



LPA members hold "voting member" cards up at bylaws final vote.

## Bylaws Pass

### *LPA Members Vote for Greater Representation*

For the first time in decades, members of the Louisiana Psychological Association voted to make significant changes in their governing council. The changes are in part a reaction to the conflict in the association over the passage of Act 251. In the future, only those officials elected by membership, rather than

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## LSU Scientist, Chair Dr. Mathews Provides Insights into "Dual Mind"

"We do have two minds," said Dr. Robert Mathews, LSU-BR Chair and Co-director of Office of Applied Cognition (OAC), referring to findings that there are two mental systems which operate by different rules. "Not only does implicit learning exist," he explained, "but it may be the primary way we learn."

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## Science-to-Practice Alumni & Faculty Groups Forming

An event aimed at supporting the social and intellectual connection between scientists and practitioners, called a Pro Psych Party, was held during the recent LPA convention. The event was developed by Dr. Susan Dardard of Dardard Media and sponsored by Grassroots, as well as other contributors.

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## APA Leader Calls for Review of Act 251

### *Fears 251 Could Set Precedent*

Dr. Jerry Suls, President of APA Division 38 (Health Psychology) and Divisional Task Force on Medical Psychology & RxP, wrote to all APA division presidents and called for them to request APA to conduct a "thorough investigation" of Louisiana's new statute, stating that "...expressing your concern to APA officials is most critical..."

In his letter of April 4<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Suls addressed APA division presidents and other officials, writing, "In recent months, we learned of legislation that took effect on January 1st in Louisiana

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### *Dr. Dammers Resigns Again*

## Drs. Young, Simoneaux Appointed to LSBEP

Two appointments have been made to the LSBEP, and a reappointment cancelled, according to Boards and Commissions Director, Ms. Sarah Olcott, in a phone conversation with the *Times* last week.

Dr. Tony Young was appointed in March and Dr. John Simoneaux was appointed in late April. The Governor's

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**Dr. Young**



**Dr. Simoneaux**



# Editorial Page



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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. Columns and Letters to the Editor express the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of *The Psychology Times*.

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## Bylaws and Silver Linings

The drama around Act 251 notwithstanding, truisms in our situation keep a' coming. I can think of two that apply.

### 1) You have to hit bottom before you can get better.

The organizational design (bylaws) was deficient long before Act 251. The main structures appear to have been in place for a long time, maybe from the beginning. Until recently, most of us never thought to look at them at all, much less from the perspective of organizational design. (And LPA had lost most of its IOs and social psychologists anyway, so who was to point out that the emperor had no clothes?) The bylaws may have been a good idea once upon a time, but the overlapping presidents and unlimited appointed chairs who vote for members, without feedback loops or even the right to call emergency meetings, will not help an organization thrive. While vulnerable to special interests, the subtle, insidious problems were worse because they were invisible. The design reduced critical functions: innovation and creativity; the ability to identify genuine problems from lower in the organization; distortions by those in power that seriously gummed up decision-making; lack of adjustment to the larger social environment. The symptoms were all there – low membership relative to licensees and professors, low involvement, low communication, low genuine trust. It all hit the fan with 251.

### 2) Every cloud has a silver lining.

It might have required something like 251 to kick over the beehive. For those of us who weren't ever going to be interested in practicing medicine, we're awake now. There is the chance to fix our organization, realign all sorts of fascinating and worthwhile connections, and solve some of our systemic problems. It has helped to know why the organization has been slowly losing vitality. We have a good diagnosis.

One of the designers of 251 said at the bylaws meeting that the rest of us were "dinosaurs," but it doesn't feel that way. Actually, things feel pretty darn invigorating.

Right: Drs.  
Tom  
Hannie  
and Kim  
VanGeffen  
after  
passage  
of new  
bylaws.





### APA LEADER...

that placed the licensure of psychologists with prescription privileges in the hands of the state medical board (Louisiana Act 251). In addition to transferring existing authority for the licensing of prescribing psychologists away from the state board of psychology, this new law also granted psychologists licensed exclusively by the medical board the right to supervise others who provide psychological services."

In his letter Dr. Suls also explained that Division 38 has no position either for or against RxP. He wrote, "Our original concern with the legislation was the (mis)use of the term 'medical psychologist' to identify psychologists with prescription privileges. Medical psychology is historically and internationally viewed as a broad category that relates to the application of psychological knowledge to medical settings and problems."

He went on to point out that 251 restricts the title to those with prescription privileges and so "officially bars a wide range of professionals (e.g., health psychologists, rehabilitation psychologists, neuropsychologists) from calling themselves medical psychologists..."

Dr. Suls wrote further, "As the American Psychological Association continues its lobbying for prescriptive authority for psychologists, we are concerned that Louisiana's new statute may become a precedent for other states."

He noted to the other division presidents, "If after learning this, you share our concern, I suggest that you request officials at APA, perhaps via the Committee for the Advancement of Professional Practice (CAPP), to conduct a thorough investigation, particularly with regard to legal, ethical, practice, and educational issues, of the implications of practicing psychologists being licensed by boards other than state psychology boards, particularly medical boards."

In closing, Dr. Suls wrote that those with questions could contact him, but that, "At this point, however, expressing your concern to APA officials is most critical..." and listed contact information for APA's CEO, president, heads of directorates, and others.



**Above:** Dr. Judith Levy at podium during LPA annual meeting. Dr. Levy's leadership in bylaws revision was critical to collaboration between different factions in the organization. **Below:** Dr. Griffin, chairman of the bylaws committee, reviews changes.

### BYLAWS...

those appointed by the president, will have decision-making power.

In what appeared to be a unanimous vote the revisions passed at the April 22<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting. Other important changes in the bylaws were: Any voting member can run for office without the approval of a nominating committee; election will be by mail using preferential voting; there will be fewer standing committees to conform to the actual needs of the association; and there are provisions for the executive council to establish "divisions and units" to encourage "collegiality" based on members' interests or locale.

During intense debate on LPA's listserv last year revolving around Act 251, some realized that the bylaws were inadequate. Psychologists from both Grassroots and LPA contacted Mr. Alan Jennings, a parliamentarian



and local author. His review concluded that the bylaws gave members little or no procedural power. Along with other deficiencies, the previous bylaw structure did not provide for members to call an emergency meeting.

During a discussion on LPA listserv, Dr. Judith Steward, current LPA member and past president of the Florida Psychological Association posted a full analysis and critique of the bylaws. In her

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## APPOINTMENTS...

office had also announced the reappointment of Dr. Dammers, but since then he has re-resigned, according to Ms. Olcott.

Dr. Young is from Ruston and an associate professor at Louisiana Tech. Dr. Simoneaux is from Pineville, and is in private practice with an emphasis on forensic assessment.

Ms. Gail Lowe, LPA executive director, noted that Dr. Young would be filling Dr. Ally's term, which ends June 2012. And she explained that Dr. Simoneaux will replace Dr. Dammers, a term to be completed June 2013. Ms. Lowe also said that in speaking with Ms. Olcott, the third of three openings will be filled from the list of names submitted by LPA to the Governor's office last December. The third and pending appointment will be for a full five-year term, replacing Dr. Rovaris whose service ends this June.

Dr. Dammers was reappointed to the board in March, after having resigned in September 2009. According to the press release he had been nominated by LPA. However, he was not on the list provided by LPA from the November '09 election.

This reappointment came as a surprise to some, including executive directors of both LPA and LSBEP. His reappointment also concerned some psychologists who expected to have a balanced board once all appointments had been made for 2010. The board has been composed of those with the medical psychologist designation. Dr. Dammers' reappointment would mean that a majority on the board would still be MPs, even though MPs are no longer required to be licensed under the LSBEP.

Grassroots, an organization that addresses a variety of concerns for the psychological community, sent a request to the governor asking for an additional consideration of Dr. Dammers' reappointment. In a communication to Grassroots' legal council about this



Dr. Mike Chafetz (left) speaks with new appointee to the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, Dr. Tony Young from Ruston, at the LPA annual meeting. Dr. Penelope Dralle from New Orleans enjoys the discussion after the vote on bylaws.

matter and future appointments, the Governor's representative indicated that in order to simplify issues and avoid distractions, future appointments would come from the list of names provided by LPA.

Dr. Young is a licensed clinical psychologist in private practice, teaching, and research. He trains doctoral students in counseling psychology. He commented on his nomination form, writing "In Louisiana our profession is in a crisis with the movement of medical psychologists to the medical board. The first goal would be to see that the board is stabilized and comprises psychologists who are experienced in the field. The second goal would be to protect the people of Louisiana from practitioners who are impaired, unqualified, or incompetent to practice psychology."

Dr. Simoneaux is a counseling psychologist who works in private practice with an emphasis on forensic assessment. He also teaches through his business, Professional Training Resources. He noted on his nomination that, "...psychology in this state is facing extraordinary challenges in the near future. While protecting the public interests, the Board would ideally be perceived as being fair and judicious. I would like to try to improve communications between the Board and psychologists through more frequent newsletters, C.E. offerings, etc. I want psychologists to not fear the Board, but recognize it can be a tool to protect the public and advance the profession."



## BYLAWS...

review, she wrote, "I note that the EC can call special meetings but the membership cannot. That gives members no way to get the leadership together in a critical situation (which we just had). The vision of members begging their elected leaders to respond to them by e-mail is dreadful. We need to provide the members with a reasonable way to call an emergency meeting."

In November members submitted a request for a bylaws revision commission, written and delivered by Dr. Susan Dardard, to the LPA officials. President Dr. Levy and the executive committee agreed to the request and a committee was formed, led by chairman Dr. Phillip Griffin. The committee included 29 volunteers, representing various factions in the organization including medical psychologists, Grassroots' members, officials, and some who were neutral.

The group met for approximately 50 hours on weekends in January and February isolating changes that could be agreed on. Gradually the group agreed on many aspects and principles of fair representation. However some medical psychologists felt the process was too fast and not thorough enough.

The committee's report to membership stated, "After much discussion, and exploration of thoughts, views, and ideas, this committee believes that this revised set of bylaws will

## DUAL MIND...

Working with colleagues Dr. Sean Lane at LSU and Ron Sun at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Bob and his team ferret out complex interactions between our dual learning systems, sometimes called explicit and implicit, or rational and intuitive, and sometimes willful and nonconscious.

Bob's work involves the complex interactions between the two systems: learning and decision-making, how to enhance training, methods to develop expertise, and ways to understand errors in work performance and judgment. His current research focuses on the conditions that facilitate the best interaction between the two different aspects of the mind. "With the right training," he explained, "we

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serve to promote inclusiveness, increase membership participation and accountability, and enhance communication among its membership."

Dr. Mike Chafetz, said, "The new constitution for LPA passed without a single nay vote, an extraordinary thing. It is a new day for psychology in Louisiana, as the new bylaws open LPA up to the membership, heralding an era of increased participation and professional interaction. I sincerely hope that psychologists will begin to look on LPA as a place for camaraderie and professional stimulation."



Dr. Darlyne Nemeth (far left) talks with Vickie Dischler (wife of Bob Mathews), Dr. Bob Mathews, and Dr. Sean Lane both of LSU, at the Pro Psych Party. Dr. Mathews is chair at LSU and with Dr. Lane, manages the Office of Applied Cognition.

can harness the synergy of both implicit and explicit minds."

The research team has discovered some interesting complexities in how the two systems work.

"Both systems of thinking have certain power and certain limitations," Bob noted.

"The trick is in getting the two to work together effectively to maximize good decisions. For instance, model-based or rationale thinking is easily overwhelmed by information overload," he pointed out.

"Research in psychology has demonstrated that it is not the amount of practice," Bob said, "but the type of practice that leads to high-level expertise." He and his group plan on applying what they've learned to facilitate the synergy of the rational and the intuitive systems, thus allowing people to learn more effectively."

In one track they are helping to discover methods to facilitate expertise in math and science teachers, with the goal of improving STEM disciplines in the Louisiana educational system, a three-year study funded by NSF.

Another important track of investigation, funded by the Army Research Institute, is medical decision-making. It has been estimated that 44,000 people die each year from medical errors in hospitals. So the team is investigating related cognitive variables, using computer simulations. In the research, participants role-play as a nurse or

**DUAL MIND...**

physician, and are confronted with a typical day, information flow, and requirements for quick decisions on patients' health.

"The good news," Bob explained, "is that they often choose effective treatments. The bad news is that they are generally unaware of bad side effects and often unconsciously merge side effects with their judgments about the efficacy of treatments on the main output variable." He noted that, "They also too often prescribe ineffective treatments and believe individual differences exist when there are none."

"We have only scratched the surface in this research that we hope will lead to reduction in costly medical errors. There are many unexplored variables such as amount of individual differences, delay of feedback, and format of records that remain to be explored," he noted. "We are also studying the effects of various types of cognitive aids such as graphs, charts, and color coded flags for marking side effects."

This innovative research tracks other advancements in cognitive psychology, and supports new theories of the mind. The potential for improved decisions, and enhanced learning, could have profound economic and quality of life benefits.

Along with his duties as department chair and co-director of OAC, Dr. Matthews is Chairman of IRB. He received his doctorate from Yale. He can be reached at 225-578-8745. For more information see OAC website: <http://www.lsu.edu/psychology/oac/>.

## Author, Author! Pro Psych Party Celebrates Louisiana Psychology Authors



Dr. Matt Rossano, Chair at SELU, talks with Dr. Alicia Pellegrin about his books on evolutionary psychology. His newest book, *Supernatural Selection*, is out next month.

Twenty five books were displayed at the book exhibit at the Pro Psych Party.

Campuses represented were:  
Loyola  
LSU – BR  
LSUHSC  
McNeese  
SELU  
Tulane  
ULM  
UNO  
Howard



Several Louisiana authors visited the book exhibit. Above, (L to R) are authors Drs. Matt Rossano, Janet Matthews, Joseph Tramontana, and Darlyne Nemeth. Dr. Susan Dardard displays the Pro Psych Cake.





Ms. Renée Do (right), a Centenary psychology student teaches youngsters about the retinal pathway for “Brain Awareness Week.”

Ms. Renée Do, an undergraduate with a double major of neuroscience and psychology, is setting her sights to become a physician. “I plan to attend medical school,” she said. “I would love to help people who are in need of improving their health...”

It wasn't until Renée studied psychology that she realized she wanted a career where she scrutinized the mind. “...The more I delved into my major, the more I realized how truly amazing the mind works. I remember studying about H.M. who couldn't form new memories because his hippocampus was removed.” She became intrigued and has followed this path in both her coursework and her work endeavors.

Renée wants to specialize in neurology, and if she could pick her career focus now, it would involve Alzheimer's disease. “I really want to research the development of this disease, what causes it and how can we make it stop deteriorating brain tissue.” She has gained experience through her work at a local physician's office where she has seen the debilitating effects of the illness. Renée has also volunteered at Sutton Children's Hospital.

Renée's favorite course was Theories of Personality. “It really provided me a more in-depth look into the way I function in life.” Renée also enjoyed psychopharmacology and neuroscience. “I absolutely enjoyed making various connections between these classes and all of my other psychology courses.” The combinations of things she learned helped her to appreciate the brain. “Did you know that some people who suffer from Capgras' Delusion are lead to believe that their loved ones have been replaced by imposters? Only by a mere lesion somewhere in their temporal lobe?”

“The most memorable experience in my training, hands down,” Renée said, “is the experiment for my research methodology class.” In this course she examined the effects of memory games on retention. “I wanted to know, if you train your memory, could your retention skills improve?” Renée also completed an independent study with Dr. Stafford on the benefits of video games. She explored the use of Greek literature, history, and learning in role-playing games.

Dr. Hammond keeps things lively with all her students. She encourages interest in operant conditioning with her cat, trained to use a human toilet! She is developing a podcast series of on-air dating tips (“Dr. Amy's Dating Advice”) for the student-run radio station at Centenary, KSCL, which will begin airing this summer. Dr. Hammond can be contacted at (ahammond@centenary.edu).

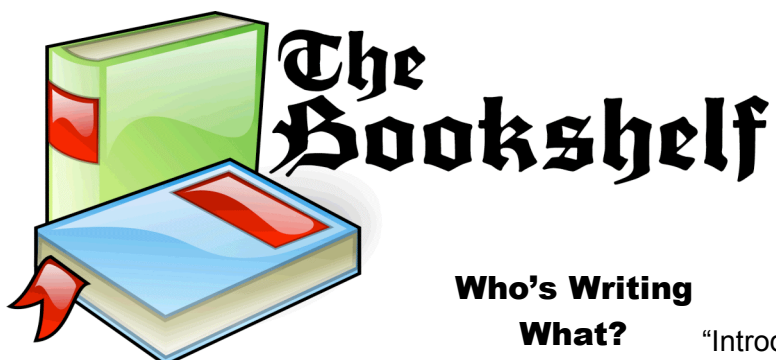
## *Student Focus - Centenary*

The small but innovative psychology department at Centenary College has a goal of teaching about modern social science research, supporting students as they pursue additional education in psychology, or as they follow a path to other graduate degrees, including law, occupational-therapy, physical-therapy, business or medicine.

Dr. Amy Hammond, Centenary faculty member, estimates that more than a third of their students go on to graduate school. She and her colleagues, Drs. Matthew Weeks and David Stafford, provide students a variety of opportunities to learn about psychology, general fundamentals of research, and internship opportunities including LSU Medical Center.



Centenary psychology faculty (L to R): Drs. Matthew Weeks, David Stafford, and Amy Hammond. Centenary can be found at <http://www.centenary.edu/psychology>.

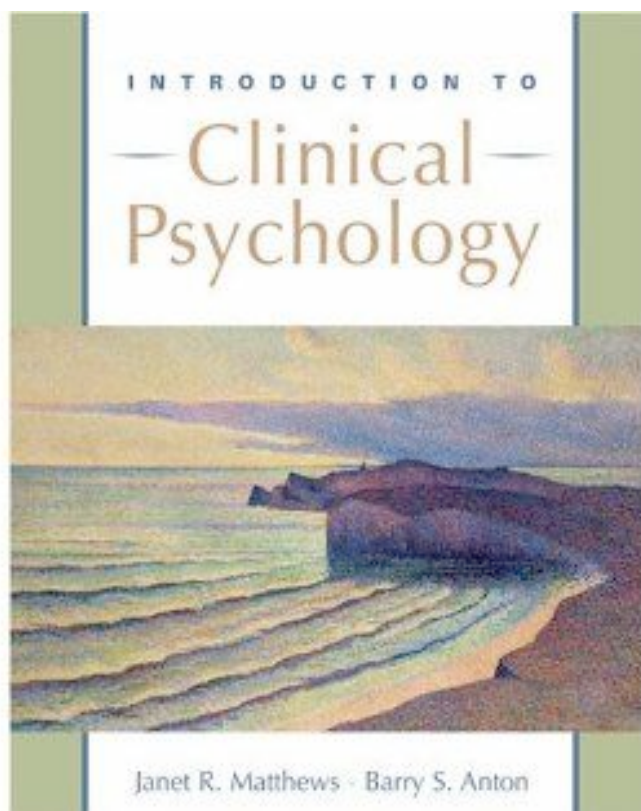


## Introduction To Clinical Psychology

Dr. Janet R. Matthews  
and Dr. Barry S. Anton

Oxford University Press 2008

### Who's Writing What?



Cover Image from "Introduction to Clinical Psychology" by Matthews, Janet. By permission of Oxford University Press, Inc.

*"Introduction to Clinical Psychology covers the history, theory, practice, and potential future of the discipline and provides a comprehensive overview of interviewing, assessment, psychotherapy, community intervention, and public policy."*

*The text describes psychological assessment procedures in detail and provides case studies demonstrating how the tests are administered and interpreted. It presents psychotherapy from both the traditional "schools" perspective and the practical perspective of number of individuals being seen-individual, couple, group, and family."*

This undergraduate text is written in a conversational tone that is genuine, straightforward, and sprinkled with interesting anecdotes of the authors' experiences bridging technical information into more practical meaning. Much of traditional clinical psychology is covered, but fascinating chapters on specialties and "The Dynamic Future of Clinical Psychology," pull together the technology and career directions that many readers will enjoy. Included are sections on Neuropsychology, Health Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Sport Psychology, Geropsychology, Clinical Child Psychology and Pediatric Psychology. Linking into career directions the authors expand on "Serious Mental Illness," "Trauma," "Public Policy Activities," "Executive Coaching." Emerging topics include "Prescriptive Authority," "Behavioral Health," "Assessment," "Positive Psychology," "Diversity," "Technology," and "Lifespan Psychology."

Dr. Janet Matthews told the *Times* that her path to getting *Clinical Psychology* published was a "fairly complicated story." During a SEPA convention she met a senior editor from Mayfield Press. The two struck up an easy friendship and he asked her to consider writing a book. Janet did not really want to do another book at that time, but later she encountered the Mayfield editor again at the APA convention. "Over breakfast, on a paper napkin," she said, "we did a rough table of contents for an introduction to clinical psychology." She agreed to write the book, scheduling a sabbatical leave to do the work. However, in the meantime Mayfield was sold, and her editor decided to retire. Janet did not pursue the book with the new owner, but she still had approval for the leave. Then during an APA convention, a friend suggested she attend an Oxford University Press party to meet an editor. She did so and this led to a contract. After many changes and delays due to changes in Oxford's college textbook division, the book was finally published. She said, "The book actually took about eight years to go from contract to publication."

What does Janet like best about writing? "For me it is probably seeing the finished product," she said. "Being able to look back over the process from that initial outline and proposal to the final book is very fulfilling. Since I tend to write at home rather than in my office, I also enjoy the solitude of working on a book. My cats were still





Drs. Janet Matthews and Lee Matthews review the books at the Pro Psych exhibit, including her textbook, *Introduction to Clinical Psychology*. Several of Janet's other books were on display. She is a professor at Loyola.

### BOOKSHELF...

alive when I was doing this work and so having a whole day (I usually wrote on a day when I could spend the entire day on the process) when I could be creative and yet take a break and rub their fur was truly serene."

"One frustration is dealing with the reviewers hired by publishers," she said. "Some of them really provide good feedback but others just seem to miss the whole point of the book and therefore you then have to explain to your editor why you are definitely *not* going to make the changes they suggest."

In regard to future writing projects, Janet does not have anything planned at present. "I have also considered using one part of my clinical book as a potential "stand alone" careers book and talking to a publisher about it. At this point, I am not sure I want the hassle of doing it because it involved considerable interviewing, editing, and generally rough time constraints that I don't want while I am so involved in current APA roles." Janet is the chair of Board of Educational Affairs, president-elect of APA's Division 31, and she has a scheduled attendance at two Fall APA leadership conferences – Educational Leadership Conference in September and Science Leadership Conference in November.

Understandably, Dr. Matthews said, "I will need to think more carefully about this before proceeding."

## Bringing Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis to China

by Carolyn Weyand

A rising middle-class in China and increasing Westernization of Chinese culture has generated a high demand for psychological services. China is seeing a rise in anxiety and depression. Suicide rates in China are higher than worldwide averages.

Historical forces, such as the intellectual, scientific and academic devastation caused by the "Cultural Revolution," have created deficits in the knowledge and training required to develop a Chinese mental health treatment community. Young Chinese scientists and mental health professionals are determined to remedy the situation.

Chinese psychologists and psychiatrists have called to the West for training. They want to lay a foundation on which they can build their own body of professional knowledge and psychotherapy technique.

The China American Psychoanalytic Alliance (CAPA) has answered the call. CAPA has developed a program that includes both face to face educational experiences, with American professionals going to China and Chinese professionals coming to the United States, and on-line studies. CAPA members, American psychoanalysts and psychoanalytic therapists, from all mental health professions work over Skype teaching classes and providing supervision to Chinese professionals developing mental health services in their communities. CAPA members conduct psychoanalytic psychotherapy, a required component of the training, as well. For Chinese psychologists and psychiatrists who want to train in psychoanalysis, CAPA supplies analysts for training analyses and supervision. The demand for treatment and training far outstrips the supply of teachers, supervisors, therapists and psychoanalysts.

Information about CAPA can be found at [www.capachina.org](http://www.capachina.org)



**License renewals are due July 1<sup>st</sup>.**  
**Even numbered licenses' CEs are due.**

## GROUPS...

Susan noted that, "The party at the Convention was the first in a series designed to bring psychology alumni and faculty together." The activities included a book exhibit of Louisiana psychology authors, an art display, refreshments, and bluegrass music by Tuning South. "The event was open to all psychology professionals in Louisiana," she said.

Susan explained that an LSU Science-to-Practice Alumni & Faculty group has emerged from this effort, including Drs. Julia Buckner, Alex Cohen, Amy Copeland, Rita Culross, Christopher Garner, Glenn Jones, Sean Lane, Bob Mathews, and Tracey Rizzuto, all currently at LSU.

"In recognition of the importance of the need to strengthen the scientific arm of psychology in our state association," she said, "some LSU alumni have raised money to sponsor first year memberships in LPA for the faculty. Our newest alumni-sponsored LPA member applicants are Drs. Mathews, Lane, Buckner, and Rizzuto.

"I invite other licensed psychologists around our state to reach out to the psychology professors on the campuses where you received your degrees in psychology and form your own science-to-practice group," she recommended.

Grassroots and Dr. Dardard encourage all Science-to-Practice group members to join the Louisiana Psychological Association, which provides a common meeting ground for everyone to gather and work together on behalf of psychology.

Anyone interested in organizing, joining or sponsoring a Science-to-Practice Alumni & Faculty group can contact Dr. Dardard at [MediaServices@DrSusanDardard.com](mailto:MediaServices@DrSusanDardard.com).



LSU alums got together with LSU faculty at the Pro Psych Party. (Back) Drs. Bob Baker, Tony Speier, Karen Speier, Sean Lane, Bob Mathews, Darlyne Nemeth. (Front) Drs. Kim VanGeffen, Susan Dardard, and Julie Nelson.



The new governmental affairs attorney for LPA, Mr. Kevin Hayes (left) chats with Dr. Phillip Griffin.

## LPA Engages C. Kevin Hayes of Adams & Reese

Attorney C. Kevin Hayes, of the firm of Adams and Reese, has contracted with LPA to assist in the association's legislative concerns. Mr. Hayes is a partner in the Baton Rouge office of Adams & Reese, a regional law firm with 270 attorneys and 15 offices. *American Lawyer* names them in the nation's top 200 firms.

Mr. Hayes has 18 years experience and has served as President, President-Elect, Treasurer and Secretary of the Baton Rouge Bar Association. He is Vice-President of the Association of Louisiana Lobbyists and serves the Bar Association as House of Delegates Liaison to the Board of Governors, member of the House of Delegates, member of the Bar Governance Committee, board liaison to the Public Information Committee and board member of the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education. In a client and peer review rating system, Mr. Hayes meets "Very High" criteria of ethical standards. And in 2001, he was awarded the Outstanding Young Lawyer of Louisiana.

Mr. Hayes is a change from the long-time lobbying group of Courson Nickel, who served both LPA and also LAMP up until February this year.





Dr. Darlyne Nemeth's team facilitated an experiential workshop on Saturday.



LPA ethics workshop attendees included Drs. Bryan Gros and Joe Tramontana (right).



Members took time to chat between workshops and their presentations. Dr. Sherry Desselle (below) demonstrated fortitude to be at LPA this year!





# Pro Psych Party



The Louisiana Psychology Cake was a treat and so was Dr. Phil Griffin's geometric artwork (above). People danced to Tuning South's bluegrass ("Good for dementia," Dr. Thomas Fain, the new treasurer, said.) Below, students from LA tech made an appearance, and so did LSU student, Leslie Brockhoeft (bottom left) who met both the new president elect, Dr. Griffin and the chair of her department, Dr. Bob Mathews. Dr. Warner danced in the hallway to "Blue Just Looks Black." (bottom center)





## LSBEP Presents at LPA

### *Act 251 Not Addressed*

Chair of the LSBEP, Dr. Jillandra Rovaris, and Vice Chair, Dr. Joseph Comaty presented a review of the board's activities, at the recent LPA convention.

They reported that there are 662 licensees presently in the state, and gave a breakdown of specialties. There are clinical (381), counseling (83), school (66), clinical/neuropsychological (41), developmental (31), and the classification of "none" (20), among the more numerous specialties.

The board received 19 requests for investigations over the year, with 11 being assigned as complaints. There was one disciplinary action in the 2009-10 fiscal year. The board's long-range planning meeting held on April 16-17, and included discussion about a process for review and pre-approval of continuing education providers and activities, best practices guidelines, and tightening up on the rules for psychologist who own corporations.

Psychologists who are incorporated may need to review guidelines in R.S. 12:1130-114 regarding terms they should use, such as, "A professional psychological corporation." This regulation has been in place for many years, but it appears not to be known to all licensees.

Another item covered was the board's cooperation with LPC board. Last year the board had declined to advise the LPC board on some testing issues. Dr. Comaty reported that the LSBEP is now working more closely and cooperatively with LPC board to determine professional boundaries.

The presentation was publicized as an opportunity for attendees to meet with the board and discuss events

Message from Grassroots President Dr. Mike Chafetz:

"LPA spent a lot of money to have the bylaws revision done right, hiring a professional parliamentarian who helped the process along, ensuring democracy. For those of you who watched and cheered this process, allow me to suggest that you join me in contributing your heart and soul to LPA, along with a little donation to help pay for the process. It's well worth it. Look forward to seeing you at events." Mike Chafetz.



## Griffin, Fain Elected

Dr. Phillip Griffin is the new president-elect for LPA, having won the recent vote at the annual meeting for this position. He is currently Professor and Chief of Psychology, Department of Psychiatry, LSUHSC in New Orleans. Phil is Emeritus Professor of Psychology, Tulane University HSC. He holds the ABPP in Clinical. He recently chaired the bylaws revision for the association and he has served as president before in 1993.

Dr. Thomas Fain was elected as Treasurer. He is a Baton Rouge psychologist who consults and practices in clinical and forensic areas. He holds the MP license and he holds the ABPP in forensic psychology. Thomas has served as president twice, in 1986 and 1990. He was also Treasurer from 2004 to 2007.

of the past year. However, Act 251 was not mentioned in the formal presentation.

Following the close of the presentation, the *Times* asked Dr. Comaty what the board had decided in regard to Act 251. He answered that the majority decision of the board was that Act 251 did not pose a threat to the public safety.

## Up-Coming Events

### **Ethics: Electronic Communications and/or Ethical Supervision**

Shreveport, May 7th

Baton Rouge, May 14<sup>th</sup>

Lafayette, May 21<sup>st</sup>

Professional Training Resources

([www.professionaltrainingresourcesinc.com](http://www.professionaltrainingresourcesinc.com))

### **American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Colloquium**

June 23-26, New Orleans

Sheraton New Orleans

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

### **Summer Symposium**

July 28-30, Lafayette

Professional Training Resources

([www.professionaltrainingresourcesinc.com](http://www.professionaltrainingresourcesinc.com))

# Media Matters

by Dr. Susan Dardard



The public thinks all psychologists do therapy. They really have no appreciation of the role our professors play in providing an important body of knowledge that helps shape our clinical skills.

I get the impression that even the therapists among us sometimes forget the importance of our more scientifically oriented colleagues, particularly those who hold faculty appointments in our colleges and universities.

As a clinician who has completed your doctorate and received your license how often have you conferred with a professor from your *alma mater* on a theoretical clinical issue or pressing practical matter?

I realize that, once licensed as a psychologist, what's happening in the psychology department that finally saw fit to reward you with a degree may seem to be part of your past, with little relevance for your future.

However, what distinguishes psychologist therapists from other therapists is that we do have an esteemed group of professors who use the scientific method to collect the data that helps verify the effectiveness of our various treatment methodologies.

That evidence-based practice is built on a foundation provided by our academic colleagues, and the connection between the two worlds, science and practice, has been lost, or at the very least, is in serious need of repair.

What does this have to do with media matters? Everything. We want and need the public to value us and choose us as their source of knowledge and service, and we are worthy of being their first choice.

Decades ago the simplest distinction was that psychiatrists prescribe, psychologists test, and social workers treat. Today the boundaries are blurred. Some psychologists prescribe, some social workers test, some psychiatrists treat, and LPCs exist in great numbers, adding to the confusion. Meanwhile, what has been true from our conception



Executive Director Gail Lowe, key to coordinating the LPA convention and making it a success, finally gets a chance to have lunch.

is that we are a science-based profession. We were born in a research lab. We practitioners and scientists need to remember this distinction, renew our appreciation of and relationships with each other, and let the public know we are their best choice!

Please email comments to Dr. Dardard at [mediaservices@drsusandardard.com](mailto:mediaservices@drsusandardard.com).

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## Psychologists

**Distinguish Yourself in the Public Arena**

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