

Chafetz Named Outstanding 2019 Tulane Alumnus

The Tulane School of Science and Engineering has named Dr. Michael Chafetz for its prestigious Outstanding Alumni Award for 2019, announced last month by Dean Kimberly Foster and program director Candise Guedry. The selection was made by the Science & Engineering Board of Advisors Alumni Awards Committee, chaired by the Science & Engineering Board President Shep Perrin.

The alumni awards ceremony will be held on Thursday April 4, 6 PM – 8 PM in the Lavin-Bernick Center for University Life.

Michael Chafetz, PhD, ABPP, is principal and director of Algiers Neurobehavioral Resource, LLC. His research and clinical activities involve forensic matters, and he is frequently asked to provide neuropsychological expertise in state and federal courts in Louisiana and Texas. He has



Dr. Michael Chafetz

provided neuropsychological expertise in over a dozen capital cases, several other criminal cases, and in highly contested civil litigation matters.

Chafetz's research has focused on the use of validity instruments in low IQ individuals and has led to numerous forensic publications in neuropsychology, forensic psychology, and child abuse journals. His book on *Intellectual Disability: Criminal and Civil Forensic Issues* was published in 2015 by Oxford University Press in the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology Workshop

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Science &Ed Collaboration is Critical Skill for 21st Century

We are in a new age, an age where rapid growth in information and technology is creating complexity in social, political, and economic systems. Everything is affected—education, healthcare, big industry, small business and even family and home life. Problems are larger and more complex, they span disciplines, people and geography. What was once simple is no longer simple or routine.

Psychological scientists have made a distinction between shallow knowledge—the kind of cognitive information useful for solving simple, routine problems—and deep knowledge.

"Deep knowledge," writes Dr. Art Graesser, expert in collaborative problem-solving and artificial intelligence, "is achieved to the extent that learners comprehend difficult technical material, construct mental models of systems,

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National Psychology PAC to Host Louisiana Senator Cassidy in Washington DC

Dr. Lacey Seymour, Louisiana Federal Advocacy Coordinator and Past-President of the Louisiana Psychological Association, announced in late February that the national Psychology Political Action Committee has chosen Louisiana Senator Bill Cassidy as its honoree for 2019.

Senator Cassidy will be the guest of honor at a dinner to be held March 10, in Washington, DC, coinciding with the leadership conference for the American Psychological Association.

"Senator Cassidy has been a supporter of mental health

legislation on both a federal and state level," Dr. Seymour told psychologists in a recent letter. "Since his election, Senator Cassidy has championed legislation that addresses access to mental health care for our most vulnerable citizens by removing barriers to care."

Among his achievements, Senator Cassidy worked to design and pass the "Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Reform Act of 2016" and first advocated mental health reforms while he served in the House of Representatives. In 2015, he

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Four Candidates Offer to Serve on State Psychology Board

Four psychologists have offered to serve on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP), after a several month search for volunteers who meet the five-year, in-state requirement. The four nominees are Gina Beverly, PhD, Michelle Moore, PsyD, Lauren Rasmussen, PsyD, and Lisa Tropez-Arceneaux, PsyD.

The election opened on February 15, 2019 and will close on March 16. After the results are reported to the Louisiana Psychological Association, a list of names will go to the Governor for his appointment.

The appointee will fill the vacancy of the current chair, now held by Dr. Jesse Lambert, occurring on June 30, 2019. The new member will serve a

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Happy Mardi Gras – March 5



Editorials and Opinions

Psychology and Journalism

by Times publisher, J. Nelson

Ten years ago this month my father died his natural death. Those who knew him well understood him to be a challenging, charismatic, and intelligent man. He expressed compassion for the less fortunate, cared little for wealth, and had no problem disrupting a corrupt status quo. He loved classics and quoted Shakespeare for fun or to rub someone's nose in it—"Out, damned spot."

My father chose newspapering as a livelihood when he returned from WWII, met my mother at LSU (she had always known she wanted to be a journalist), and settled in Red River Parish to run *The Coushatta Citizen*. While raising a family, they built the *Citizen* into a publication of journalistic excellence and social conscience.

So, I grew up in a newspaper family. At age seven I "stuffed papers," because hand assembly was how my parents' small weekly newspaper, on a shoestring budget, managed to get the second section of the paper into the first. I worked in the "back shop" where lead was melted for the "Linotype" to produce the mold or "type slug" for printing. After technology came along with photographic images of type, I worked in "paste-up," putting news, photos, or ads on the page. As a teenager I performed as photographer, sent scurrying around town to find something—anything—to shoot to fill a page right before deadline. I loved it all.

During the 1960s Civil Rights era when the Ku Klux Klan attempted to organize a Klavern in the parish, the *Citizen* was thrust into the national spotlight by my father's provocative, anti-Klan editorial titled, "Against The Fall of Night." He told the Klan that there was no role for them to fill and to "Get the hell out of Red River Parish."

The editorial became a catalyst for retaliatory actions against my father, the *Citizen*, and our family. The KKK burned crosses on our yard and sent death threats. J. Edgar Hoover sent two men in black suits to help ensure the safety of our family. The paper's efforts to expose the secretive activities of the Klan lead to state and national awards and even an informal Honorable Mention from the Pulitzer Prize judges.

In the years that followed, our family dinner table became a think tank of journalism students from Centenary, Northwestern and LSU-S, always dropping in to the after-dinner conversation to hang on to every word my father said. The mixture of journalists, students, and friends drank and laughed and debated truths about human behavior, the role of a newspaper, and the public's right to know. It was, for a poor, rural parish in north Louisiana, an oasis of thought and meaning about human behavior.

After my father's death in March 2009, my brother and I discovered one of dad's many safe deposit boxes, seemingly untouched for decades.

We found only one item in this obscure box—a cassette tape with a recording of a phone conversation he and I had in 1976 while I was a young graduate student at LSU in Baton Rouge. He was enthusiastically telling me about his election edition, and the usual advertising windfall. He told me about the community, the local and state elections, who was a "good egg" and who couldn't be trusted. Why didn't I come home? he asked. I should come home to vote. I should come home because of my roots. I should just come home because he missed me, he finally admitted.

Sometime in 1976 my father had wrapped up the audio tape in a piece of brown paper bag and scrawled across the top of it — "1976: Julie – Forget Me Not."

Psychology's first duty is, like that of a good journalist, to discover objective facts and truth so that our social systems can use valid information to self-correct. And it would be even better if we could quote some Shakespeare while we're doing it. "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves..."

How could I forget?

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

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Letters to the Editor

Dr. Nelson,

I have one word to describe a comment from your editorial "It's just a flesh wound" in *The Psychology Times*, Vol. 10, No. 2, February 2019.

Here is the comment: "It looked like the authors didn't figure out how to separate the science from the social justice goals."

Here is my one word: BRILLIANT!

But I am compelled to add I believe your comment has excellent validity and may be easily generalized to a broader range of "proclamations" put forth by those who obviously err when equating mythical thinking and science.

Steven

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Corrections & Clarifications

Susan Glanville corrected some typos and errors in our writing, but otherwise we did not receive corrections for February.

Send your corrections to:
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National Psychology PAC to Host Senator Cassidy

continued

introduced mental health reform legislation that became the template for the Mental Health Reform Act of 2016. He helped strengthen accountability at HHS by creating an Assistant Secretary of Mental Health and improved interdepartmental activities related to those with serious mental illness.

The measures Cassidy promoted have helped access to services through integration of primary and behavioral care, and helped establish grants that provide screenings for young children at risk of developing a serious mental illness. Cassidy's efforts helped ensure that federal funded programs are evidence-based and use best practices.

Working with a bipartisan group of senators, he introduced in 2017 the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act to require Medicare coverage for intensive behavioral therapy provided by psychologists and other mental health professionals.

Last year he worked to get a resolution adopted in the Senate recognizing suicide as a serious public health problem and expressing support for September as National Suicide Prevention Month. Also in 2018, he co-sponsored the COMBAT Act to provide certified opioid treatment services to be covered by Medicare.

"This fall," said Seymour, "Senator Cassidy hosted the Louisiana Mental Health Summit, bringing together federal, state, and local leaders to discuss and promote the implementation of proven methods to improve mental health care in Louisiana and the country. He is currently raising awareness of the impact of dyslexia and mental health issues on incarcerated individuals in an effort to decrease recidivism," she said.

"Dr. Cassidy has been an ardent champion for mental and behavioral health in Congress and was the lead Senate sponsor of major mental health reform legislation enacted in 2016. Last year he led the fight to preserve Medicare payment for psychological and neuropsychological testing services," said Seymour.

"I am thrilled that the Psychology PAC has chosen to honor Senator Cassidy," Dr. Seymour said. "It is a privilege to have a congressman from our state chosen to be recognized with this prestigious honor. It is important that we work together to represent psychologists across our state in showing our gratitude for the work Senator Cassidy has done and to elicit support for the important work in mental health that is yet to come."



Dr. Lacey Seymour (R) with Dr. Michelle Moore in 2016. Dr. Seymour is helping honor Senator Bill Cassidy for his work to advance the many areas of need in mental and behavioral health.

Senator Cassidy is a physician, specializing in gastroenterology. Before entering politics, he co-founded the Greater Baton Rouge Community Clinic, providing free dental and health care to the uninsured. He began his political career in 2006 in the Louisiana State Legislature and won election to the U.S. House of

Representatives in 2008, before becoming a Senator in 2014.

Dr. Seymour is heading up a group of psychologists who will attend the fundraiser on March 10, to show support for Cassidy in his re-election bid. Dr. Seymour is asking for contributions and involvement by Louisiana psychologists. She can be reached at LaceyLSeymour@gmail.com



US Senator Bill Cassidy and Dr. Lacey Seymour at a fundraising event in 2016, when Seymour was President of the Louisiana Psychological Association. Senator Cassidy has been a supporter of mental health programs and services. (Courtesy photo)

Gov. Edwards Says State's GDP is Highest on Record, \$252 Billion

On February 26 Gov. Edwards issued a statement on Louisiana's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), \$252 billion in the third quarter of 2018, which is the highest on record for the state.

"Louisiana enjoyed another quarter of economic growth, with a GDP that is higher than ever recorded. Continued growth is a sign that our economy is getting stronger and headed in the right direction, still we know there is more work to be done," Gov. Edwards said. "We remain concerned about the impacts of tariffs on our economy and hope that our farmers and agribusinesses will see some relief soon."

According to data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Louisiana's real GDP increased by \$2.3 billion from \$249.7

billion in the second quarter of 2018 to \$252 billion in the third quarter of 2018. Since last year, Louisiana's GDP increased \$15.5 billion, from \$236.5 billion in the third quarter of 2017 to \$252 billion in the third quarter of 2018.

State Legislature to Convene April 8 Ends June 6

The 2019 regular Legislative Session will convene at noon, Monday, April 8.

According to the announcement, it must adjourn by 6 o'clock pm on Monday, June 6.

Bills are currently being prefiled and can be reviewed online at the legislative website.

Four Candidates Offer to Serve on State Psychology Board, continued

term beginning July 1, 2019 and continue through June 30, 2024, according to announcements.

The state board executes the laws passed by the legislative branch and has the goal to protect the public from unauthorized or improper practice of psychology. The four self-nominees provided candidate information for voters, who are other licensed psychologists.

Gina Beverly, PhD, was licensed in 2008 and lists a specialty in Counseling/Clinical Neuropsychology. Her training is from Louisiana Tech University and employment is with Dept. of Veterans Affairs/Private Practice. She is a member of the National Academy of Neuropsychology; American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology.

Dr. Beverly notes in her interest statement, "Currently, there are numerous critical issues facing psychology, including revising the complaints process, examining the recent allegations that the EPPP unfairly disparages minority individuals, and exploring the use of healthcare designations in place of specialty classifications." [...] "Psychologists are poised to be leaders in patient care working to address the needs of rural populations and using technology to reach individuals who would otherwise have limited access to much needed services."

Michelle Moore, PsyD, was licensed in 2011 and with the specialty of clinical psychology. She received her degree from Pace University and is employed at the LSU Health Sciences Center, Associate Professor & Training Director/ Self-employed. She is a member of the American Psychological Association; Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers; Louisiana Psychological Association; Southeastern Psychological Association; and Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers.

"In my current role as Training Director for the internship program at LSU Health Sciences Center, School of Medicine," Dr. Moore said in her statement, "I have the pleasure of directly training students and trainees who are the future of our profession. Being in this position, I would bring a unique perspective to the Board from the graduate program

applications we review, the training of psychology interns and fellows and how we are preparing individuals for independent practice. There are varying opinions across our country as to how the educational process and licensing requirements differ for future psychologists. I believe the Board should take the various perspectives into account thoroughly before making decisions and/or changes about our practices and laws in Louisiana. Our licensing requirements exist to protect the public and ensure that we are bringing ethically minded psychologists into practice in Louisiana. We also want the public to feel confident about the practice of psychologists across the state and for all of those currently practicing to have great respect for upholding their responsibility as a psychologist. As psychologists, we should always ensure that we have a seat at the table and are ready to have our voices heard."

Lauren Rasmussen, PsyD, was first licensed in 2013 with declared specialty of Clinical Neuropsychology. She received her training at the Georgia School of Professional Psychology and is employed at the Jefferson Neurobehavioral Group/Head of Practice-Baton Rouge; Sage Rehabilitation; Apollo Behavioral Health

(Consulting Psychologists); and Louisiana State University (Intermittent Adjunct Professor).

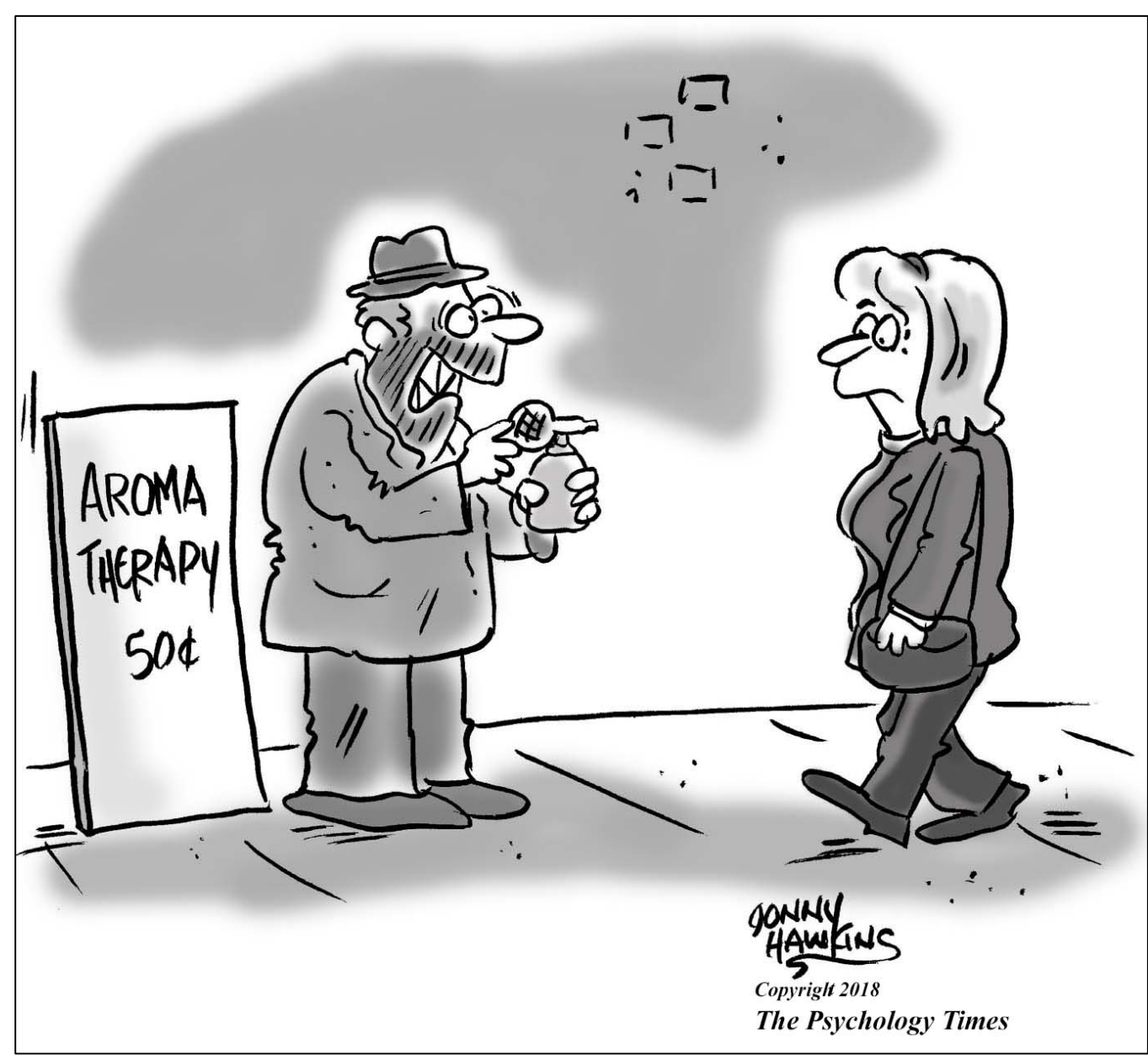
Dr. Rasmussen is a member of the American Psychological Association (Society of Clinical Neuropsychology affiliate and Society of Health Psychology affiliate); National Academy of Neuropsychology; and the Louisiana Psychological Association.

Her interests include, "One of the largest issues faced by current psychologists are insurance reimbursement rates. I hope to join fellow psychologists in advocating for fair and consistent pay rates. The way in which we submit insurance claims will be changing effective January 2019. I have already attended training in this area and hope to help others with implementing this new system."

"With increases in media of violence and a need for more efficient and prompt psychological assessment and intervention, I hope to also work with local and national organizations to help understand specific holes in treatment availability. I then hope to help program development for underserved and at-risk individuals. There also needs to be more training opportunities for individuals interested in working with these populations."

Lisa Tropez-Arceneaux, PsyD, was originally licensed in 2011 and with the declared specialty in clinical psychology. She lists other licenses in Maryland and Texas. She earned her degree at Argosy University of Honolulu, Hawaii. She is employed at Louisiana Health Care Connections & Children's Bureau of New Orleans. She is a member of the National Medical Association; American Burn Association; and International Society for Burn Injuries.

In her interest statement, she notes, "Current issues include preserving the traditional field of psychology and maintaining the valuable role psychologist play within our community. I would like to focus on maintaining some of the traditional roles of psychologist in terms of testing and psychological assessments while also bridging gap to new century techniques of tele health. Another goal I would like to focus on more outreach & crisis counseling by psychologists in LA as a team effort. Being able to respond with the vast expertise is a valuable asset often not utilized within the mental health field. Finally, I would like to focus on training programs and mentorship, as this is the ultimate way to ensure psychologists continue to grow within the changes in society."



Louisiana Second State in Nation to Open Veterans Centers

LaVetCorps Resource Centers to Open in Fall 2019

On February 13, Governor Edwards and Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs (LDVA) Secretary Joey Strickland signed a Memorandum of Understanding with higher education leaders for the development of a new statewide campus veteran center initiative, called the LaVetCorps Program. The gathering took place at Baton Rouge Community College.

The 30 new resource centers will begin opening at higher education institutions across the state in the fall of 2019. Louisiana has about 284,000 veterans.

According to a report from LDVA, the LaVetCorps mission is to empower veterans, families and campus communities to support the veterans returning home from active-duty military service and to gather resources to help them make a successful transition to college and to their local community.

“The men and women who selflessly dedicate their lives to secure the safety and freedoms of our state and nation deserve every opportunity to prepare themselves for the transition to civilian life, and I’m proud of the partnerships that will help them continue to achieve their goals,” said Gov. Edwards at the signing. “This initiative will benefit both veterans and communities and thereby our state.”

Participating in the LaVetCorps initiative are the Louisiana Board of Regents, Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), University of Louisiana System, LSU System, and Southern University System. The initiative includes the four Louisiana public college systems and Xavier University of Louisiana.

“The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs is committed to partnering with agencies that can help us develop innovative ways to help our veterans make a streamlined transition into college life,” said LDVA Secretary Joey Strickland. “These men and women are not your typical college students. They have seen and done things that most cannot relate to, but we at the LDVA can, and we are finding ways to help them be successful in their academic studies through these LaVetCorps vet centers.”

About 8,300 Louisiana college students are veterans.

At the signing of the memorandum, LSU President F. King Alexander said five years ago officials concluded that LSU had about 50 former service members on

campus. However, after opening a veterans center two years ago school officials realized they had many more, up to 500, ex-soldiers at LSU, reported the *Advocate*. “They are on our campuses,” Alexander said. “They just don’t have a place to go.”

According to reports, the LaVetCorps will cost about \$520,000 per year. Federal grants are expected to provide \$320,000 and the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide \$200,000.

Sullivan said about 6,000 students attending community

and technical colleges served in the military, with about 1,400 graduating last year.

At each LaVetCorps veteran resource center, an LDVA-trained LaVetCorps navigator, who would also be an AmeriCorps service member, will serve as a peer mentor to student veterans in transition, work to increase student veterans’ access to their earned federal and state benefits, and work to build a vibrant on-campus veteran community. LDVA LaVetCorps navigators will provide training and support

to college faculty, staff and administration to increase awareness of student veterans’ needs and veteran culture. LaVetCorps navigators will also organize community service projects benefiting both on- and off-campus veterans.

This spring, the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs will post job these LAVetCorps navigator job opportunities on its website, www.vetaffairs.la.gov. LDVA hopes to fill these 30 positions with veterans and/or their dependents by August 2019.

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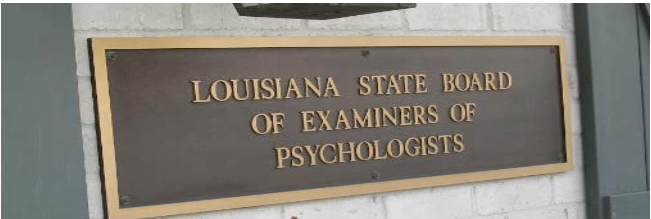
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From the Minutes

Selected Items from December 2018 Discussions of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists

MINUTES Friday, December 14, 2018

Dr. Gormanous wished to affirm his statement of service for the record as follows: “My serving on LSBEP is to ensure that consumers of psychological services are protected against any unqualified, harmful and unauthorized practice, application or use of psychology. My service is as a consumer advocate and educator. My service is not as a market participant.”

Supervision/Credentials Review – Dr. Henke reported that recent file reviews continue to raise concerns related to training and credentials of individuals applying through Non-APA Accredited universities without internship training requirements. The concerns are primarily related to scope of practice and individuals declaring competence in areas they have not documented required training under Chapters 3 and 7 of the Louisiana Administrative Code, 46:LXIII. Following discussion, Dr. Henke urged the board to address the issues as soon as possible, proposing the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board frequently receives applicants for licensure who meet the qualifications for licensure under the provision to allow services in a non-healthcare setting;

WHEREAS, the applications of these individuals suggest practice/requested recognition to practice in areas where this training has not been documented in accordance with Chapters 3 and 7 of the Louisiana Administrative Code, 46:LXIII;

WHEREAS, the Board is also moving toward revising regulations to redefine qualifications for licensing in general psychology versus healthcare service provider; WHEREAS, the Developmental Program at the University of New Orleans (UNO) has been identified as one program that the board frequently receives

applicants from that fall within this discussion and may potentially be impacted by new regulations being considered;

THEREFORE, the board resolves to invite the training director, or other individuals responsible for the developmental psychology program at the University of New Orleans, to meet in person with the board to discuss the current program, the training requirements, and potential impacts on students currently matriculating through the program;

FURTHER, that the Executive Director of the LSBEP, Jaime Monic, be directed to initiate the invitation and schedule a meeting time with the individuals in charge of the training program at UNO.

Dr. Gormanous moved in favor of adopting the resolution. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote as follows: Lambert – YEA, Boggs- YEA, Henke – YEA, Crouch– YEA, Gormanous - YEA.

Telepsychology – Dr. Lambert reported his progress on drafting telepsychology rules. He requested input from board members related to including requirements addressing a) location of provider/location of patient, b) psychological testing via telepsychology, c) delegation of work to others via telepsychology, d) requiring in person visits, d) emergency commitments, e) informed consent, f) HIPAA, ethics and other regulatory compliance requirements, g) payments. The Board discussed these matters, no additional action was taken on this matter.

Chapter 15. Rules for Disciplinary Actions - Ms. Monic reported that Ms. Newton would be providing revisions to the working draft. No additional action was taken on this matter.

EPPP-2 – The board reviewed and discussed continuing with a letter to ASPPB, as previously approved, to address and clarify the impacts, if any, on licensure and regulation by LSBEP as it relates to the October 24, 2018 email from ASPPB providing the “Jurisdictional Update on the Enhanced EPPP”, specifically to address the impacts of item #5 “Only applicants who are registered through a jurisdiction that has adopted the Enhanced Exam, and who have passed the skills portion of the exam.” And item #7: Fees for the skills portion of the exam, not including test center and jurisdictional fees will be \$300 for early adopters and \$450 after January 1, 2022. Dr. Gormanous agreed to draft the letter for consideration.

Proposed Rules: Continuing Education Requirements, Exemptions and Fees (LAC 46:LXIII. 601, 603, 803, 805, 811, 905 and 4001) – following review of written and oral comments received during the public comment period and also at the scheduled hearing to receive oral and written comments following the Long Range Planning Meeting on November 30, 2019, the board agreed to review and revise the proposed language of section 805 prior to filing a request to publish the Notice of Intent as a Rule. Dr. Crouch agreed to review and bring recommendations for new language for consideration by the Board.

FARB Forum and Comprehensive Regulatory Training, January 24-27, 2019, New Orleans, LA –Ms. Monic requested approval to attend the conference. Ms. Monic discussed the option to split expenses with the La. Behavior Analyst Board. The Board reviewed the training being offered through FARB and the applicability to the Executive Director’s duties with the Board. Dr. Gormanous moved in favor of sending Ms. Monic to the FARB Forum and Comprehensive Regulator Training from January 24-27, 2019. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote as follows: Lambert – YEA, Boggs- YEA, Henke – YEA, Crouch– YEA, Gormanous - YEA.



Board members of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists gathering with public attendees in preparation for a meeting at the Board's new offices on South Sherwood Forest in Baton Rouge.

Dr. Chafetz Outstanding Alumnus *continued*

Series. This book has been used by neuropsychology colleagues across the country who have testified in capital cases involving validity issues in low IQ individuals.

His research came to the attention of U.S. Senator Tom Coburn in 2012, and Dr. Chafetz consulted with a senior staff member on Senator Coburn's 2013 letter to then Social Security Commissioner Michael Astrue on the need to provide more accurate psychological assessment in Social Security Disability cases. The Chafetz research had shown that a high proportion of Social Security Disability claimants were feigning impairments. Through specific comparisons, it had become clear that the low IQ Social Security claimants who had failed validity tests were not false-positives who had been mislabeled as feigners, as similarly low IQ individuals motivated to appear normal easily passed these same tests. Senator Coburn was especially concerned that the Social Security Administration (SSA) had removed the use of these validity tests from the disability arena.

In their Congressional Response in September 2013, the Office of the Inspector General for Social Security affirmed the Coburn letter, essentially saying that it would be wise for SSA to further evaluate their policy on the use of validity testing in disability cases. This prompted SSA to call for an Institute of Medicine (IOM) committee to study the problem. The IOM published their favorable statement on the use of validity testing for SSA disability cases in 2015, the same year that Chafetz was the lead author on an American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology sponsored paper giving guidance to SSA on the same topic.

Dr. Chafetz is a Fellow at the National Academy of Neuropsychology. He served on the Board of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology from 2012-2017. He was the 2012 *Distinguished Psychologist* for the Louisiana Psychological



Tulane has named Dr. Michael Chafetz as an Outstanding Alumnus. Above, Dr. Chafetz (L) and Dr. Kevin Greve watch other speakers and participate on a panel for neuropsychology at a past conference.

LSBEP Seeking a List of Evaluators

In a February 21 memo to licensed psychologists, the state psychology board said it is looking for psychologists to add to its Approved Evaluator list, a referral source of psychologists who may be called on by a licensee who has been requested by the board to submit an evaluation regarding his or her ability to deliver services competently.

According to the licensing law, La. R.S. 37:2356.H, "... the board may request that the person submit to a physical examination by a medical doctor approved by the board and/or submit to a mental health examination by a psychologist and/or psychiatrist approved by the board."

According to the memo, by Executive Director, Jaime Monic,

the the board is specifically interested in psychologists to have the ability to provide evaluations for "Psychological Evaluation, Neuropsychological Evaluation, Forensic Evaluation, Substance Abuse Evaluation, Fitness for Duty Evaluation, Psychosexual Evaluation."

Ms. Monic wrote, "This list will be used as a referral source and provided to psychologists and applicants for licensure who are remanded by the Board under La. R.S. 37:2356.H. or other agreement, to submit to an independent evaluation in order to determine their ability to safely provide psychological services to clients/patients. The psychologist or applicant for licensure who is the subject of the evaluation will select their preferred evaluator

from this pre-approved list, conflicts of interest will be vetted, disclosure agreements between the Board and the psychologist or applicant for licensure will be provided to the evaluator from the Board, and payment for services will be the responsibility of the psychologist or applicant for licensure."

This move may be related to other aspects of reform to the psychology board's complaints and discipline process. Over the last 18 months the board members, along with representatives from the professional community, have been working on reforms to the Policies & Procedures for the complaints subcommittee, resulting in more psychologists being engaged as Complaints Coordinators and other changes.

\$445,402 in attorney's fees State Medical Board Charges Licensee \$461,980 for Disciplinary Hearing Fees

In a letter dated December 20, 2018, the state medical board charged a physician, \$461,980.60 for costs related to a board disciplinary hearing. The letter listed \$445,402.36 in attorney fees, \$4783.74 for expert witness fees, \$1200.00 for the board members per diem, and \$5594.50 for court reporter's fees and a \$5000 administrative fine.

According to a hearing document, hearing dates were April 11-13, 2016. The board ruled a two-year suspension of the physician's license due to improper use of assistants, not meeting standards, falsifying documents and related matters.

In a related story, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled last month that excessive fines and seizure of property is a violation of the 8th Amendment.

Association and the 2018 LPA awardee of the *Contributions to Psychological Science* award. He provided consultation and expertise for the Association of Administrative Law Judges in their Grievance against SSA in 2016. Through his work on illness-deception, he has been invited to speak at various state psychological associations, APA, NAN, AACN, administrative law judge conferences, and internationally at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden.

Researchers at SEPA & SWPA in March & April

The Southeastern Psychological Association will hold its 2019 conference March 20-23, 2019 in Jacksonville, Florida, and the the Southwestern Psychological Association will hold its conference April 5–7 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Presenters at **Southeastern Psychological Association** (SEPA) include Niels Dickson, Daniella Cash, & Megan Papesh, from Louisiana State University who will present "Remembering and Rejecting: Not Just Two Sides of the Same Coin."

"College Students' True and False Memories at Three Time Intervals," will be presented by Theodore Smith and Lauren Short, of University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and "Examination of Facial Emotions Before, During, and After a Texting Demand while Driving," will also be presented by Theodore Smith, along with Ashifur Rahman, Colten Dore, Xiaoduan Sun, and Lauren Short, all of University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Oanh Nguyen and Erin Dupuis, both from Loyola University in New Orleans, will present, "The Relation Between Ambivalent Sexism and Attitudes Toward Sexual Street Harassment."

"The Influence of Mentor Stress on Personal Stress," will be presented by Mark Graffagnini, Sally Merritt, and Janet Ruscher, from Tulane University.

Louisiana researchers at **Southwestern Psychological Association** (SWPA) conference in April will join in the conference theme of, "Psychology: From the Lab to the Labyrinth: Bridging the gap between the highly controlled conditions of the laboratory and the uncontrolled conditions of the real world." Excerpts from researchers' abstracts are included below.

Paula Varnado-Sullivan, Frank Mons and Kayli Alphonso Coleman, all from Southeastern Louisiana University, will present, "So is it Fake News? Part 2: The Impact of Political Orientation and Source on Ratings of a Neutral Article." Researchers are interested in exploring attitudes about various news sources. The purpose of their study is to determine if undergraduates will perceive the same news article as biased, important, or accurate and how identifying the source of the article may impact those ratings. Participants were asked to provide attitudes concerning a news article with one of four possible randomly selected news headers: a header from FOX news, CNN, NPR or a generic, non-affiliated news header. Preliminary results indicated that for coded ratings of orientation, a main effect was found for political orientation. Follow up analyses

indicated that liberal respondents were more likely to read online news sources and neutral respondents considered themselves less political and interested in the news. However, when self-selected political orientation was examined, significant main effects were found for political orientation.

Varnado-Sullivan, Mons and Coleman will also present, "Does Weight Impact the Stigmatization of Anorexia Nervosa?" Numerous studies have indicated that psychological disorders and physical conditions, such as obesity, are stigmatized. The purpose of the study is to determine the impact of weight on the stigmatization of Anorexia Nervosa. Only initial findings are available. Preliminary results suggest the psychological disorder conditions were stigmatized more than the control with no differences for weight. However, the major depression condition was rated as less driven than Anorexia Nervosa and the Normal control.

Frank Mons will present, "Prevalence of Maladaptive Daydreaming: Replication of a Random Sample," with co-authors, Paula Varnado-Sullivan, Cory Fulks, Chelsea Mayor, Brittaney Snyder, Danielle Eliser, and Madison Rigdon. Researchers note: There is increasing number of reports regarding a set of specific symptoms termed "Maladaptive Daydreaming" and some exhibit difficulty in stopping these behaviors. The purpose of this study was to estimate a prevalence of distressing daydreaming behaviors in the general population, as well as replicate the findings from previous research. Only initial findings are available. Preliminary results have

found significant associations of dysfunctional daydreaming behavior with depressive symptoms, anxiety symptoms, stress, ADHD symptoms, and OCD symptoms. At this point, 13% of the sample were maladaptive daydreamers. Independent samples *t*-tests found significant differences between scores of maladaptive daydreamers and non-maladaptive daydreamers on the OCD, ADHD, Depression and Anxiety scales.

First author Seth Tackett, University of Louisiana at Monroe, with Krista Nelson, Southern Arkansas University, and Janelle McDaniel, University of Louisiana at Monroe, will present, "The Impact of Positive and Negative Emotions on Impostor Phenomenon."

This study examined the relationship of Impostor Phenomenon and various positive and negative emotions, such as Subjective Happiness, Depression, Worriedness, and Satisfaction with Life. A multiple linear regression was calculated to predict Impostor Phenomenon based on their emotions such as Happiness, Subjective Happiness, Feelings of Worriedness, Depression, and Satisfaction with Life. A significant regression equation was found with an R^2 of .522. Depression, Worriedness, Subjective Happiness, and Satisfaction with Life were significant predictors of Impostor Phenomenon scores.

Theresa Wozencraft and Coby D. Menard of University of Louisiana at Lafayette will present, "Coping Styles, Hassles, and Uplifts in Emergency Medical Technicians." Stress in relation to hassles experienced by emergency responders has been studied but few studies have examined hassles and uplifts in Emergency Medical Technicians

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(L to R) Dr. Elliot Beaton from UNO, Dr. T. Scott Smith from ULL, Dr. Christopher Harshaw (back), Dr. Valanne MacGyvers from ULL, and Dr. Charles Taylor, from ULL, participated in a 2017 Science Café. Drs. Smith and MacGyvers are presenting research at SEPA and SWPA this month and next.

SEPA & SWPA, continued

(EMT), and none have examined whether coping styles may be related to hassles or uplifts in this population. Participants completed the Coping in Stressful Situations (CISS) and Combined Hassles and Uplifts (CHU) Scale. Those with a Task coping of 1 SD above versus below the mean had a significant difference in their Uplifts total score, with those higher in Task coping reporting more uplifts. Participants with high Emotion-Focused coping had significantly higher hassles total scores than the low Emotion-Focused group. There were no significant differences in Hassles or Uplifts total scores between low and high Avoidance/Distraction/Social Diversion coping groups.

For a SWPA Talk Session: Community, Thomas Cain, Theresa Wozencraft and Manyu Li, all from University of Louisiana at Lafayette, will present, "An Exploratory Study of Natural Disaster Victims in the Gulf Coast Region," a phenomenology study aimed at understanding the described experiences of Gulf Coast victims of natural disasters, such as floods and hurricanes. Preliminary results based upon 5 interviews showed that victims were distressed not only by the damages and their losses, but also the hassles of restoring lives to normal. In addition, the lack of social support or family support could also lead to high distress.

Brittany Milton and David Perkins, both of University of Louisiana at Lafayette, will present, "Evaluating the effectiveness of a university alcohol intervention program." Researchers will: (1) identify the factors that moderate student alcohol use, (2) evaluate the effectiveness of the alcohol intervention program used by a mid-sized university in the south, and (3) determine how and if the factors that moderate student alcohol use also impact the effectiveness of the university's alcohol intervention program.

Valanne MacGyvers and Taylor Hebert from University of Louisiana at Lafayette will present, "A Measure of Cognitive Frustration for research in Traumatic Brain Injury." Having to struggle in cognitive tasks that were perhaps simple before the onset of TBI becomes frustrating, and this frustration presents a problem in individuals with TBI as it impacts family, job, and social interactions, and self-esteem. Unfortunately, no good measure exists to assess cognitive frustration. Researchers have developed a self-report

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Stress Solutions

by Susan Andrews, PhD

Stress vs Anxiety: Can You Tell the Difference

Is there any difference between stress and anxiety? Of course, there is, but there are probably more similarities than differences. Some of the common symptoms between stress and anxiety include: sleepless nights and subsequent exhaustion, excessive worry, difficulty with focus, irritability, muscle tension, rapid heart rate, and headaches.

The differences between anxiety and stress are important. Stress is your body's immediate reaction to a problem or coming event, or some sort of trigger. The trigger can be positive or negative. And, the stress reaction is normally short-term. Stress is normal for everyone. No one can live a completely stress-free life. But, usually when something triggers the stress reaction, our body automatically reverses the physical reactions once the trigger is gone. For instance, when you have a deadline to complete an activity or a job, stress kicks in and actually can help you meet your deadline. That's a good thing.

Anxiety, on the other hand, is not usually "short-term." That is, when anxiety becomes a sustained problem, it then becomes a mental health problem. An alarming fact is that Anxiety Disorders are the most common mental health disorder in the United States, affecting 40 million adults and uncounted numbers of our children. This is at least 18 to 20% of the population.

The odd interaction or blending of the boundaries of these two similar mechanisms we use to deal with life is that stress can cause anxiety and anxiety *definitely* triggers stress. Anxiety causes stress because the excessive worry and constant thinking automatically triggers Cortisol, among other bodily stress reactions. That leads to being unable to rest or sleep, problems with focus and so on. In other words, stress and anxiety often go hand-in-hand.

In dealing with either or both, however, it all comes down to Thinking. What we think. How much we think. Whether or not we can let go of a negative thought or worry. Whether or not we can clear our mind of thoughts, positive or negative, to fall asleep or to rest for a few minutes. When we become unable to control our minds and what and how long we think, the inevitable result is a high degree of stress and anxiety that can cause all the negative consequences one can read about.

So, learning how to stop thinking, clear your mind, change the inner dialogue topic are the primary keys. How do we do that? Most people can recite a list now. However, reciting a list and actually doing some of the things on the list are two different things. The list includes: Breathing and relaxation techniques, Mindfulness, Meditation, Exercise, Changing what you are doing – like, taking a break in the activity that might be producing the stress and doing something else, and Music – either listening or if you are one of the lucky ones who learned how to play an instrument – playing music has amazing benefits for mental and physical health. As a group of mental health practitioners, we need to teach children how to control their thinking and how to clear their mind and relax. Children who grow up with those abilities will live longer, be more productive and live life with more joy. It's never too late.



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.

Collaborative Problem-Solving, – 21st Century Skill

continued

solve problems, justify claims with evidence and logical arguments, identify inaccurate information, resolve contradictions, quantify ideas precisely, and build artifacts."

Deep knowledge can be trained into each individual, says Graesser. But another, and sometimes more efficient approach is to train individuals "... to better participate in collaborative problem solving so that groups can collectively master and implement deep knowledge."

Dr. Graesser will deliver the Century Members Invited Address at the June convention of the Louisiana Psychological Association, "Collaborative Problem Solving, Communication, and Comprehension in the 21st Century." He is the lead author "Advancing the Science of Collaborative Problem Solving," in the recent issue of *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*, published by the Association for Psychological Science.

Graesser notes that collaborative problem-solving is a 21st century skill that is critical to efficiency, effectiveness, and innovation in the modern world. What is collaborative problem solving exactly? Collaborative problem-solving (CPS) is needed, not for routine work, or even team work, but for that event when a group must solve a novel problem where little or no plan for success exists and where team members are interdependent, each with different resources and knowledge. "CPS is an essential skill in the home, the workforce, and the community because many of the problems faced in the modern world require teams to integrate group achievements with team members' idiosyncratic knowledge. CPS requires both cognitive and social skills."

Dr. Graesser a Professor in the Psychology Department and the Institute of Intelligent Systems at the U. of Memphis and Honorary Research Fellow at Oxford, he is an expert in



Dr. Courtland Chaney, industrial-organizational psychologist does not see collaboration as a new discovery, but rather skills that were studied by psychologists for decades as part of group dynamics.



cognitive science, discourse processing, artificial intelligence and learning.

Graesser and colleague Stephen Fiore, Director of the Cognitive Sciences Laboratory and a Professor with the University of Central Florida's Cognitive Sciences Program, tested more than 500,000 students around the world and what they found was disturbing.

Only 8% of these young students demonstrated the interpersonal skills to engage in collaboration at the level required for complex problems.

Graesser and colleagues developed a matrix of 12 skills composed of four problem-solving dimensions: 1) exploring and understanding; 2) representing and formulating; 3) and executing; and 4) monitoring and reflecting. Additionally, the researchers included three processes: 1) establishing and maintaining shared understanding; 2) taking appropriate actions to solve the problem; 3) establishing and maintaining group organization.

Using these and other characteristics identified by cognitive science the researchers created for levels of proficiency in collaborative problem-solving and discovered that only 8% had the talent to carry out high complexity problem-solving, level four on their scale of proficiency.

A total of 28% achieve level 3, with good collaborative skills. But 35% demonstrated only the skill to tackle problems of medium difficulty. And, a full 29% were equipped only to succeed with low problem complexity and limited collaboration.

The researchers pointed out that the managers surveyed believed that students were prepared to deal with problems in a complex world but this was not the case. Society is dependent on transferring deep knowledge and solving difficult problems but critical shortages in these essential skills may be the situation, in the workforce, in relationships, in the home, essentially everywhere.

William Costelloe, PhD, licensed industrial-organizational (I-O) psychologist, said, "I have found collaborative problem solving skills to be the most important contributor to the success my clients have had with their organizations. I believe there is a direct correlation between the degree of collaborative problem solving skills that exist within an organization and the degree of revolutionary change and positive outcomes produced by an organization."

Dr. Costelloe consults with both public corporations and family-owned businesses. He has conducted over 200 seminars across the country on interpersonal communication, team building and family dynamics.

"Most teams, if left to their own devices, have difficulties performing effectively. This is frequently the case when the level of trust in the team is low, where team members are reluctant to be open with each other for fear of being criticized by other team members and where team members lack the ability or willingness to give feedback to each other. The good news is that collaborative problem skills can be effectively be taught to the members of teams."

Collaborative Problem-Solving, a 21st Century Skill

continued

Courtland Chaney, PhD, is also a licensed I-O psychologist and previous instructor in the Department of Management at Louisiana State University.

"... in my 1980 dissertation, I made the statement that 'the survival and progress of organizations depend on the effectiveness of their decision-making processes' and I went on to argue that, while some individuals may be better than others at problem-solving, the nature and complexity of society problems requires that we learn how to make groups effective in collaborative problem-solving efforts."

Since I have considered this to be true for decades, I have found it difficult to embrace recent CPS as if it were a new discovery. As far as I am concerned, we have known the importance of CPS since community psychology helped with desegregation and an analysis of Groupthink dynamics."

"There was considerable research in the area of group dynamics and group problem solving between 1950 and 1990, and, I believe, we understood quite well that group endeavors can have varying degrees of success depending on the expertise of the group members and the management of the group dynamics."

"The critical importance of CPS today as it is described in recent writings reinforces the message from decades past and points to its increasing importance as our society and problems becomes increasingly more complex and the number of people living on the planet continues to grow."

As an example, Dr. Costelloe said, "I implemented a federal grant that was awarded to the State of Louisiana which was titled 'Training Ward Teams in Problem Solving.' The work was done at a mental hospital in Louisiana. The ward teams were composed of members of all levels in the teams from the Psychiatrist, Psychologist, Social Worker, Nurses, attendants all the way down to the housekeepers who were viewed as the 'lowest level' on the team."

"After weeks of training each ward team began to work to solve real problems that existed in teams. The first and most important realization that occurred, an epiphany if you will, was that it was the



Dr. William Costelloe, an industrial-organizational psychologist, explaining group process at a meeting of colleagues.

housekeepers who provided the most important and useful information to the team about the condition of each patient. Think about it for a minute and it begins to make sense. The housekeepers were around the patients all day long day after day. The bottom line was that the ward teams implemented hundreds of new ideas by the end of the project. As a byproduct of implementing all these ideas the amount of medication administered to the patients was cut in half. Hence the saying, 'If you want to solve a problem ask those who are closest to it for their input'."

Costelloe noted, " Psychologists definitely need these skills for their own effectiveness as a team member and so that they can teach these skills to others as well."

Chaney feels that skills may have to be taught. "My 1980 research concluded that groups, even well intended and with a 'shared' goal cannot reach significantly high levels of quality and acceptance of decisions simply by having good intent and trying. I concluded that training in group management and group dynamics facilitation were likely necessary to exploit the unique knowledge of all stakeholders and to achieve the level of consensus necessary for acceptance and support of the group's decision."

Dr. Richard Flicker, another I-O psychologist and a professor at Southern University said that "... teambuilding is a big part of what I help people do. But when a client says they want teambuilding, that could mean anything. The same with problem-solving."

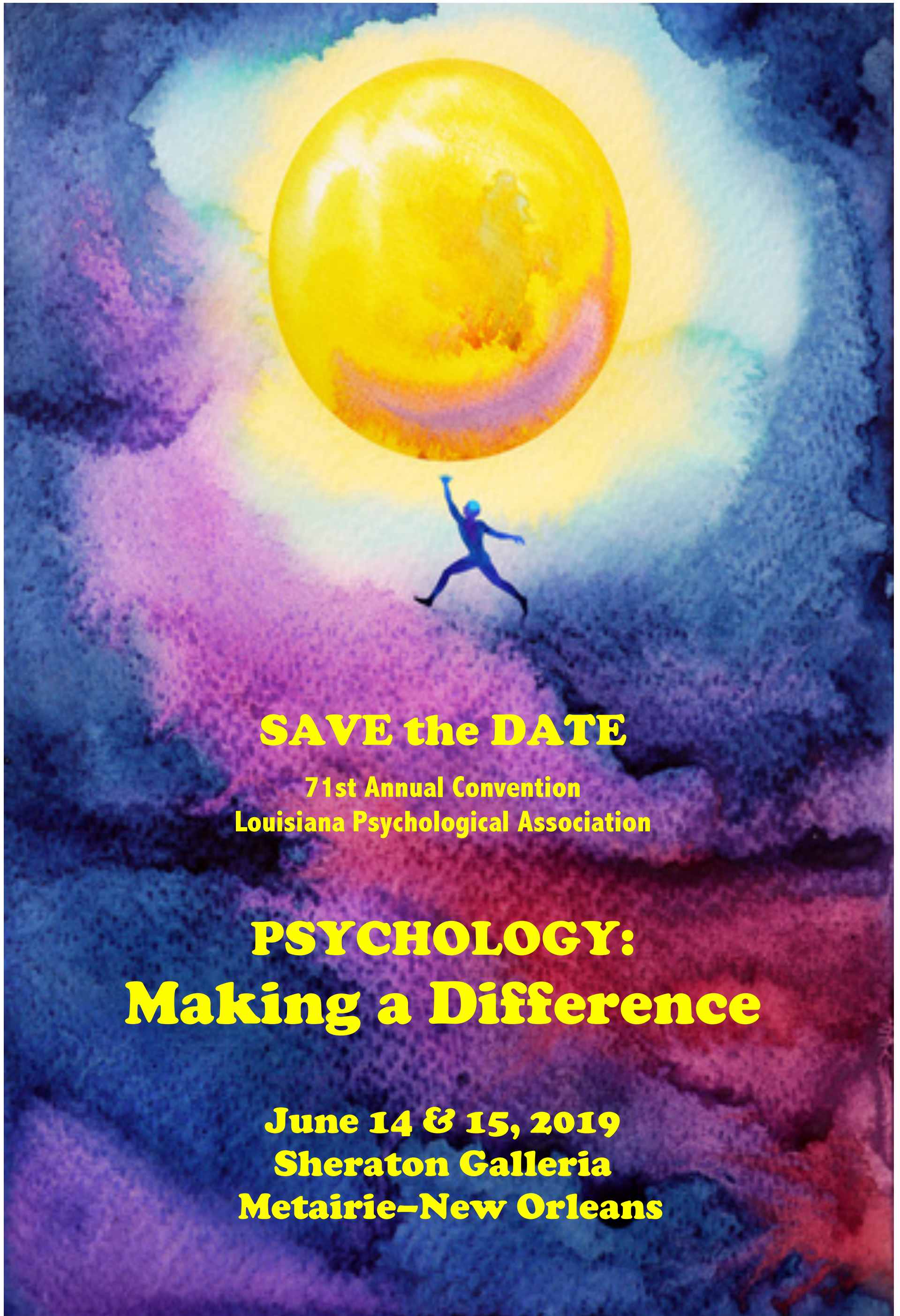
"When I first got my PhD I surprised that I was asked to do a problem-solving session in leadership training. I figured 'Hey, if they're managers they know how to solve problems,' and of course we know that's not true."

"For some companies team building means just getting people to like each other. For others it's more about communication. For others it might be job clarification or role clarification. For others it's trust and building relationships. So teambuilding can go in any number of directions when a consultant is asked to help with teambuilding. So problem-solving may go back to the very basics of obstacles to problem-solving mental set or not thinking outside of the box," said Flicker.

"Unfortunately," Dr. Chaney said, "few leaders are skilled in the management of group dynamics. Thus, too often, the success of the team depends on the unique characteristics of the team leader, the team members and the situation. One should note that a 'perfect' amalgamation of team leader, group members and circumstances can be magical, though the loss or change of the leader or key team member can be devastating. Without deliberate training, coaching and succession planning, the success of a team may impossible to maintain over time."



Dr. Richard Flicker, also an industrial-organizational psychologist, finds that team-building can mean many things to different clients.



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A Shrink at the Flicks

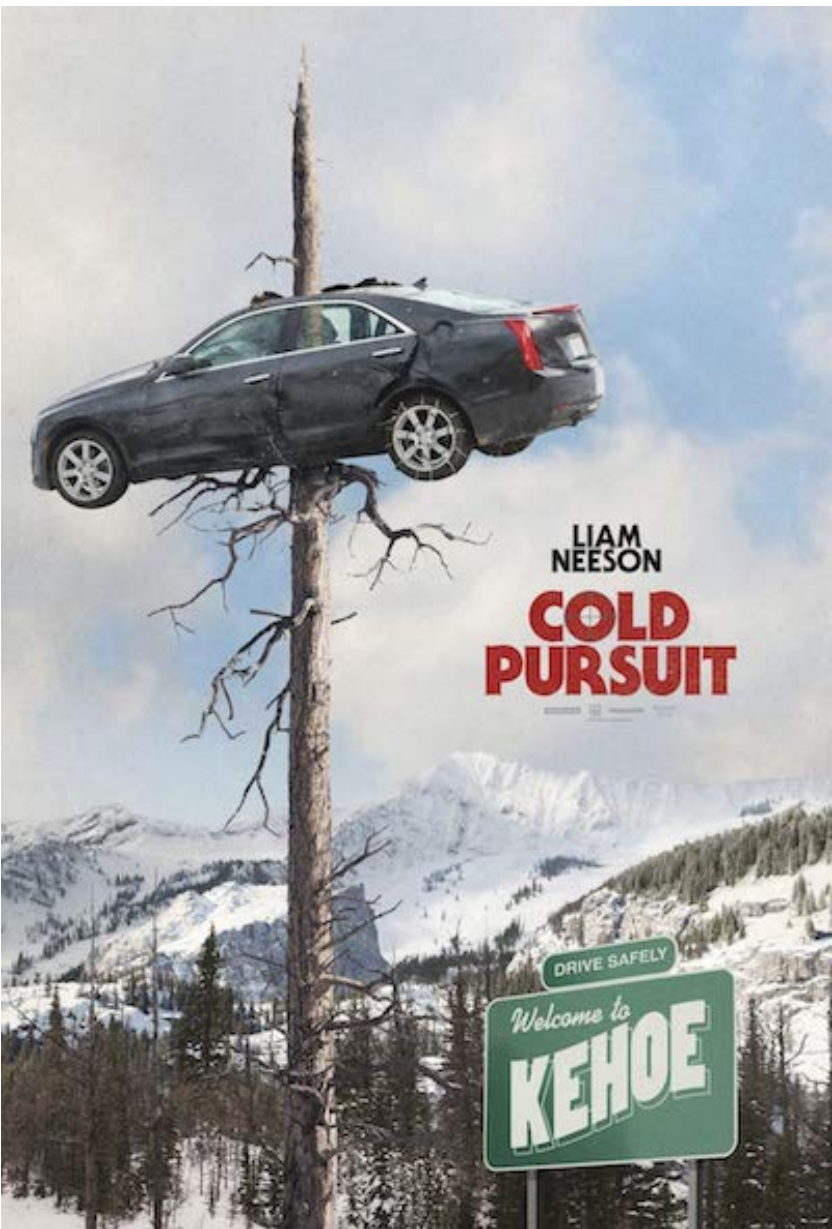
Cold Pursuit: A Review

by Alvin G. Burstein, PhD

This movie begins with an Oscar Wilde epigram: “Some cause happiness wherever they go, others whenever they go.” That sets the tone for this movie, both in substance and in style. It is a movie centered on murderous revenge—a death that brings happiness to an avenger. And Wildean ironic humor is reflected in the film’s slyly funny moments. A hoodlum breakfasting on Fruit Loops while his child companion is downing a green drink. Wry exchanges between two cops about the degree of criminality in smoking pot. The film’s arch sociopath’s tantrum when a kidnapper fails to follow underworld rules about how to behave.

The movie is about killing for revenge, and many viewers will regard it as a splatter film because of its gross out graphic detail. But there is more to it than the gore and the comic counterpoint. Some literary critics talk about “inter-textuality,” the notion that every story one is told (or tells) is shaped and illuminated by the other stories known to the writer and to his or her audience. *Cold Pursuit* resonates strongly with the American classic *Moby Dick*. In Herman Melville’s whaling saga, Captain Ahab is a monomaniac. His rage driven thirst to kill the whale responsible for Ahab’s losing his leg has emptied his life of any other purpose or capacity for pleasure. As he puts it, “I am demoniac, madness maddened!...The path to my fixed purpose is laid with iron rails on which my soul is grooved to run.” The compulsion leads to the destruction of Ahab, his ship and his crew, all save one, a point of correspondence to which I will return.

The protagonist in *Cold Pursuit* is Nels Neelson, a taciturn snow plow driver who battles the persistent onslaught of snow in his ski resort town. We meet him, a distant tiny figure driving his plow against an overwhelming canvas of white snow. We



see him, a taciturn man, awarded the Citizen of the Year award for his unstinting efforts to keep roads open, reluctantly stumbling through an acceptance speech and learning that his son has died, killed by an overdose of heroine. Nels knows that his son was not a user, and begins a search for those responsible for his son’s death. He becomes a vigilante, working his way up the ladder of informants toward the drug cartel’s sociopathic leader, Viking, leaving dead bodies on every step.

Viking attributes the death of his underlings to a rival cartel of American Indians. He kidnaps and kills the only son of the rival cartel’s chief, White Bull, sending the slain man’s head to his father. Maddened, like Ahab, by his loss, White Bull swears he will be revenged, “...a son for a son...”. He must kill Viking’s only son.

Unaware of the eruption of inter-cartel war and its consequences, Nels decides the best way for him to lure Viking into the open is for him to kidnap Viking’s pre-teen son. He does so, and an unexpected Stockholm syndrome bond develops between the boy and his kidnapper. A gotterdamerung scene explodes with both cartel gangs converging on Nels’ hideout, where Nels has persuaded the boy to stay concealed out of harm’s way. Everyone else, including Viking, is killed except for Nels and White Bull, who leave together in Nels’ huge snow plow before the police arrive. Nels takes his passenger to the head of the towering water fall above the village. When he opens the last barrier to the closed road, he answers White Bull’s query about what he was up to by saying “It’s what I do.” Some may take that as a reference to clearing roads. I take it to be a reference to his new career, killing. He and White Bull, like Ahab, have acquired lives whose only meaning is seeking revenge. With Viking dead, and without their sons, the two have nothing to live for.

When the police arrive at the body strewn scene of the final conflict, they find Viking’s orphaned son. In *Moby Dick*, after Ahab and his ship have sunk, a companion ship arrives to look for survivors, only to find “another orphan,” the sole survivor who tells the story.

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.



courtesy photo

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.

Up Coming Events

Researchers at SEPA & SWPA in March & April continued

measure of cognitive frustration and are administering it to several hundred individuals in order to assess its internal consistency and distributional properties. The cognitive frustration measure has 15 items and a preliminary Cronbach's alpha of 0.869.

"Parenting measures: A comparison of three widely used measures," will be presented by Valanne MacGyvers and Kristine Melancon, both of University of Louisiana at Lafayette. There are three popular measures of parenting style, that all loosely attempt to capture Diana Baumrind's (1966) dimensions of parental behavior. The three measures are the Parental Authority Questionnaire, the Parental Bonding Instrument, and the Steinberg parenting measure). In their factor analysis research found that some measures appear to be tapping into different constructs.

Kevin Yaudes and Sattaria Dilks, both from McNeese State University, will present a workshop, "An Interprofessional Education Collaborative Simulation Exercise." According to the description: The purpose of this annual collaborative effort, write the authors, is an exercise in Interprofessional Education utilizing a simulation environment. The faculty from the departments of graduate studies in nursing, psychology, and dietetics from MSU developed an Interprofessional Education Team. The team also had actors from the graduate departments on the planning team. An unfolding case study for training healthcare professionals in a simulated environment was developed collaboratively. "This ongoing study provides valuable information regarding the education of future clinicians from multiple health care disciplines to better prepare them for work on collaborative teams. It provides insight on strategies to prepare these clinicians with the necessary skills to work effectively and overcome potential barriers in collaborative client care."

Kevin Yaudes and Logan Guillory, also both from McNeese, will present their research, "Interacting with People Diagnosed with Mental Health Disorders: Does Individuality Matter?"

They are looking the impact of stigma toward individuals with mental health disorders which is well documented but examined only from certain perspectives. Their " research, which will be conducted entirely online, will examine the impact of individuality (as a proxy for perceived variability) on social distance. There will be three versions of both of

the mental health disorders that will vary based on the source of information about the disorders (individual, group, group-individual). The primary hypothesis is that differences in willingness to interact will be observed for the two mental health disorders when individuality is increased." The researchers plan to complete an analysis of variance to analyze the data and they predict that participants' willingness to interact will be impacted by increased individuality. Efforts will provide valuable information regarding the impact of "identifying out-group members as individuals on willingness to interact with those who have features of a mental illness." This research should demonstrate that when an out-group member consists of those who have features of a mental illness, then increasing the individuality of members results in increased willingness to interact with members of the out-group, by members of the in-group.

[Editor's Note: More of the SWPA researchers will be reviewed in our April issue.]

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Annual Mindfulness Day April 13 in BR

The annual Mindfulness workshop will be held Saturday, April 13 from 8am to 5pm at the Tam Bao Meditation Hall, in Baton Rouge. This year's topic is "Practical Approaches to Mindfulness-Based Interventions, A Day of Mindfulness for Mental Health Professionals."

According to workshop organizer, Dr. John Pickering, the focus of this year's workshop will be on the practical implementation of mindfulness. Local clinicians with years of experience in mindfulness interventions will discuss how they have a directly applied these therapeutic techniques to mental health and substance abuse disorders. Opportunities will be provided for meditation practice. Contact Dr. Pickering for information and registration through the Meditation Hall.