



Dr. John Simoneaux (L) and Mike Ortego at a previous meeting of the Louisiana Coalition for Violence Prevention.

Dr. Simoneaux Honored as Distinguished Psychologist

The Louisiana Psychological Association has named Dr. John Simoneaux as it's 2020 Distinguished Psych-ologist, announced at the 72nd Annual Meeting held May 29th online. The Distinguished Psychologist Award is given to an individual who has made significant contributions to

psychology research, practice, or both during the course of their career.

"He is a forensic psychologist who has consulted with lawyers, judges, and mental health professionals," said Dr. Mike Chafetz, Chair of the Awards Committee. "Many of

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Legislature Calls Special 30-Day Session for Budget, Virus Fallout

The regular legislative session ended on June 1 at 6 p.m. and the special 30-day session began one minute later at 6:01. The regular session was fragmented say observers, adjourning one week after it began due to the coronavirus and picking up only again on May 4. Some estimate that up to two-thirds of the bills introduced were dropped.

The special session will address the states budget, not dealt with in the first session. According to the Proclamation to convene, only 41 items will be addressed. These include operating expenses of the state government and measures to appropriate funds. Other items include the Coronavirus Aide and Economic Security Act, the emergency unemployment compensation filed by persons impacted Covid-19, and licensure of medical professionals during a declared public health emergency. Insurance dispute resolution for healthcare services, coverage for home health services, extension of filing for state and local tax returns, and expansion of broadband coverage, are also among the 41 topics.

Senate Bill 458, initiated by the Louisiana State

Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP) and authored by Senator Luneau from Alexandria, was not heard in committee. The measure set out ambitious changes to the Psychology Practice Act, but was put on hold after officers from the Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA) raised objections. Dr. Greg Gormanous, Chair of Legislative Affairs for LSBEP, established an Ad Hoc Legislative Collaborative Committee composed of community members who have been studying the issues.

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Gov. Opens Phase Two

Gov. Edwards announced on June 1 that following continued improvement in Louisiana's COVID-19 outlook and a significant increase in testing capacity and contact tracing, Louisiana is ready to move to Phase 2 of the White House's reopening strategy on June 5. As of Tuesday, June 2, there were 40,746 confirmed cases of coronavirus in Louisiana, with 2,724 deaths, according to the Governor.

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Lee Matthews Named 1st Recipient of the Janet R. Matthews Mentor Award

To cheers, applause, and tears, the sentimental favorite, Dr. Lee Matthews, accepted the Janet R. Matthews, Ph.D. Outstanding Psychology Mentor Award for 2020, announced at the annual meeting of the Louisiana Psychological Association, held online, May 29. This is the inaugural year for the honor and Dr. Lee Matthews is the first recipient. Janet passed away in 2019.

The award recognizes and honors Dr. Janet Matthews for her lifetime of mentoring work and the impact she had on psychologists in Louisiana, and is given to an individual who has made significant contributions in their mentoring of others in psychology. This is a legacy award developed by Dr. Laurel Franklin, who was

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Editorial Page – Opinions

LSBEP & SB 458

– Down the rabbit hole we go, *again* –

by Julie Nelson

In April I attended the board's Zoom meeting to ask Dr. Greg Gormanous, Chair of the Legislative subcommittee, questions about SB 458. I particularly wanted to know if and when the board had taken a formal vote on the legislation.

I asked Dr. Gormanous if the board had voted to put forth SB 458 and he answered "No." I considered his response to be both candid and sincere.

His answer jived with my previous review of the minutes which showed no real attention to the content of SB 458 over the last months, or any serious transparency on the matter.

Gormanous' answer was extremely important. The board has no authority to create new laws. In fact, it is prohibited by the separation of powers principle in the state constitution. From a practical standpoint, you don't give law-enforcement the power to make its own laws. An agency that can expand its own authority becomes dangerous—every time, no exceptions.



So this week I see the minutes from that April meeting and I am STUNNED. Not only was my entire discussion with Dr. Gormanous deleted, but another narrative, was substituted. Now, Jaime Monic, the minutes claimed, was said to have answered my question, "Yes."

SB 458 is bringing out the worst in the board. Someone created SB 458 in secret and sprung it on the community. Someone attempted to manipulate the audience by calling the measure "housekeeping." They have attempted to justify their behavior with the lame excuse that it is the Senator's initiative, not the board's, when in fact it is their legislation, of course. They even tried the second-grader logic that, "Everybody does it."

Jaime Monic also let it slip at the April meeting that they are finding it difficult to make changes they want through regular rulemaking because of the new restrictions legislators put on agencies. In other words, they're looking for ways to bypass checks on their power that the legislators have specifically placed on them.

SB 458 is an ambitious, candy-store bill with everything they want in it and can't get through proper channels. And their circumventing efforts were not disclosed, as required by Open Meeting Laws. The board is attempting to justify their behavior by chanting the mantra, "We protect the public," when the factual evidence might be just the reverse should anyone actually research the matter.

Are they now falsifying minutes? If a psychologist in private practice engaged in this sort of deception, that psychologist would be hauled in in front of the board to be disciplined.

I'm beginning to believe that many psychologists are, by nature, autocrats. Pour power on their head and puff, you get an arrogant, self-serving tyrant.

At the same time, I have no doubt that the *individual* members of the board are honorable and well-meaning. I learned early in my career, from the great Fritz Steele, that in some systems, individuals act like interchangeable parts and become pawns of that system.

We've seen this over and over. Change out the individuals and we still get the same problem. Something is rotten in Denmark in these group dynamics. It is sharp irony that the agency of law-enforcement, that passes judgment over others for ethical misconduct, should be exhibiting this behavior regarding its ambition for political power.

If the board as a group does not understand its boundaries, and the corrupting influence of power, and cannot muster the self-reflection necessary to avoid deceitful behavior, then how can it be wise enough to judge others? The situation amounts to moral hypocrisy that we should not and must not accept.

[Julie Nelson is a licensed psychologist, journalist, organizational consultant, and publisher of the Times. She also holds other 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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Corrections & Clarifications

We did not receive any corrections for last month's issue.
Send your corrections to:
psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com

Legislature Calls Special 30-Day Session for Budget, continued

Some bills did make it through the chaotic session. These include the following (excerpts are from the digests):

HB 317 by Thompson establishes an autism spectrum disorder designation for a person's driver's license. The new law authorizes an applicant for a driver's license who has autism spectrum disorder to request a designation and requires the designation to be placed on his driver's license. The new law requires the applicant to provide a sworn statement from a qualified medical or mental health professional licensed in La. or any U.S. state or territory verifying his disability and prohibits any additional fee for the designation. The new law requires a driver who has autism spectrum disorder to provide a statement from a qualified medical or mental health professional [...] authorized to diagnose autism spectrum disorder.

The new law requires the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services, to establish and implement a law enforcement training course relative to law enforcement officers' interactions with persons who have autism spectrum disorder, in addition to the requirements of present law. And it requires the course to instruct law enforcement officers on sensitivity and awareness to ensure equitable treatment and how to effectively communicate and interact with persons who have autism spectrum disorder.

HB 449 by Echols also passed. In present law, the Louisiana Telehealth Access Act (R.S. 40:1223.1 et seq.), defines "telehealth", in pertinent part, as a mode of delivering healthcare services that utilizes information and communication technologies to enable the diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education, care management, and self-management of patients at a distance from healthcare providers. The new law amends this definition to provide that healthcare services delivered via telehealth include behavioral health services. Stipulates that, for purposes of proposed law, "behavioral health services" means those services as defined in present law that are appropriate for the patient and delivered by a licensed mental health professional, acting within the scope of applicable state laws and his professional license for services identified by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), to treat mental illness or substance use.

Present law, the Behavioral Health Services Provider Licensing Law (R.S. 40:2151 et seq.), authorizes the provision of behavioral health services in residential settings, clinic settings on an outpatient basis, and in home or community settings. The new law amends present law to authorize the provision of behavioral health services through telehealth, and stipulates that the provision of behavioral health services in any authorized setting shall be subject to rules and regulations of LDH.

The present law known as the Behavioral Health Law (R.S. 28:1 et seq.) authorizes psychiatrists to conduct via telemedicine a required examination of a person with a behavioral health condition who is subject to admission by emergency certificate to a treatment facility. [...] The new law retains present law and authorizes psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners to perform these examinations, and to do so via telemedicine as present law authorizes for psychiatrists.

HB 819 by Bagley authorizes the recommendation of medical marijuana by physicians for treating additional conditions and authorizes any state-licensed physician to recommend medical marijuana. New law retains present law and adds all of the following to the list of debilitating medical conditions which qualify a patient for treatment with medical marijuana:

- (1) Alzheimer's disease.
- (2) Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.
- (3) Huntington's disease.
- (4) Lewy body dementia.



- (5) Motor neuron disease.
- (6) Spinal muscular atrophy.
- (7) Chronic pain associated with fibromyalgia.
- (8) Chronic pain associated with sickle cell disease.
- (9) Any condition for which a patient is receiving hospice care or palliative care.
- (10) Any condition not otherwise specified in present law or proposed law that a physician, in his medical opinion, considers debilitating to an individual patient and is qualified through his medical education and training to treat.

HB 871 by Marino redefines "dyslexia" for the purposes of testing and providing remediation to students.

Cont next pg



**"Am I addicted to my smart phone?
I don't know – let me ask Siri."**

(C) Jonny Hawkins

Legislature Calls Special 30-Day Session for Budget continued

Present law provides different definitions of "dyslexia" for different purposes. New law retains present law purposes but provides a uniform definition of the term as follows: (1) Present law requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt a program for testing students for dyslexia and related disorders and requires school boards to provide remediation for dyslexic students in accordance with the program; defines "dyslexia" for this purpose as a language processing disorder which may be manifested by difficulty processing expressive or receptive, oral or written language despite adequate intelligence, educational exposure, and cultural opportunity. (2) Present law requires every child in public school in grades K-3 to be screened at least once for the existence of certain impediments, including dyslexia; defines "dyslexia" for this purpose as in (1) above. (3) Present law requires, upon the request of a parent, student, or school personnel who has reason to believe that a student has a need to be tested for dyslexia, that a student be referred for testing; defines "dyslexia" for this purpose as difficulty with the alphabet, reading, reading comprehension, writing, and spelling in spite of adequate intelligence, exposure, and cultural opportunity.

The new law redefines "dyslexia" for all present law purposes as an unexpected

difficulty in reading for an individual who has the intelligence to be a much better reader, most commonly caused by a difficulty in phonological processing, which affects the ability of an individual to speak, read, and spell; provides that "phonological processing" means the appreciation of the individual sounds of spoken and written language.

SCR 62 by Milligan requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, through the state Department of Education, to develop and implement a traumatic injury response program to ensure that each city, parish, or other local public school in the state is prepared to respond in a traumatic injury emergency.

The *Times* asked Dr. Erin Reuther, Chair of the Legislative & Governmental Affairs Committee, and President-Elect for the Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA) about the session.

"When the legislative session reconvened, LPA remained active in engaging with legislators on several bills of interest," Dr. Reuther said. "Namely, we monitored language in HB 449 and HB 530 to ensure that psychologists are included in definition of telehealth providers and our services are covered. We worked with stakeholders and

legislators on HB 871 (formerly HB 391) and HB 542 regarding dyslexia with the goal of ensuring that legal definitions and practices in the state are consistent with evidence and best practices. This included a call to action of our members, which was helping in advocating for psychology and bringing us into meaningful discussions," she said.

"LPA also worked to support and amend HB 317, which creates an optional designation of autism spectrum disorder on drivers licenses for individuals who decide to opt in. It also calls for training of officers in working with individuals with ASD," Dr. Reuther said.

"LPA plans to continue monitoring legislation in the special session to continue our goals of bringing psychological science to policy and advancing the field of psychology in Louisiana," she explained.

Dr. Reuther is a licensed and board-certified clinical psychologist and works at Children's Hospital New Orleans, providing patient care to children and adolescents with pediatric illness in both inpatient and outpatient health/pediatric psychology.

Dr. Erin Reuther is Chair of the Legislative & Governmental Affairs Committee for the Louisiana Psychological Association, and helps legislators to better understand psychological science.

Here she speaks at a past conference while Dr. Robin Chapman listens in the background.



Gov. Calls for Phase Two Opening

continued

In Phase 2, churches, places of worship and many more businesses will be able to operate at 50 percent capacity with social distancing, masks for public-facing employees and increased sanitation, according to the announcement. In addition, the state strongly recommends that businesses consider offering temperature checks before a person can enter and posting the symptoms of COVID-19 outside with a request that symptomatic individuals not enter.

Phase 2 in Louisiana will last at least 21 days. Because more businesses will be open to more patrons and because the CDC has clarified that the illness is most likely to spread through the air and not on surfaces, the order will strongly encourage individuals to wear masks whenever they are in public and will recommend that people who enter businesses that are not taking proper precautions consider the risk to their health and their family in doing so.

“The people of Louisiana have done an incredible job flattening the curve here, and I’m thankful for their compliance and hard work. [...] Gov. Edwards said. “However, as more people are out and about and occupancy increases and even more businesses operate, members of the public should be cautious as they enter businesses and leave any place that is not taking precautions against the spread of COVID-19, especially if employees interacting with the public are not wearing masks and customers are not being encouraged to do so as well. [...]

“In addition, people who are at high risk for becoming seriously ill from COVID-19, including those over 65 and those with underlying health conditions, should still Stay at Home unless they are completing essential tasks, such as doctor visits or going to purchase medications, food or other necessary items. Everyone should consider their own risk and the risk of those in their households as they plan their public outings. There are still thousands of active COVID-19 cases in Louisiana and public health experts have increased warnings about asymptomatic people being able to spread the illness unknowingly.”

Paycheck Protection Program Extended to 24 Weeks by US Senate

The US Senate passed a bill last week, the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020, that will extend the Paycheck Protection Program loans from covering eight weeks of payroll, to 24 weeks for small businesses. The bill also reduces the amount businesses have to spend on payroll to be forgiven from 75% to 60%. The Treasury Department and Small Business Administration published guidelines for the legislation that can be found at <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/PP-P-IFR-Loan-Forgiveness.pdf>

The instructions help small business professionals understand how businesses can get their PPP loans converted into a grant, including a stipulation that owners will not be penalized if previous employees rescind an offer to be rehired.



Dr. Koren Boggs (L) and Dr. Greg Gormanous at past board meeting. Dr. Gormanous developed a collaborative effort with community members.

Psychology Board's Legislative Initiative SB 438 on Hold for Now

Senate Bill 458, initiated by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP) and authored by Senator Luneau from Alexandria, was set to making sweeping changes to the psychology law. However, first encountering members from the Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA), and then the coronavirus crisis, the measure is on hold with an uncertain place in the special session.

SB 458 proposes numerous changes to the law, including establishing a new system of credentialing for assistants, revising the qualifications for board members, changes to the scope of practice, expanding the charter of the board, and others.

At the the April 3 meeting of the board, held on Zoom, Dr. Greg Gormanous, Chair of Legislative Affairs for LSBEP, established an Ad Hoc Legislative Collaborative Committee composed of the board and community members, have been working to reach consensus about the legislation.

Attendees have included Greg Gormanous, Chance McNeely, Amy Henke (In partial attendance for Koren Boggs) Erin Reuther, Matt Holcomb, Kim VanGeffen, Kim Sherman, Carmen Broussard, and Brandon Wilks, according to the minutes. Also, "Representatives from LAMP declined to participate on this committee. [...]."

"The committee discussed and agreed upon Objectives (attached). The committee met its first objective of flagging items that were not concerning as "HOUSEKEEPING" and those items that warranted

additional discussion/of concern as "SUBSTANTIVE".

The group met on April 24. "The ALCC reviewed and reached a general consensus related to the definitions for "Practice of psychology" and "Psychologist." An additional discussion topic was identified related to clarification to the "Practice of Psychology" related to research assistants; supervision of students; and licensure of faculty and exceptions that do clinical research in university settings."

On May 8, 2020, The committee reached a consensus on allowing one seat on the board for an early career psychologist." Working on the assistant issue, "Ms. Monic presented rationale and data, the same also provided to the Committee in an email this date, concerning the need to define and set parameters for the registration of an assistant to psychologist. ALCC members representing LPA requested to see more specific language in the proposed legislation to identify exactly who would be considered an "assistant to psychologist." Members representing LSPA requested to identify specific exemptions (e.g. other licensed professionals working within the scope of their license)."

On May 14,"The ALCC discussed modifications related to the Definition of Registration of Assistants to Psychologists, [...] No final determinations were made on this topic which the ALCC will continue to discuss at their next meeting."

State & National News

Gov. Names Co-Chairs, Members of COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force

Gov. John Bel Edwards has named the two co-chairs and appointed members to the Louisiana COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force and several subcommittees, according to the announcement from the governor's office.

"It is an honor to serve the citizens of Louisiana on the COVID-19 Health Equity Taskforce," said Co-Chair Dr. Sandra C. Brown, Dean of Southern University's College of Nursing and Allied Health.

"I look forward to working with a distinguished diverse group of experts from across the state that are committed to addressing the health disparities that specifically challenge minorities and vulnerable populations in Louisiana not only in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, but in advancing health equity for decades to come."

"I am excited to be able to contribute to this important taskforce," said Co-Chair Dr. Thomas LaVeist, Dean of Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

"Louisiana has for many years been among the least healthy states and the racial disparities seen around the country are as evident here as it is elsewhere.

"I am particularly delighted that Governor Edwards has prioritized health equity and I am hopeful that we will be able to make a difference for our state."

The task force's work will begin immediately, and its actions and research will result in improved health outcomes and equity in Louisiana. A statewide Health Equity Dashboard will be created to monitor the progress of the task force.

The Gov. also announced members of the subcommittees including those members for the for Health Disparities and Research. This group provides research and data regarding the disparities aligned with COVID-19).

Serving in this subcommittee will be:

Connie Arnold, Ph.D.
LSUHSC- Shreveport/Feist-Weiller Cancer Center
Professor of Medicine

Terry C. Davis, Ph.D.
LSUHC-Shreveport/Feist-Weiller Cancer Center
Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics

Margarite Echevveri, Ph.D.
Xavier University
Educational Coordinator in Health Disparities, Cultural Competence and Diversity at the Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education

Peter Fos, Ph.D.
Dillard University

Louisiana Launches E-Commerce Initiative for Small Businesses

Gov. Edwards and Secretary Don Pierson of Louisiana Economic Development have announced an e-commerce initiative to empower the online performance of Louisiana's small businesses. The goal of LASmallBizOnline.com – with support from Shopify, a leading global commerce company – is making Louisiana firms more competitive during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Small businesses are playing a critical role in Louisiana's recovery from the pandemic, and we're putting them in position to do even more," Gov. Edwards said. "The tools we're providing through Shopify give business owners a playbook for creating their first e-commerce site or for enhancing their existing site. We are particularly excited about the potential this initiative holds for building more successful, resilient businesses throughout rural Louisiana."

At LASmallBizOnline.com, Louisiana business owners gain access to a 14-day free trial with Shopify and enhanced one-on-one support. They'll find tools, tutorials and live webinars for creating company websites, bringing more customers to their sites, managing inventory and fulfilling orders.

New e-commerce users at LASmallBizOnline.com will find tools that put them in command of email marketing, site security, setting up taxes, distribution channels and more. For businesses with some e-commerce background, the site offers advanced tools for online marketing, sales growth, search optimization, and customer experience.

All participating businesses will gain access to Shopify customer support. They'll have the option of building their own Shopify store, or engaging a Shopify partner to build an online store for them. LED anticipates bringing additional resources to the site from other e-commerce providers.

"This initiative gives Louisiana's small businesses the opportunity to grow on an e-commerce platform built for success," Secretary Pierson said. "The program delivers a quick start and professional assistance for smaller employers in building their online presence. At LASmallBizOnline.com, they'll join a network of Louisiana companies that share their vision for a successful future."

Professor of Health and Wellness and Health Equity Researcher

Faye Grimsley, PhD, CIH, MSPH
Xavier University
Head, Department of Public Health

Dr. Amy Lesen
Dillard University
Associate Professor of Biology and Researcher

Rhoda Reddix, Ph.D.
Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University
Associate Professor, Director of Service Learning, specialization, health disparities: community engagement and service

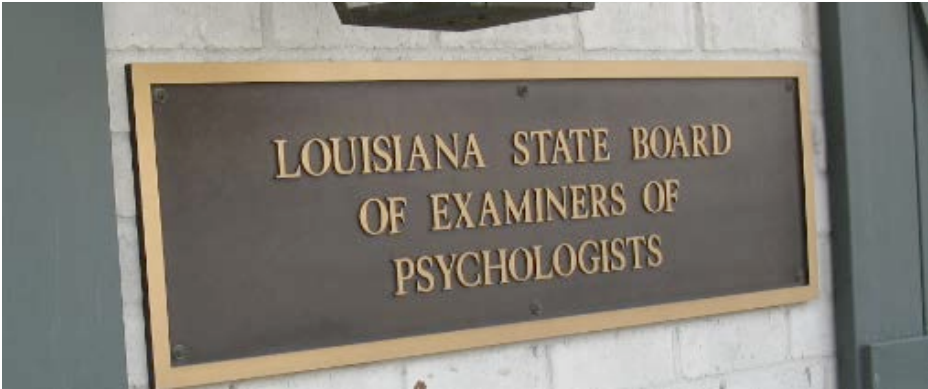
Daniel Sarpong, Ph.D.
Xavier University
Director of the Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education, Endowed Chair of Health Disparities and Professor of Biostatistics in the College of Pharmacy

Lisa VanHoose, PT, PhD, MPH,
University of Louisiana at Monroe
Associate Professor and Program Director in the Physical Therapy

Executive Order Removes 1st Amendment Shield for Social Media Platforms that Censor

Pres. Trump has issued an Executive Order that removes first amendment protections for certain social media platforms, turning them into "publishers" if they censor information posted by individuals, especially regarding censorship of political speech.

The Executive Order on Preventing Online Censorship was issued May 28 and notes, "Protections Against Online Censorship. (a) It is the policy of the United States to foster clear ground rules promoting free and open debate on the internet. Prominent among the ground rules governing that debate is the immunity from liability created by section 230(c) of the Communications Decency Act (section 230(c)). 47 U.S.C. 230(c). It is the policy of the United States that the scope of that immunity should be clarified: the immunity should not extend beyond its text and purpose to provide protection for those who purport to provide users a forum for free and open speech, but in reality use their power over a vital means of communication to engage in deceptive or pretextual actions stifling free and open debate by censoring certain viewpoints."



From the Minutes

Selected Items from March & April Minutes of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP)

Friday, March 6, 2020 (Approved May 20, 2020, Posted May 29)

Executive Director Report: Ms. Monic reported the following: • Civil Matter - U.S. Western District, Lafayette Div. No. 6:17-CV-01095 Eric R. Cerwonka, PsyD vs. LSBEP, Jaime Monic was argued before U.S. District Judge Michael J. Juneau (Magistrate of Judge Whitehurst) on February 13, 2020. On February 14, 2020, the matter was dismissed with prejudice at the cost of Plaintiff.

Dr. Moore reported that the committee reviewed application files during executive session this date. Dr. Boggs reported that the workgroup revised the professional reference form, declaration of competencies form, and post- doctoral supervision form.

Dr. Gormanous moved to establish a standing Public and Professional Outreach Committee. Distinguished from the Liaison to Professional Organizations and Boards by their recommendations to write Newsletter articles and conduct outreach surveys. The Board discussed the motion. The motion passed [...]. Dr. Boggs appointed Drs. Henke and Moore to the Public and Professional Outreach Committee.

Discussion Items:

1) LSSP Appointment for 7/1/2019 – 6/30/2020 – The Board reviewed the self-nominations and unanimously appointed Dr. Katherine Chenier to replace Dr. Amy Morvant’s seat on the LSSP Advisory Committee to the LSBEP. Dr. Gormanous moved in favor of accepting the LSSP Committee recommendation to appoint Dr. Chenier for the term 3/6/2020 – 6/30/2023. The Board discussed the motion. The motion passed by unanimous roll-call vote [...].

2) 2020 Legislative Review [...] LSBEP Housekeeping Legislation – The board again

reviewed and considered revisions for potential housekeeping legislation for the 2020 Regular Legislative Session including: board member composition, Definition of “Practice of psychology”; Summary Suspension provision; Emeritus License (full retirement/no CE/minimum fee); R.S. 37:2356.B. and C. require updating related to examinations; Unlicensed Assistants; registration; revocation and fee schedule; and Disclosure of information received in an administrative investigation falling under other state or federal jurisdictional oversight. Dr. VanGeffen stated her concerns that she did not feel as though LPA’s Legislative Committee had enough time to consider the changes, and was concerned that opening the psychology practice act would pose a risk of having others interfere with the psychology scope of practice. Dr. Thomas Holcomb commented that LPA would like to see proposed legislation ahead of time and would appreciate the opportunity to consider items they felt needed longer discussion. Dr. Gormanous stated for the record that this discussion has been ongoing for a while, and with serious intent since at least the Long Range Planning in October 2019, that he is the one who pushed the notion for identifying the need to define the summary suspension procedure, and also going back to the process of registering unlicensed assistants.

4) Delegation of Subpoena authority: Chain of Command – The Board discussed the delegated authority of the Chair to sign subpoena’s on behalf of the Board. Ms. Monic presented a situation where the Board Chair would need to be recused from a matter and would not be able to carry out this task. The Board discussed the matter and by motion of Dr. Boggs agreed that it would be proper procedure, should the board chair be recused from a case, that the Executive Director establish the Vice Chair as the board

member serving on the Complaints Committee. Should the Vice Chair need to be recused, the member who’s [sic] appointment immediately followed the Vice Chair and so on. The Board discussed the motion, the motion passed by unanimous roll-call vote as follows: In favor: (5) Boggs, Gormanous, Henke, Gibson, and Moore; Against: 0; Abstained: (0); Absent: (1) McNeely

8) 2020-2021 Contracts – The Board discussed an amendment to the legal contract for Chehardy, Sherman, Williams, Murray, Recile, Stakelum & Hayes, LLP., as requested by Ms. Courtney Newton related to hourly rates. Dr. Henke moved in favor of increasing rates to \$225/hour as requested and in line with approved Attorney General rates but not increasing the total contract amount until the board had more time to assess its budget and continuing with a prosecutor at higher rates. The Board discussed the motion, the motion passed by unanimous roll-call vote [...].

9) 2019-20 and 2020-21 Budget Review; security and related considerations. – Dr. Gormanous discussed increased security due to continued concerns arising out of complaint and legal matters and requested the Board approve \$2500 to upgrade the security system for the LSBEP Office. The Board discussed the motion, the motion passed by unanimous roll-call vote [...].

Friday, April 3, 2020 (Approved May 20, 2020, Posted May 29)

5. Complaints Committee - Mr. Owens reported there was one Complaint docketed for review today in Executive Session. Mr. Owens presented his Compliance Report for the period 03/07/20 – 04/03/20 as follows: Total number of Requests for Investigations received since last meeting: 0; Total number of Board initiated investigations since last meeting: 1; Total number of Open Active investigations: 14 (4 against non-licensees) 9 are Formal Complaints; 2 from FY17-18; 4 from FY18-19; 3 from FY19-20; 4 are still under review by Complaints Coordinator Total number of cases closed (as of today’s vote): 0; Disciplinary Actions: 0

Discussion Items

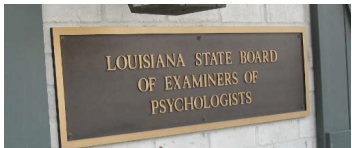
COVID19 Considerations, Response and Waivers

Ms. Monic advised that the following procedures were implemented: Emergency Temporary Registration Applications were open for processing; an Executive Committee was formed consisting of the Chair, Vice Chair and Executive Director to respond to the emergency and the massive amount of information and questions being received; the website was updated with information concerning continuing agency operations/licensing; Telesupervision Application fees were waived given the displacement of students, interns and postdoctoral fellows; and the Executive Committee has started sending a Weekly Wednesday Update to manage the information and provide some consistency and regularity to these unprecedented times.

[...] Telesupervision - By motion of Dr. Koren Boggs, the Board discussed and approved the

Dr. Koren Boggs is chair of the LSBEP.





From the Minutes

Selected Items from March & April Minutes of the LSBEP, continued

following provision related To Tele-Supervision Applications: the \$25 fee for this application will be waived for the duration of the Governor’s “Stay at Home” Order.

[...] For the period beginning March 11, 2020, through the duration of the Governor’s “Stay at Home” Order, the Board voted to waive the requirement that at least 50% of approved tele-supervision of trainees and assistants be provided in-person. All other supervision requirements remain the same

[...] Oral examinations for licensure will continue. The Board will waive the in-person requirement for administration of the Oral Examination and will conduct face-to-face examinations via Zoom.

[...] For both the 2020 and 2021 renewal periods, the requirement that CPD credits must be obtained from at least two different subcategories under the LAC §803 is waived. That is, licensees can obtain all CPD credits from activities in one of the nine subcategories listed in the LAC Chapter 8. Additionally, the number of required CPD credits is reduced from 40 to 30, understanding the hardship imposed on all licensees during this crisis.

LSBEP Housekeeping Legislation SB 458- Luneau – Dr. Julie Nelson expressed general opposition to the Legislation for various reasons including her opinion that it expanded the authorities of the Board in an overreaching manner. Dr. Nelson also asked if there had been a formal motion to file legislation. Ms. Monic replied “yes”. The previous minutes were referenced for clarity. Specifically, Dr. Nelson asked whether or not the Board had the authority to propose legislation. Mr. McNeely explained that public entities created by the legislature, such as LSBEP, have an obligation to notify the legislature if provisions of law limit the ability of such entity to sufficiently meets its charge, in this case, of public protection. Mr. McNeely further explained that while LSBEP sought an author for this legislation, it is the legislator who ultimately decides to file and is the author of legislation. Mr. McNeely closed his remarks stating that actions in pursuit of legislation taken by the LSBEP are not only allowed, but also common and appropriate.

[break taken] After considering comments, Mr. McNeely stated his desire to continue discussing the Legislative Draft as he understood the Association’s perspective. However, from a regulatory and public protection perspective, he believed the legislation was important and necessary. Mr. McNeely moved that the Board create an AdHoc working committee made up of those potentially impacted in the industry for the purposes of reviewing, discussing and potentially revising SB 458. The Board discussed the motion. Dr. Gormanous suggested the inclusion of the Louisiana Psychological Association, the LSBEP Legislative Committee, the Louisiana Association of Medical Psychologists, and the Louisiana School Psychology Association. The Board discussed the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote as follows: In favor: (6) Boggs, Henke, Gormanous, Gibson, Moore, McNeely; Against: (0); Abstained: (0); Absent: (0)

2020-21 Contracts – The Board reviewed and discussed continuing contracts for the 2020-21 Fiscal Year as follows: [...]by motion of Dr.

Gregory Gormanous that the Board contract with Mark P. Vigen, Ph.D. to provide services as Complaints Coordinator III, for a fiscal-year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 for an amount not to exceed a maximum of \$5,000.

[...]by motion of Dr. Gormanous that the Board contract with Statewide Surveillance & Investigations for an amount not to exceed \$12,000, to provide investigatory services beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

[...]the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, pursuant to La. R.S. 42:262, does hereby retain and employ the Law Office of Gray Sexton (Attorneys Grey Sexton and Alesia Ardoin) as special counsel; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the hourly rates shall be \$225 per hour for services of partners or associates with experience in the practice of law of 10 years or more; [...] A total amount not to


exceed \$5,000 for Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

[...] by motion of Dr. Gregory Gormanous, that the Board contract the services of Monique Marino for an amount not to exceed \$12,500, to assist the Executive Director with special projects and project management, upon request of the Executive Director for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

[...] The Board discussed an amendment to the legal contract for Chehardy, Sherman, Williams, Murray, Recile, Stakelum & Hayes, LLP. Following approval of increased rates at their March 6, 2020 meeting. Ms. Monic reviewed the remaining contract amount and provided information to the board related to funding the contract for the remainder of the Fiscal Year. Following discussion, Dr. Henke moved that the board approve an increase in the contract amount by \$10,000, a total not to exceed \$50,055.97.

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ULM Ranks #1 In Online Programs

The University of Louisiana Monroe (ULM) has once again achieved a top ranking for its online educational programs. *Value Colleges* ranked ULM Number one in the state for best online colleges in Louisiana.

According to the university announcement, ULM Online offers associate, bachelor, master and doctorate degrees. ULM Online is part of Compete LA, the innovative initiative by the University of Louisiana System to assist adults ready to complete their college degrees.

In the news report the University list a number of their online awards including:

No. 18 – 30 Best Online Master’s in Psychology by Online Schools Report for ULM Online’s M.S. in Psychology

No. 26 and Best Research-Focused Program – The Top 35 Online Master’s in School Counseling Programs for ULM Online’s M.S. in Counseling, School Counseling

No. 30 – The Top 60 Online Master’s in Counseling Degrees by Intelligent.com for ULM Online’s M.S. in Counseling*

No. 36 and Best Marriage and Family Therapy Program – The Top 60 Online PhD Programs by Intelligent.com for ULM Online’s Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy*

Also listed were:

- No. 1 – Best Online Colleges in Louisiana for 2020 by Value Colleges for ULM Online
- No. 3 – 10 Most Affordable Online Graduate Schools by the Master’s Programs Guide
- No. 4 – 10 Best Value Colleges (Louisiana) by SmartAsset.com
- No. 4 and Best in the South – The Top 27 Online Master’s in History by Intelligent.com for ULM Online’s M.A. in History
- No. 4 and Best in the South – The Top 60 Online History Degrees by Intelligent.com for ULM Online’s B.A. in History
- No. 5 – 5 Best Online Insurance Degrees for 2020 by Online Schools Report for ULM Online’s Risk Management and Insurance
- No. 5 – 10 Best Master’s Degrees in Gerontology 2020 by College Rank for ULM Online’s M.A. in Gerontology
- No. 6 – Top 20 Online Programs in Clinical Nurse Leadership by the Healthcare Management Degree Guide for ULM Online’s M.S. in Gerontologic Nurse Leadership

For more information about ULM Online and to register, visit ulm.edu/onlinedegrees/, email: onlinedegrees@ulm.edu or call 318-342-3145.

Stress Solutions

by Susan Andrews, PhD

More on The Tapping Solution: A Basis in Ancient Chinese Medicine

Tapping evolved out of work that Dr. Roger Callahan, a psychologist treating a woman with a severe water phobia, developed in 1979. Dr. Callahan had been studying meridian points at the time he was treating this woman. Since he had been making no progress with her, he hit upon an idea of tapping on the endpoint of the stomach meridian as the client said that whenever she thought about water, she got a “terrible feeling in the pit of her stomach.”

Meridians are the basis of the Chinese medicine system of acupuncture. They are defined as energy channels that run thru the body and carry the “qi” energy to the organs and other systems. Each meridian is associated with a different organ system. The map of the meridians is known and easy to find even though no one has ever actually measured or proven the existence of them as far as I know. Nonetheless, the meridian system is hundreds of years old and to this date Chinese medicine relies on it. The meridians are mostly named for the organ system they feed or energize, like the Stomach Meridian, the Gall Bladder Meridian, and so on. The Stomach Meridian ends at a point just below the eye. Dr. Callahan asked his client to tap on that spot with her fingertips and after a few minutes, her horrible feeling in the pit of her stomach was gone and the story is that it never came back.

Dr. Callahan had a student named Gary Craig who worked out a way of making tapping easier. Craig created a single sequence of tapping which became known as EFT, Emotional Freedom Techniques. The EFT sequence was designed to hit all major meridian endpoints and thus was more of a general solution to whatever was the problem. The EFT sequence starts tapping on the hand, moves to the eyebrow, under the eye, under the nose, the chin, the collarbone and the side of the rib cage. It ends at the top of the head.

Since stress and its near-relation, anxiety, affect our organs and many aspects of our nervous system, it stands to reason that it would reduce stress and anxiety. One thing about a system like the Tapping Solution that may put some therapists off is that it seems on first look to be fairly mechanistic. However, that may not be fair. The current evolution of the Tapping Solution has grown substantially and now there is a large literature including studies which deserve a review.

In short, research over the past 10 to 20 years has shown that one can measurably decrease limbic system (amygdala, hippocampus) activity by stimulating selected meridian acupoints. PET and fMRI brain scans show the amygdala calming when acupoints are stimulated. Studies have also shown reduced cortisol levels when tapping is done during a stress response. In fact, the level of cortisol reduction has been labeled “dramatic and unprecedented.”

The growth of this technique among others is now in an area of psychology called, Energy Psychology. Evidence is coming from many countries now that suggests that Tapping is not only fast and effective, but also the effects are lasting. The discussion of this technique is broaching on a concept that is making a lot of news: you CAN change Your brain.

J. Fang et al. “The Salient Characteristics of the Central Effects of Acupuncture Needling: Limbic-Paralimbic-Neocortical Network Modulation.” *Human Brain Mapping* 30, no. 4 (April 2009): 1196-1206.



Dr. Susan Andrews is a Clinical Neuropsychologist, an award-winning writer/author (her book *Stress Solutions for Pregnant Moms*, published in 2013, has been translated into Chinese,) and 2016 Distinguished Psychologist of the Louisiana Psychological Association.

Dr. Simoneaux Honored as 2020 Distinguished Psychologist

continued

us have relied on his counsel numerous times. He has handled the most intense kinds of forensic cases, such as custody cases, with wisdom, grace, and due diligence for the facts. Many people in the legal profession—lawyers, judges—have a correct view of the power of psychology in the courtroom due to Dr. Simoneaux's work."

"He is the principal and wonderful teacher at Professional Training Resources, and likely everyone here has learned from him, as he has taught hundreds of courses."

Dr. John Simoneaux said he was very "surprised and honored" to receive the award but, not sure that he was deserving.

Dr. Simoneaux is in private practice at his firm, Consulting Psychologists of Central Louisiana, in Pineville, Louisiana. He is full-time private practice in Forensic Psychology and his work activities include consultation with various psychiatric hospitals, group homes, and state agencies. He conducts psychological assessments for custody, sanity, sex offenders, children's and protective services. He also provides expert testimony for custody, sanity, sexual and physical abuse, and disability determinations.

Dr. Simoneaux is founder and President of Professional Training Resources, Inc., where he and his staff provide continuing education training for those in a variety of professions, primarily mental health and legal professionals.

He has served as a Consulting Psychologist to Central Louisiana State Hospital, Leesville Developmental Center, Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital and the Cane River Community Group Home in Natchitoches. He also has consulted with the Rapides Parish Office of Community Services, Vernon Parish, Catahoula Parish, Lasalle Parish, and Concordia Parish. He has been the Program Director at RiverNorth Treatment Center

Principal among of his contributions, noted the Committee, has been his continued and ongoing efforts to bring scientific psychology to the awareness of judges, attorneys, peace officers, and others in the legal system.

Dr. Simoneaux regularly presents to an audience of Louisiana judges, attorneys, district court clerks, peace officers, legal assistants and court reporters. One example is the annual Nuts & Bolts Judicial Seminar, a three-day conference, hosted by Appellate Judge, Hon. Harmon Drew, Jr., and his research attorney wife, Jean Drew. Judge Drew is with the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeal. The Louisiana Nuts & Bolts Judicial Seminar has been in operation since 1992 and the Drews have focused on presenting important and practical training for the regularly attending 250 court Louisiana officials who travel to Destin, Florida, to attend the highly rated event.

Dr. Simoneaux presents such topics as "Medical Mimics – Medical Conditions that are often Misdiagnosed as Mental Illness," and "Detecting Psychological Disorders in the Elderly: Is Aunt Mary a little off? Or is it Just Me?" Another example is he has presented "Registration Requirements for Louisiana Sex Offenders," with Judge Drew facilitating.

Simoneaux noted that he has been part of the conference for over 15 years, and said, "We love coming here. I really feel like they've accepted me into this group." Attendees include individuals from Louisiana's District Courts, City Courts, Appeal Courts, Police Departments, Sheriff's and Marshal's Offices, the state Supreme Court, law firms and others. Dr. Simoneaux is the only psychologist who regularly helps

train the court professionals, and he is a favorite of the group, said the Drews.

Another of Dr. Simoneaux' contributions comes from his interdisciplinary training in the mental health service industry at Professional Training Resources. One example is his popular "Summer Symposium."

"Several years ago we started 'Summer Symposium,'" he explained previously. "We do three days in July and it's designed so someone can come and have all the CEs they'd need for the year." The program is approved for APA, but also for a number of professions, with multiple presenters, and different tracts. PRT is APA accredited for psychologists, but likewise is approved to offer CEs for Social Workers, LPCs, Rehabilitation Counselors, Substance Abuse Counselors, School Psychologists, and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

Professional Training Resources is a business where teaching, learning, and having fun is near and dear to Dr. Simoneaux who has "always had a love of teaching." In graduate school he minored in higher education. His services have reached all areas and disciplines that can benefit the larger community.

The Louisiana Psychological Association Awards Committee includes Kim VanGeffen, PhD; Beth Arredondo, PhD; Brian Mizuki, PhD; C. Laurel Franklin, PhD; and Michael Chafetz, PhD (Chair)

Dr. John Simoneaux (L) and Judge Robert Burgess, DeSoto Parish Judge, at the Nuts & Bolts training conference designed by Judge Harmon Drew, who is with the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeal, and research attorney wife, Jean Drew.



Dr. Raines Named 2020 Early Career Psychologist

Dr. Amanda Raines, Clinical Investigator at Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System and Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Louisiana State University, has been named the 2020 Early Career Psychologist by the Louisiana Psychological Association.

Highlighting her extensive peer-reviewed publications, development of novel interventions, ability to secure funding for the benefit of veterans in underserved areas, Awards Chair Dr. Mike Chafetz announced Dr. Raines as this year's recipient on May 29. The Early Career Psychologist Award is given to an individual who is within 10 years of completing their doctorate in psychology and who has distinguished themselves by contributing to psychology research, practice, or both during the initial years of their career.

"Dr. Raines has published 89 peer-reviewed manuscripts, including 29 as first author, and presented her work at local, national, and international conferences. And keep in mind," Chafetz said, "this is the *Early Career Award*!

"Dr. Raines' research focuses on identifying and empirically examining diagnostic risk and maintenance factors, as well as the development of novel interventions that can be used to prevent and treat anxiety and related forms of pathology including suicide. Equally impressive," he said, is "Dr. Raines' ability to secure funding for treatment of veterans in rural and underserved areas."

Consistent with LPA's mission to advance psychology as a science, explained the Awards Committee, she conducts this research using a translational framework wherein basic laboratory science is carried

out with the goal of informing clinical practice. In turn, knowledge gleaned from the clinical arena reciprocally informs basic science methodologies.

The Committee explained that Dr. Raines is not only a highly productive scholar but also an influential one. Her h-index of 24, indicates that to date, 24 of her manuscripts have been cited 24 times or more. Many of her publications have been featured in high impact journals such as the *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, *Journal of Psychiatric Research*, and *Journal of Affective Disorders*. Her research has been featured on national forums including the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Suicide Prevention Fact Sheet for helping to further understanding of the relationship between Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and suicide.

As a resident, Dr. Raines obtained pilot funding to test the acceptability, feasibility, and utility of a group-based transdiagnostic treatment delivered to veterans living in rural and underserved areas throughout Louisiana. During this time, she also obtained pilot funding to examine the effects of a brief, one-session computerized cognitive behavioral intervention delivered to veterans seeking treatment for an opioid use disorder.

Dr. Raines has also received a New Investigator Research Award from the American Public Health Association. In addition to a monetary stipend, this award allows her to access the National Violent Death Reporting System database, which links data from vital records, coroner/medical examiners, and law enforcement agencies, to obtain comprehensive data on suicides, homicides, deaths from legal intervention, deaths of undermined intent, and

unintentional firearm deaths. With this data, Dr. Raines plans to utilize network analysis as a foundation for identifying characteristics of veterans who die by self-inflicted gunshot wound versus alternative methods in hopes of identifying novel prevention and intervention targets.

Dr. Raines has received a prestigious and highly competitive Career Development Award, which was established by the VA to attract, develop, and retain talented researchers. Dr. Raines is the first psychologist and researcher at SLVHCS to receive one of these awards since 2004 (prior to Hurricane Katrina). Her project, titled, "Examination of a Safety Aid Reduction Protocol for Treatment Resistant PTSD among Veterans," will bring around \$800,000 to the facility and is designed to adapt and extend an existing group-based anxiety protocol for use among veterans with PTSD.

Another of Dr. Raines' many notable qualities is her commitment to giving back to the field of psychology. Currently, she serves as a research supervisor to trainees in the American Psychological Association accredited internship and residency program. She serves as a mentor for the VA's Training Residents in Psychiatry Scholarship program, which aims to increase the number of psychiatry residents entering research training fellowships. Additionally, Dr. Raines serves as a member of SLVHCS Bioethics Committee, as a peer-reviewer for over 20 scientific journals, as a Director on the LPA Executive Council, and as the Co-Chair of the Convention Committee.



Dr. Amanda Raines, Clinical Investigator at Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System and Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Louisiana State University, has been named the 2020 Early Career Psychologist by the Louisiana Psychological Association.

(courtesy photo)

People

*Dr. Lee Matthews Receives
the First Janet R. Matthews
Mentoring Award*
continued

mentored by Dr. Janet Matthews, explained Chair, Dr. Michael Chafetz. Janet passed away in 2019.

"Dr. Lee Matthews is this year's winner, and it is most fitting," said Chafetz at the ceremony. "His 30-year career was marked by mentoring undergraduate students, graduate students, psychology interns, psychology post-doctoral students and individuals with degrees in psychology completing post-doctoral supervision or other post-degree supervision in a variety of capacities," he said.

"He mentored students and professionals at Loyola University, DePaul Hospital, and the New Orleans VA Medical Center," said Chafetz. "He had the non-paying position as Chief Psychologist, Masters & Johnson Relational and Sexual Therapy Clinic and Sexual Trauma and Sexual Compulsivity Program for two years, to provide daily supervision, so that one of his former VA interns could have a position with that facility, until he was licensed and became the Director of Psychology.

"He has also mentored numerous other professionals and soon-to-be professionals at considerable cost to his time and often without compensation. I was recused from the committee throughout this nomination process, as I can attest to Dr. Lee Matthews effective leadership and guidance throughout the early part of my career."

Dr. Matthews is in private practice at his firm in Kenner, Psychological Resources, and is a consulting psychologist to Southeast Louisiana Medical Associates at Leonard J. Chabert Medical Center, the Akula Foundation in New Orleans, St. Charles Parish Hospital, Canon Hospice, Children's Hospital, and others.

He holds the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) Diplomate in Clinical Psychology and the American Board of Assessment Psychology (ABAP) Diplomate in Clinical Psychology.

He serves as Assistant Clinical Faculty, Department of Psychiatry, LSU Medical Center School of Medicine at New Orleans, and Associate Clinical Faculty, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Tulane University Health Sciences Center Tulane University Medical Center.

Dr. Matthews has numerous scientific and professional accomplishments. He was named the 2014 Distinguished Psychologist by the Louisiana Psychological Association, served on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, served as Secretary, Society of Assessment Psychology (APA), as Secretary/Treasurer APA Div. 1, and as President, New Orleans Neuropsychological Society, among others.



Drs. Lee and Janet Matthews at SEPA in 2016. Lee was named the first recipient of the award established in Janet's honor, The Janet R. Matthews, Ph.D. Outstanding Psychology Mentor Award.

His many publications include the following examples authored with wife Janet: Diversity in Family Bereavement. In Allen, R. S., Carpenter, B. D., & Eichorst, M. K. (Eds.). *Perspectives on Palliative and End of Life Care: Disease, Social and Cultural Context*. Also, Influences of the Greeks and Romans. In T. G. Plante (Ed). *Abnormal psychology across the ages*. And, Applying for Clinical and Other Applied Positions. In P. J. Giordano, S. F. Davis, & C. A. Licht (Eds). *Your graduate training in psychology: Effective strategies for success*.

He has blended practice, scholarly works, and the mentoring of students over his 30-year career, said the awards committee. For 16 years he was the supervisor and mentor for undergraduate students from Loyola University, for eight years he was the site supervisor at DePaul Hospital, an elective off-site placement for VA interns, and for seven years he was the co-coordinator of a weekly psychology assessment seminar for the interns and post-doctoral students at the VA Medical Center. For six years he was on the APA Internship Training Faculty for the Clinical Neuropsychology Internship at Tulane University Medical Center.

"After 30 plus years of mentoring students and young psychologists, I am humbled and honored that many of them have had highly successful careers in psychology," Dr. Matthews said. "This is not due to me, but to each of them having the ability to take what I hope I have given them as a foundation for being a professional and ethical psychologist, and then using their own talents to apply that knowledge to their chosen careers, from university professors, clinical psychologists and neuropsychologists, and administrators for professional organizations."



Dr. Lee Matthews speaking at a dinner in honor of wife Janet, held last year in New Orleans.

A Shrink at the Flicks

The Plague

A Review

by Alvin G. Burstein

Any recommended reading list for the COVID-19 era would include Defoe’s *A Journal of the Plague Year* and Camus’ *The Plague*. With theatre going still interdicted because of the virus, I checked Google for on-line movies of either.

Nothing for Defoe. A foreign language version of Camus’ work was listed., But, for some reason, it was said to be unavailable. However, there was another, recent American film called *The Plague*, said to be inspired by, though not a translation of Camus’ work. Clive Barker’s 2006 film, *The Plague*, was available on Amazon Prime. Three ninety-five brought it to our big screen TV.

The litcrit concept of intertextuality argues that one’s understanding of a story, its meaning to the reader, is conditioned by the other stories known to one. Intertextuality is central to any analysis of *The Plague*, because its co-directors/authors, Masonberg and Menton, invoke without ambiguity in the film’s opening scene.

The protagonist, Tom Russel, just released from prison, is on the road, walking toward his home. Sound familiar?

As he passes the camera, we see him from behind. There is a book sticking out of his back pocket. We see the title: *The Grapes of Wrath*. Remember that in Steinbeck’s classic tale of Oakie migrants fleeing the Dust Bowl, the book begins with its protagonist, Tom Joad, just released from prison, on the road, walking home.

Can there be doubt that the film’s creators want us to see a link between their film and Steinbeck’s story? To jog our memory, there is even a discussion of *The Grapes of Wrath* in the movie. Tom Russel tells one of his friends that Steinbeck’s book is about love and hope and family.

Guest Columnist,
Dr. Alvin Burstein

Burstein, a psychologist and psychoanalyst, is a professor emeritus at the University of Tennessee and a faculty member of the New Orleans-Birmingham Psychoanalytic Center with numerous scholarly works to his credit. He is also a member of Inklings, a Mandeville critique group that meets weekly to review its members’ imaginative writings. Burstein has published flash fiction and autobiographical



courtesy photo

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.



There is a second relevant text that the writers use to condition our understanding of the film. Actually, a filmdom genre in its own right: Zombie flicks. *The Plague* is a blatant Zombie flick.

It takes us to a fictional 1983 when, simultaneously, all the world’s children under the age of nine fall into a catatonic state, experiencing twice daily convulsions. We are told that the international response to the catastrophe includes a ban on childbirth—underscoring its calamitous nature.

In a flashback to that time, we see Tom’s brother-in-law startled awake to discover his eight-year-old son unconscious, foaming at the mouth. The boy’s father races to the hospital with him. He finds the institution is overwhelmed with the influx of cases and feels forced to take his son home to care for him. The film then fast forwards ten years to Tom Russel’s arrival at the house to meet his brother-in-law caring for the disabled boy, now an eighteen-year-old.

Shortly, the boy, along with the scores of other afflicted children who have been institutionalized simultaneously wake from their catatonia as zombies. As dictated by the genre, they wake, and zombie-like, are infused with hate for those that are human. Bent on extermination, they descend on humans as a ravaging horde.

The balance of the film focuses on Tom and a coterie of humans attempting to escape the zombie cohort. The film transitions into horror flick replete with bloody slash and splatter.

The contrast between the grounding texts—*The Grapes of Wrath* and zombie horror flicks—is enormous. Steinbeck’s novel is grittily realistic. The Okie’s enemy is climate and rapacious capitalism. The movie’s focus is on nightmarish horror. The zombie horde is unreal, the stuff of nightmares. What do they have in common?

In *The Grapes of Wrath* Tom Joad sacrifices himself fighting to organize the Oakies against predatory employers. He is portrayed as a Christ-like figure sacrificing himself for others. Emphasizing the religious motif, the book closes on a scene of Tom’s family taking shelter against a storm. They discover an abandoned old man dying of starvation. Tom’s sister, whose infant has just died, Madonna-like, suckles the old man. Hope and love. Faith in a future.

In *The Plague*, Tom stops fleeing the zombie horde and, inspired by a religious text he had found, surrenders himself to them, an act of faith and love that restores the zombies’ humanity.

The gross, gratuitous horrors of the film’s zombie component contaminated the effort to picture Tom Russel as Christ-like.

Special: Coping with the Coronavirus Pandemic

Is This a Good Time to Help Your Client Change Jobs? Two Experts Talk Shop...

"The job market just went from great to awful, but there may be some opportunities for those that want to make a wholesale switch," write Olson and Swift, from Korn Ferry career counselors. *Forbes'* Jack Kelley notes that the unemployment rates caused by coronavirus economic havoc could reach 30%. "And yet," he says, "for anyone thinking about switching careers," he says, "now might not be as bad of a time as it may seem."

We talked with two local career and business experts, Dr. William Costelloe and Mr. Jim Stodd, and ask them about adapting to the job market churn going on in the country.

William Costelloe, PhD, is a licensed I-O psychologist and owner of Costelloe & Associates, Inc. For over 40 years, he has consulted with both public corporations and family-owned businesses across the country, specializing in interpersonal communication, team building, pre-employment assessments, organizational surveys, and career counseling.

Jim Stodd, M.S., owner of JT Stodd & Associates, has provided consulting services to a diverse mix of clients including those in the healthcare, manufacturing, technology, construction, professional services, finance, government, and education. He also teaches classes in *Organizational Leadership* and

Human Resource Management at Louisiana State University, and serves as the principal instructor for the *Human Capital Management Certificate Program* at the University of New Orleans.

We asked Mr. Stodd what are some of the changes he sees for the future and careers? While he warned us that he was speculating, he thinks much of this will be influenced by the upcoming national election.

"If the republicans win, we will continue to see more 'domestication' of our economy with the USA establishing more independence and self-sufficiency. The big winners will be oil and gas, manufacturing, distribution/logistics, and all the jobs associated with those.

"If the democrats win, he said, "we will likely see a return to 'globalization' with more concern for being good citizens within the global economy. It will include a return to offshoring many manufacturing jobs, tech jobs, and a lot of associated logistics/distribution.

"Irrespective of which party wins, we are likely to see continued growth in demand for STEM workers across all sectors—not necessarily degrees, but 'credentials'— as well as healthcare, technology and logistics/transportation, particularly as retail establishments, including food services, shrink/disappear and home/office delivery continues

to grow. The COVID-19 pandemic will simply add to what has already been a significant trend."

What does he think are the most likely new job areas, or those that could boom?

"Right now both political parties seem to be in agreement that the national infrastructure needs revitalization," Stodd said. "This will likely be a huge effort. So we should expect that jobs in heavy construction—roads, bridges, airports, big buildings, etc.— including jobs in architecture, engineering, materials manufacturing, construction supplies and equipment, and other related industries will grow—dramatically!" he said. "Also growing will be the business services necessary to support these efforts."

With these changes, we asked Dr. William Costelloe what are the signs that it might be time for a person to shift jobs or industries?

"The current research on employee engagement in the workplace indicates that only 25 percent of the employees are fully engaged in their jobs, 59 percent of employees are ambivalent/disengaged, and 16 percent are actively disengaged. If someone senses that they are becoming less and less engaged in their work, then it is a time for concern," said Costelloe.

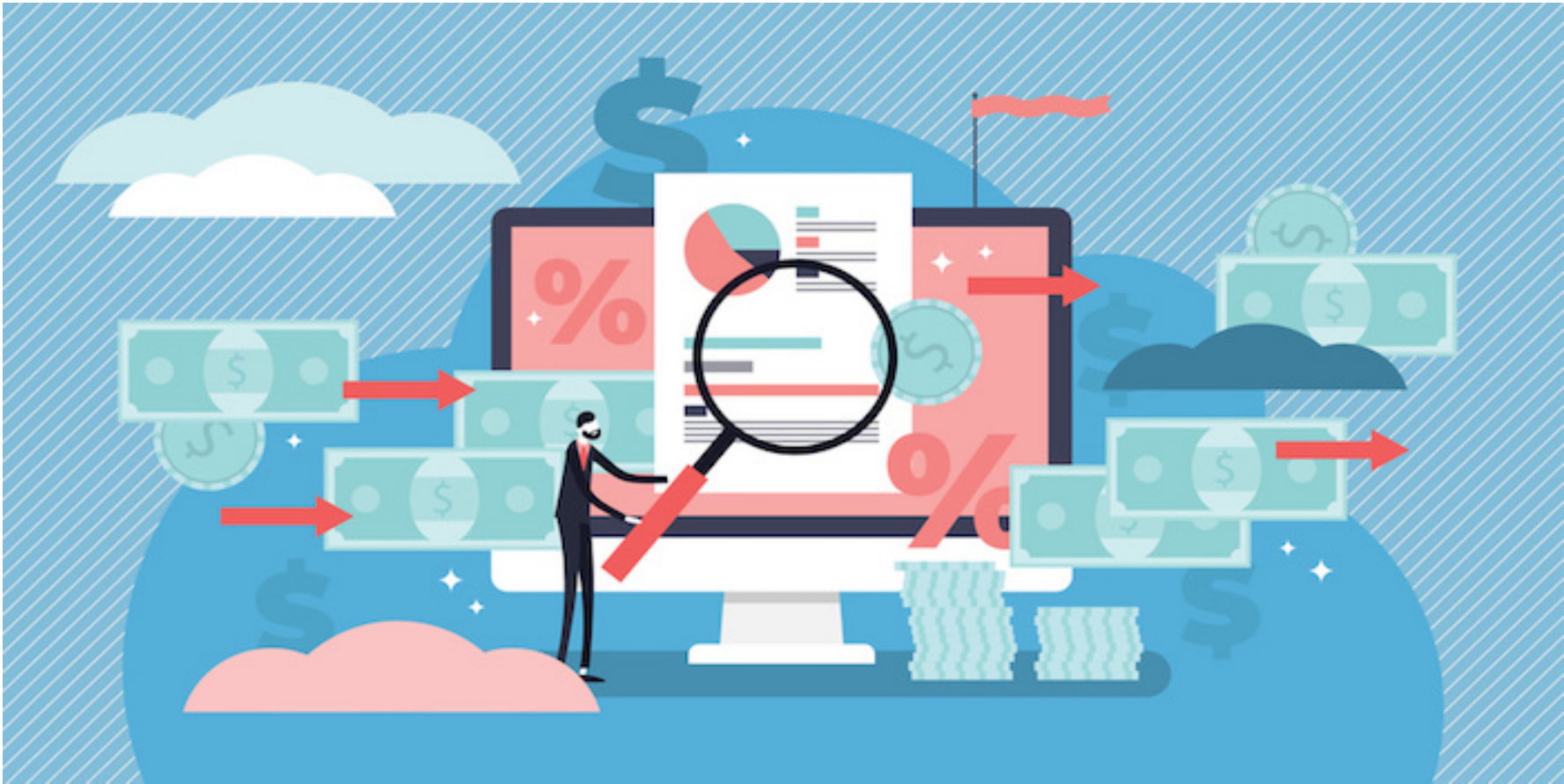
"The term I like to use is 'passion.' If an individual begins to sense that they are feeling more disengaged from their work, then they are losing their passion.

"We are all going through a shock right now and employees are in a situation where they are seeing furloughs and complete layoffs of their coworkers and unfortunately in many cases even themselves. This situation is causing employees to question their level of job security regarding their current career path. Their level of engagement is by definition decreasing and they are wondering if they should begin to look for a different line of work given the situation we are all facing now.," Costelloe said.

"At the same time, employees must guard against a knee-jerk reaction and not jump into a new career or job just because they are scared. They should not overreact but rather think their situation through seriously with a high level of self review and introspection."

"This is a very difficult question to answer," Stodd agrees. "The decision to change careers is a very personal decision that must be made based upon factors unique to each individual, their circumstances and what

Cont next pg



Special: Coping with the Coronavirus Pandemic

Is This a Good Time to Help Your Client Change Jobs?

they would like to accomplish in life. As such, it is very difficult to speak generally about the signs that might be important to any given individual. However, what we can talk about rather conclusively is why most people change jobs, and some of these factors are likely to ring-a-bell with any selected individual."

Stodd explained some of the research findings and the main reasons people change their jobs.

"Pay is by far the #1 reason folks leave a job, or an industry, for another," he said. "It is also listed as the #1 reason people decide to *stay put* in their current job."

But employees are also want respectful treatment, he explained. "Employees list 'respectful treatment' as the factor most important to their overall job satisfaction," he said. He pointed out that only 38% are satisfied with the amount of respect they receive.

Stodd also said factors such as trust and the opportunity to grow are important, as is job security, is a factor in these current conditions.

"Okay...Maslow was right! Research shows that people do want to feel reasonably safe and secure in their occupation, and they are likely to move to another opportunity when they feel insecure. Hospitality, entertainment, dining, and gaming have been hit really hard during the pandemic. Because of this it is likely that many employers in these industries will struggle for some time just to hire-back the folks they furloughed or laid-off. After all, why go back if there is a better, safer opportunity?"

Dr. Costello points out that before addressing issues such as job skills and job match, other questions may be more important.

"The first step is to ask the question 'What if?'," said Costelloe.

"What would happen if I took the time to seriously do some introspective thinking about what I could really do with the rest of my life? If I could determine what it is



Dr. William Costelloe (R) with colleagues Melinda Stallings (C) and Megan Redhead at a meeting of professionals interested in industrial-organizational psychology.

that I am really passionate about?

"There is a story about Michelangelo and the process he went through before he built a huge stained glass window in a church in Italy. He spent weeks and weeks gazing at the space in the church where he was going to build the window. The Medeci family, who had commissioned him to build the window, became more and more frustrated as he delayed his start. Finally, they confronted him and inquired about why it was taking him so long to begin. Michelangelo responded that he was imagining in his mind where each and every tiny piece of stained glass would go into the window. In his time stained glass was very rare and he wanted to be very very sure that he would have all the pieces he needed in the right colors in order to complete the window once he started.

"Stated somewhat differently, Michelangelo was planning his plan. It has been my experience with my clients that many have not invested the time nor the right amount of mental energy required to plan their plan," Cotelloe said.

"In order to answer the question 'What if,' a great deal of mental energy and introspection is required in order to arrive at a clear answer or vision of what it would be like to change your life and do something that you are truly passionate about. Dreaming alone will not answer the question, 'What if?'

"Once an individual has answered that question, the next step is to focus mental energy in order to answer the question, 'What would I need to do in order to re-invent myself for the future?' The final question that needs to be answered is, 'How can I proceed forward so that I will enjoy and engage myself in the process of moving my career forward?'

"Once the steps listed above have been started, a simultaneous process can begin in order to determine an individual's knowledge, skills and abilities, which industrial-organizational psychologists refer to as KSAs. These can be determined by referring to national job databases," he said.

"In our career consulting practice, we think that it is

important for an individual to be aware of the competencies that they could bring to a given job. Therefore, we administer proprietary assessments that determine these unique competencies."

"Recent studies have determined that once a student enters college they will probably change their college major between two and five times before they graduate. Nowadays, because of the frequent switches of one's college major, it often requires an extra year or more for a student to fulfill the full course requirements necessary to graduate, because they have switched their major so many times.

"I've been contacted by two different nursing schools In the last few years who have found themselves caught in a very serious situation. Today, there is a shortage of nurses coming out of nursing schools. Both of these nursing schools admit around 30 students to their program each year. The problem is that each year a significant number of the students drop out of the program because

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they come to learn that nursing, as a career, is not what they thought it would be. In other words, the students who have entered and were accepted into their programs did not have a realistic understanding of what being a nurse would involve in the real world.

"Industrial-organizational psychologists call this a 'realistic job preview.' The problem the nursing schools are facing is that by the end of the four-year nursing program only around 50 percent of the entering students graduate. Because of this high dropout rate the nursing schools can only provide half of the nurses needed in the job market.

"I recall having a conversation with Dr. Ed Timmons who was one of my professors at LSU years ago when he predicted that this situation would occur. He said to me, 'These kids have no idea what they really want to do once they get out of college. There is just too much 'fish flopping behavior.' I had to ask him, 'What is fish flopping behavior?' He said, 'You know, it's like when you catch a fish and you put it on the dock, it flips and flops and flips and flops until it finally flips off the dock back into the water.' Today, there is very little structured planning done before students choose their college major.

"We also need to remember that things in the world of work are different today than they used to be. Generally speaking, in the old days, people would enter a job and stay with that job until they

received a watch from the company upon retirement. Nowadays, studies indicate that after graduating from college the average person will switch the company they work with between three and five times during their career," Dr. Costelloe said.

The entire situation has become more complex with the coronavirus crisis. One of the changes is a potential move to remote work and in particular working from home. Researchers have long noted that working from home can provide benefits for workers and employees. Telecommuting can save employers and employees time, stress, money, and in many cases increase productivity by reducing stress associated with commuting and now a lower exposure to the virus. But many opportunities maybe available. Libby Wells of Bank Rate reports that the top jobs for working from home include web developer, computer support specialist, virtual assistant, and social media specialist for examples. for example, web developers have only a medium preparation requirement and yet average wages approach \$70,000 a year.

We asked Jim Stodd to describe some of the challenges coming to the career scene with remote work and he explained that the number of employees working remotely has grown from 3% at the

beginning of 2020 to 64% in April.

"Because of the pandemic, we are starting to learn a lot about remote work—good and bad—in a very compressed time-frame," he said.

"Furthermore, without a vaccine employers are going to be slow in bringing remote workers back to the office simply because of the risk. As such, I believe that remote work is here to stay and will be the 'new norm' for those who largely do their work on computers and other digital equipment, which includes almost all professional services.

"Yes, there will be some retraction efforts on the part of employers as things re-open, but employees are learning that there are huge benefits—at least for some people—in working remotely. A recent report issued by the Society for Human Resource Management shows that after the COVID-19 experience, 43% of the workforce wants to work remotely more of the time, compared to only 12% that want to work in the office more of the time.

Mr. Stodd explained reasons from the research why people wanted to work remotely. These included not having to commute (55%), more flexible schedule (48%), being more productive (37%), and more time with family and friends (34%).

"As a result," he said, "employers are going to be

pressured to provide more remote work situations *and* be much better prepared to lead and supervise a virtual staff. *But*, there are some documented challenges that employers will face in doing so.

There will be problems ensuring consistency of treatment, such as for performance appraisals and raises, he said, and remote workers we'll have greater difficulty separating work and home responsibilities.

"It is much more challenging to maintain organizational continuity and consistency when the normal in-person interaction of the office is replaced by Zoom and 'chat' sessions," Stodd said.

"Progressive 'cultural' decay—the longer people work remotely the more difficult to maintain the desired culture. Axios has reported that 55 percent of remote workers feel less connected to the company."

There is concern that goodwill and harmony can breakdown without actual social interaction between colleagues, he explained.

There is a lot to consider Mr. Stodd noted. And all of these are great opportunities for organizational psychologists.

For more information and questions, Dr. Costelloe can be reached at WHCostelloe@msn.com.

Mr. Stodd's website is <http://www.jtstodd.com>.

Jim Stodd (L) and Dr. Courtland Chaney at a meeting in Baton Rouge, discussing the history of Industrial-Psychology in the state.



Up-Coming Events

Drs. Keyes, Middleton, Osofsky to Present on Issues of Covid-19 and Matters of Healthcare

Two online training sessions will be hosted by the Louisiana Psychological Association in June to help psychologists deal with issues encountered due to the coronavirus crisis.

"Disparities in the Age of COVID-19," will be presented on Thursday, June 11, at 2-3:30pm. Presenters are Angela Keyes, PhD and Melissa Middleton, PhD.

Keyes and Middleton will explore the structural and systemic inequalities that have contributed to disparate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Presenters will share data illustrating the inherent inequities found in many areas of society, the outcomes experienced by minority groups and the critical need for mental health professionals to thoughtfully examine and reflect upon these issues in order to inform and enhance their work with diverse groups, noted the announcement from Dr. Paula Zeanah.

On, Friday, June 12, 2020, 10:30a-12pm, Joy D. Osofsky, PhD, will present, "Supporting Young Children and

Caregivers around the COVID-19 Pandemic."

Dr. Osofsky will review the impact of changes in our world and personal lives brought about by COVID-19 with attention to infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

She will also present ideas for ways to support children and families including establishing new routines to support positive and responsive relationships.

Ideas for recognizing the needs of "helpers" in the lives of young children and the importance of self-care will also be covered.

Dr. Osofsky noted that resources helpful for children and families related to COVID-19, developed and identified through the National Child Traumatic Stress Network Center (NCTSN), Terrorism and Disaster Coalition for Child and Family Resilience at LSU Health Sciences Center, can be found at <https://www.medschool.lsuhscc.edu/tdc/COVID19.aspx>

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