” she said.

“The richness of information within psychology should be attainable by everyone. Hopefully this journal will be one more step toward this goal.”

Dr. Christopher Parkinson Receives Early Career Honor

The Louisiana Psychological Association named Christopher R. L. Parkinson, PhD, as the 2018 Early Career Psychologist.

Dr. Parkinson is a licensed Psychologist in the state of LA and is a current staff member at the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System (SLVHCS) in New Orleans. He works clinically in the area of Behavioral Medicine and is a core member of his facility’s Interdisciplinary Palliative Care Team. Within SLVHCS, he is the mental health representative for Oncology/Hematology, a member of the steering committee for telehealth, and is a designated tele-mental health champion.

He has worked with Dr. Karen Slaton in health psychology including functioning as part of the Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Team providing assessment of all newly referred Veterans and follow up for those identified as suffering or at risk for maladjustment. Patient-centered care is provided for Veterans through various modalities and settings including face to face and telehealth interventions. Interventions are also provided to Veteran’s family or caregivers to prevent caregiver burden as well as interventions to assist with normative and persistent complex bereavement. He was honored with the 2017 SLVHCS Outstanding Performance Award FY16, the College of Health Professions Clinical Education Award, the Kriszta Szabo Cultural Diversity & Sensitivity Award, among others.

Dr. Parkinson’s research interests include acceptance and meaning at the end of life, resilience in chronic illness, and identifying aspects of behavior change.

He serves on the SLVHCS Telehealth Steering Committee and is a Telehealth Champion for Mental Health, the SLVHCS Mental Health Representative for Oncology/Hematology, and the SLVHCS New Employee Orientation presenter for Palliative Care. He serves in the New Orleans Palliators Extraordinaire (NOPE) Journal Club as a Founding Member, serves in the Louisiana Psychological Association Earlier Career Member and VA & Military Psychology Committees, and is a member of the International Society of Behavioral Medicine and the Society of Behavioral Medicine and of the Association of VA Psychology Leaders, among other roles.



Dr. Courtland Chaney (L) giving award to Dr. Christopher Parkinson for Early Career achievements, at recent state convention.

He is a graduate of Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine & Science’s (North Chicago, IL) Clinical Psychology program with emphasis in Health Psychology. He completed internship training at the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System in Biloxi, MS and a fellowship in Pain & Behavioral Medicine at the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System in New Orleans.

Up Coming Events

Summer Symposium in Marksville, July 18–20

Dr. John Simoneaux and Professional Training Resources will present this year's Summer Symposium from July 18 to 20 at the Paragon Casino Resorts, 711 Paragon Place, Marksville, La.

Highlighted this year are Dr. Simoneaux who will present "The Influence of Bias and Stereotypes." This presentation will explain how inherent and unrecognized biases influence assessment, diagnosis and treatment of mental health problems in children and adults.

Also highlighted is Dr. Naomi Friedberg who will present "Stress and our Brains: Eating, Exercising and Sleeping our way to Mental Health." Dr. Friedberg will explain the psychoneuroimmunology, autonomic nervous system, and the hypothalamus-pituitary-adrenal axis, and the connections with mental health.

Dr. Byron Simoneaux will present on "Diagnostic Decisions," and discuss the potential pitfalls involved in diagnosis, the dangers of misdiagnosis, and problems relating to multiple diagnoses in children and adults.

Nicole Siegfried, Ph.D., will present, "Digesting Eating Disorders: Intervention and Treatment." Misty Wainwright, MA, will present, "Non-Traditional Families."

"The Summer Symposium is an annual event that combines our traditional high-quality informational seminars with fun," said Dr. Simoneaux. "It gives attendees a chance to earn a 23 C.E. hours in a few days, including ethics hours, in a relaxing atmosphere. Attendees have the chance to interact with professionals from all disciplines, all across the state."

APA in San Francisco August 9 – 12, 2018

The American Psychological Association will hold it's 2018 Convention August 9–12 in San Francisco, California.

Keynote Speaker is Bryan Stevenson, JD, acclaimed public interest attorney Bryan Stevenson, JD, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative. Organizers note that, "Stevenson is a fierce and devoted advocate for the powerless in the criminal justice system. Under his leadership, the Equal Justice Initiative has won major legal challenges, reversals or release for more than 100 wrongly condemned prisoners on death row, exposed abuse of the incarcerated and aided children prosecuted as adults. At the U.S. Supreme Court, he won a historic ruling that mandatory life-without-parole sentences for children 17 or younger are unconstitutional."

Recipient of the APA Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contributions to Psychology, Margaret Beale Spencer, PhD, will speak about pioneering work in adolescent psychology and her mentorship of young psychologists who have become mentors themselves. "With a research emphasis on resiliency, identity and competence formation, Dr. Spencer forged new paths in the cognitive and socio-emotional aspects of development, particularly with young people of color and from low-resource family backgrounds," said organizers.



Dr. John Simoneaux with Judge and Mrs. Harmon at a conference in Florida for lawyers and judges for mental health topics. Dr. Simoneaux's annual Summer Symposium will be held July 18–20 in Marksville.

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