

Milder Omicron Displacing More Lethal Delta Variant Across Louisiana & US

Data from the countries that were hit first with the new highly contagious Omicron variant, and a series of new studies, appear to be confirming the good news: that Omicron is less severe even though it is much more contagious.

Cont pg 4

Surgeon General Warns of Youth Mental Health Crisis

On December 7, U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy issued a new Surgeon General's Advisory to highlight the urgent need to address the nation's youth mental health crisis.

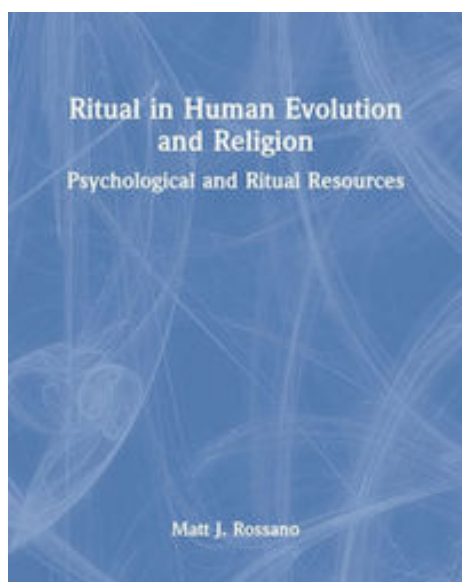
Cont pg 3

Experts in Selection Testing Submit Complaint to LSBEP Citing Racial Discrimination

Three psychologists who have backgrounds in selection-testing are filing a Request for Investigation with the State Board, stating that since board members do not have the specific competences to develop an anti-discriminatory selection program, they are in violation of the ethics code.

Cont pg 4

Bookshelf & Movie Review Pages 16 & 17



Year-In-Review

A second year of COVID was a demoralizing rerun of 2020, with mask on, mask off, announcements coming from the governor on a regular basis. It would have been easy for the chaotic tone to trickle down.

Thankfully many psychological scientists and psychologists coped, plugging away at finding ways to meet the increasingly complex demands of their clients and patients and continue their important research. Despite some Covid fatigue, and though tucked away in their Zoom rooms, community members continued to make news.

The year contained a steady stream of scientific research which managed to still

gain footing at the regional and state psychological associations. An array of psychologists and scientists were recognized for their contributions. And, the legislature turned out its usual flow of changes for mental health providers.

Unfortunately, Covid did not spare us from a political move by the licensing board to expand its power and authority. New fees and registration of assistants are on the horizon.

The community lost three great leaders: Drs. Wayne Greenleaf, Tom Hannie, and Jim Quillin.

We review the people and events of 2021 for you starting on page six.

The Psychology Times

2021

COMMUNITY AWARDS

Once again, it was no small feat to have kept the home fires burning through the second year of Covid.. Our winners had unusual perseverance to keep moving through a society that was stuck in anxiety, change, and confusion. We scanned the year's news and activities and found shining examples of creativity, courage, and leadership. For our Community Awards we focus on these special people, some new and some regulars, who pushed for excellence to make our community better and to improve the lives of others. We thank these leaders for their vision, perseverance and dedication, despite the obstacles of 2021.

Editorial Page – Opinions

Let's Dismantle Some Systemic Racism

by J. Nelson

In October the American Psychological Association Council of Representatives adopted resolutions apologizing for its part in systemic racism and pledging to participate in remedies and change. One idea for "Dismantling Systemic Racism Against People of Color in U.S." is that "APA will encourage employers to use reliable, valid, and fair employment testing and personnel selection practices that minimize bias, reduce adverse impact, and comply with professional standards, legal requirements, and ethical guidelines; ..."

In September (*Times* Vol. 12, No. 9) I had reported that there was trouble with the national exam program. Dr. Brian Sharpless discovered adverse impact for the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) in New York. Over a span of 25 years and 4,892 New York applicants and first-time EPPP takers, he found that Blacks had a failure rate of 38.50% and Hispanics had a failure rate of 35.60%. Whites had a failure rate of only 14.07%



While not quite as dramatic, he found similar results in Connecticut. Blacks had a 23.33% failure rate and Hispanics had a 18.6% failure rate. Whites had a 5.75% failure rate.

This has given me and some of my colleagues who also work in business and industry a push to look more closely and carefully at what is really going on beneath the covers when it comes to high stakes selection testing at the state board.

Working closely with private businesses, I can tell you that managers want to 1) do the right thing, and 2) avoid all discriminatory practices like a plague.

Yes, selecting good employees is a goal but so is accepting and adapting to the complex social environment. Promoting goodwill in one's community, being a responsible citizen leader, and being proactive regarding social goals are all objectives for business executives.

I always worked collaboratively with managers to walk the chalk line in the selection programs. This meant careful use of test scores, awareness of local norms, and insightful design of test batteries to avoid discrimination.

The selection program at our state board appears to be the exact opposite. There seems to be little awareness of how much difficulty there is with a single hurdle with high adverse impact. Additionally, while it might sound intuitively acceptable to set a 50th percentile as a hard cutoff, it doesn't hold up under scrutiny considering the restricted range and sample.

Not so surprisingly, some 20+ years ago the ASPPB, the group with the financial conflict of interest, persuaded psychologists to change to the 50th percentile.

In the private sector, individuals "compete" for a job which is theoretically the property of the business executives.

In contrast, an individual has a doctoral degree and other qualifications or "personal property," and board has the power to "deselect" them and deny them the property of a license.

Brian Sharpless shows us that we have been denying African Americans their property rights for 20 years. And this without a shred of criterion related validity.

So I decided to get with a couple of other business psychologists and file a complaint, based on competence in this subspecialty, which should require that the board take testimony and study the issue. We're going to get to see whether they can join in dismantling systemic racism or whether they're going to protect their friends at the ASPPB. It should be interesting.

[Julie Nelson is a licensed psychologist, journalist, 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

No corrections were received for last month's issue. Please send your corrections to: psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com

State & National News

US Surgeon General Warns of Youth Mental Health Crisis, continued

The Advisory on "Protecting Youth Mental Health" outlines the pandemic's unprecedented impacts on the mental health of America's youth and families, as well as the mental health challenges that existed long before the pandemic, according to the press release.

The Surgeon General's Advisory calls for a fast, coordinated response to this crisis and gives recommendations that individuals, families, community organizations, technology companies, governments, and others can take to improve the mental health of children, adolescents and young adults.

"Mental health challenges in children, adolescents, and young adults are real and widespread. Even before the pandemic, an alarming number of young people struggled with feelings of helplessness, depression, and thoughts of suicide — and rates have increased over the past decade." said Murthy. "The COVID-19 pandemic further altered their experiences at home, school, and in the community, and the effect on their mental health has been devastating. The future wellbeing of our country depends on how we support and invest in the next generation. Especially in this moment, as we work to protect the health of Americans in the face of a new variant, we also need to focus on how we can emerge stronger on the other side. This advisory shows us how we can all work together to step up for our children during this dual crisis."

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, mental health challenges were the leading cause of disability and poor life outcomes in young people, with up to 1 in 5 children ages 3 to 17 in the U.S. having a mental, emotional, developmental, or behavioral disorder.

LDH Receives CMS Approval to Launch TEFRA

The Centers for Medicaid and Medicaid Services (CMS) has granted approval for Louisiana Medicaid to launch Act 421 Children's Medicaid Option, or TEFRA, effective January 1, 2022.

This program allows certain children under 19 years of age with disabilities to receive Medicaid coverage, regardless of parental income. The TEFRA option disregards family income for children with disabilities who meet specific criteria, so they may qualify for Medicaid to cover the services they need to grow and thrive while living at home. To qualify, children must have a disability that is recognized under the definition utilized in the Supplemental Security Income program of the Social Security Administration and must meet basic Medicaid and institutional level-of-care requirements. Additionally, their care must cost less at home than in an institution.

Additionally, from 2009 to 2019, the share of high school students who reported persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness increased by 40%, to more than 1 in 3 students. Suicidal behaviors among high school students also increased during the decade preceding COVID, with 19% seriously considering attempting suicide, a 36% increase from 2009 to 2019, and about 16% having made a suicide plan in the prior year, a 44% increase from 2009 to 2019.

Between 2007 and 2018, suicide rates among youth ages 10-24 in the U.S. increased by 57%, and early estimates show more than 6,600 suicide deaths among this age group in 2020.

The pandemic added to the pre-existing challenges that America's youth faced. It disrupted the lives of children and adolescents, such as in-person schooling, in-person social opportunities with peers and mentors, access to health care and social services, food, housing, and the health of their caregivers. The pandemic's negative impacts most heavily affected those who were vulnerable to begin with, such as youth with disabilities, racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+ youth, low-income youth, youth in rural areas, youth in immigrant households, youth involved with the child welfare or juvenile justice systems, and homeless youth, according to the announcement.

Attorney/Lobbyist Kevin Hayes Arrested

Chris Nakamoto, *WBRZ News*, reported on December 31 that Kevin Hayes, Baton Rouge attorney and lobbyist, was arrested on two counts of domestic abuse battery after he hit a woman and beat up her son, according to arrest reports.

Hayes has been a lobbyist for the past 20 years, has previously worked for the Louisiana Psychological Association and currently for the Louisiana Press Association. He has been the president of the Baton Rouge Bar Association and active in the Louisiana Bar Association.

According to the report, the WBRZ Investigative Unit said, "We uncovered this was Hayes' third arrest for domestic violence. He's been arrested twice in Baton Rouge and once in Walton County, Florida, booking records show."

"The victim said the accused was intoxicated, and the two got into an argument about the victim's older son contacting him," the probable cause affidavit states. "During the argument, the victim stated the accused forcefully ripped a pillow underneath her head and hit her in the face."

WBRZ News said detectives questioned the woman's son, according to the report. "He stated he heard a loud slapping noise and heard his mother screaming," the report notes. "The son immediately ran into the hallway and made contact with the accused. At this time, the son stated the accused punched him in the chest, and a physical altercation ensued where Hayes knocked him into the wall and then on the ground."



Milder Omicron Displacing
More Lethal Delta Variant
continued

As case numbers have mounted up at stunning levels, hospitalizations and deaths have not matched the volume of new infections.

Some experts have said this signals a less damaging part of the pandemic while others are more optimistic in their predictions—that herd immunity will now be reached and the pandemic will be over.

One early study demonstrated that Omicron replicates at a 70 times higher rate in the upper respiratory track, making it more transmissible and less deadly than the Delta variant. Additionally, Omicron replicates at a 10 times lower rate in the lungs. Other studies in the past week confirm that the variant does not infect the lungs as easily as previous variants.

“We’re now in a totally different phase,” said Monica Gandhi, an immunologist at the University of California, San Francisco. “The virus is always going to be with us, but my hope is this variant causes so much immunity that it will quell the pandemic,” she noted it to *Bloomberg News*.

The Omicron variant emerged in South Africa where data is supporting the occurrence of widespread immunity and much less disease than other waves of Covid-19.

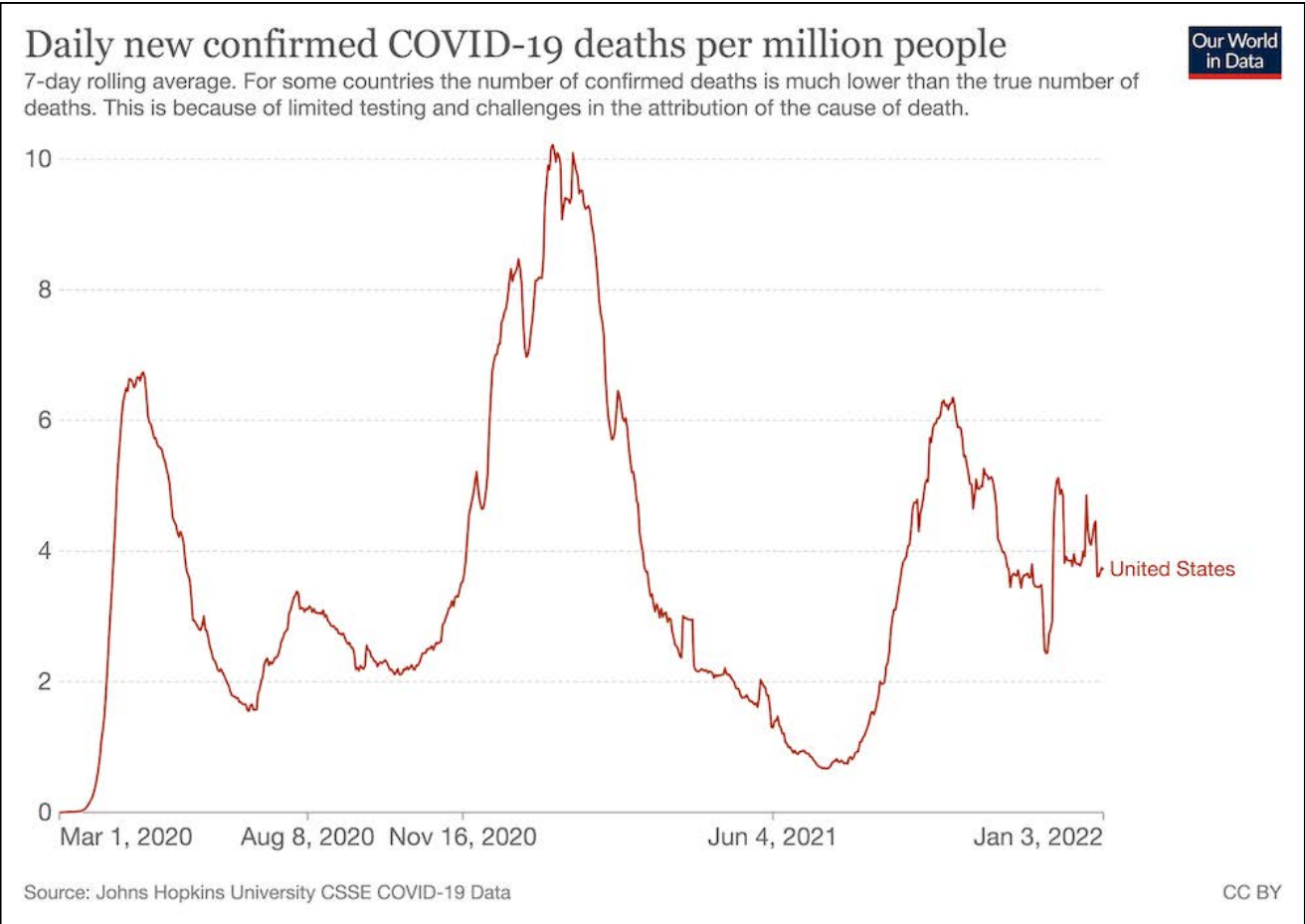
The CDC says Omicron variant is estimated to have taken over the virus’s Delta variant as the most prevalent strain contributing to new COVID-19 infections, accounting for 58.6 percent of all strains actively circulating in the United States as of Dec. 25, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which has drastically revised an earlier projection of new Omicron variant infections.

However, CDC website notes, “We don’t yet know how easily it spreads, the severity of illness it causes, or how well available vaccines and medications work against it.”

On December 29, the Louisiana Department of Health announced a sharp increase in Omicron cases across Louisiana, saying that the proportion of Omicron cases is 88.5% Baton Rouge, La. The Department noted that the CDC estimates the proportion of Omicron in HHS Region 6 (which includes Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas) is 86.7%.

On December 21, Gov. John Bel Edwards today extended Louisiana's Public Health Emergency order related to COVID-19, including a provision allowing all state government agencies to require mask wearing

"While vaccines and booster doses are the strongest tools we have in the fight against COVID, public health experts also agree that masks are an important way to slow the spread of the Omicron variant now. This means you should be masking indoors around people who aren't in your household," Gov. Edwards said.



Our World in Data tracking Covid deaths per million in United States.

Experts in Selection Testing Submit Complaint to LSBEP
Citing Racial Discrimination *continued*

The psychologists, Drs. William Costelloe, Julie Nelson, and Marc Zimmermann, are all business psychologists who have extensive experience with high stakes selection testing in the private sector.

They note that there is ample evidence showing that the national exam for psychologists has adverse impact against African-Americans and Hispanics but that board members who do not have the capability to minimize or avoid this discriminatory practice. These skills are outside of the board members scope of competence, the three explain, yet the board members are authorizing the selection program.

"As just one example," they write, "the use of a hard cut off, and one that sets a high bar considering the restricted sample, on a test with proven adverse impact, is an error in professional selection testing design."

"As three psychologists who have decades of experience in selection testing, and in developing measures for private employers who want to comply with all possible antidiscrimination practices, we ask for this investigation," they write.

"Finally, we are sympathetic to the situation that very few psychologists have developed expertise in this subspecialty of selection testing, and in particular, ways to reduce or totally eliminate discriminatory practices. To that point, we are open to a resolution in concert with the aspirational goal of working closely with colleagues when we perceive an ethics code violation regarding area of competence."

On October 29, the American Psychological Association (APA) Council of Representatives adopted three resolutions apologizing for its part in systemic racism and pledging to participate in remedies and change. One example from the resolution on "Role of Psychology and APA in Dismantling Systemic Racism

Against People of Color in U.S," was "APA will encourage employers to use reliable, valid, and fair employment testing and personnel selection practices that minimize bias, reduce adverse impact, and comply with professional standards, legal requirements, and ethical guidelines;

Dr. Sharpless discovered adverse impact for the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) in New York. He studied 4,892 New York applicants and first-time EPPP takers over 25 years. He found that Blacks had a failure rate of 38.50% and Hispanics had a failure rate of 35.60%. Whereas, Whites had a failure rate of 14.07%

Dr. Sharpless also studied 642 applicants to the Connecticut State Board of Examiners of Psychologists with similar results. Whites had a 5.75% failure rate, Blacks had a 23.33% failure rate, and Hispanics had a 18.6% failure rate.

Gov. Edwards Rejects House
Committee Action on Vaccine

In December, in a letter to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, Gov. Edwards confirmed that the Louisiana Department of Health will move forward with adding the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine to the schedule of immunizations for the populations for which it currently has full Food and Drug Administration approval, people 16 and older.

All of Louisiana's current opt-out provisions for parents will remain in place, meaning no child is forced to get a vaccine if their parents object in writing.

Medicare Reimbursement Cuts Avoided for Now Says APA

The American Psychological Association (APA) applauded passage of federal legislation to prevent substantial Medicare reimbursement cuts from taking effect next year, and to promote mental health programs aimed at supporting health care workers.

Psychologists and other health care providers had faced millions of dollars in Medicare payment losses starting next year due to the combined effects of three separate, coinciding budget cuts to the program.

“We are grateful Congress acted against these proposed cuts that would have put Medicare beneficiaries in peril, people who are older, more isolated and experiencing significant levels of stress due to the COVID-19 health emergency,” said APA CEO Arthur C. Evans Jr., PhD. “The COVID-19 pandemic has been taking a heavy toll on the nation’s mental health, with psychologists reporting large increases in demand for treatment of anxiety and depression compared with last year, and increased workloads and longer waitlists than before the pandemic.”

"We anticipate psychologists will see payments in 2022 that are just slightly lower than 2021. Exact payments will vary from this amount as other adjustments, such as changes in practice expense, apply to some services but not others.," APA officials said.

Governor Makes Dec. Appointments

On December 17, Gov. Edwards announced his appointments to several Louisiana boards and commissions. Among these were those to the Louisiana Rehabilitation Council, which listens to the concerns of those with disability issues, reviews, analyzes and evaluates the state rehabilitation program, and collaborates with other state agencies, organizations and consumer groups.

Reappointed were Melissa O. Bayham of Addi, the director of the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the council; Warren J. Chauvin of Thibodaux, a regional manager at the Louisiana Workforce Commission; Paul C. Genco of Amite, a vocational specialist with Sedgwick; Dina G. Perkins of Prairieville, chief of staff to the Medicare president for the Northwest Division of Humana; and Brian C. Wood of Baton Rouge, who works for the Pluckers on Nicholson and formerly worked as a constituent services representative for Governor Edwards.

Newly appointed were Jamar L. Ennis of Prairieville. Ennis is the assistant director of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs. He will represent the Statewide Independent Living Council. Dr. Michelle M. Ned of Lake Charles was appointed. Dr. Ned is an integrated behavioral health consultant for Visions Consulting Firm. She will serve as a representative of business, industry, and labor. On December 3, Megan N. Thompson of Prairieville was appointed. Thompson is a program manager for the Louisiana Department of Education. She will serve as a representative of the state educational agency responsible for the public education of students with disabilities.

Also on December 3, Foley L. Nash of Baton Rouge was appointed to the Louisiana Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners. Foley is the director of clinical services for behavioral health for Aetna Better Health of Louisiana. He will serve as a licensed marriage and family therapist.

Stress Solutions

by Susan Andrews, PhD

New Years’ Resolution: Keep Your Immune System Strong

Once again it is time to make our New Years’ Resolutions. And, once again, I am aware that we all need to manage stress better. So many studies are now pointing to excess and/or unrelieved stress as a major culprit in chronic illness and even early death. The stress of the past two years may seem to be fading but news stories are saying that it is not over, and another crunch time may be on the way. Don’t be that person who later in life looks back and laments that you should have paid more attention to how you lived your life.

Pick out one or two ways that you want to manage your stress better on a daily basis. Don’t try to do too many at once. You are more likely to be successful if you start with one or two techniques that do not take a huge amount of time and that you think will really work for you. If successful, you can always add more down the line.

Even with all the drug companies competing with each other to develop and sell the best vaccinations for the evolving Covid virus, it will inevitably turn out that our immune systems are the important key to surviving this pandemic. No matter now the virus evolves, a healthy immune system is paramount to good health. Okay, maybe this is not “rocket science,” but a reminder from time to time is healthy.

Here is how your immune system can be damaged by excess and unmanaged stress. Stress can reduce the number of natural killer cells or lymphocytes in the body, which are needed to fight viruses, according to the American Psychological Association. Stress can cause the immune system to produce systemic inflammation which can lead to chronic disease if it is not relieved. Cortisol actually hampers the body’s natural anti-inflammatory response.

Most of us can identify times in our lives when we were over-tired, worked too many hours, were worried and unable to sleep well. Often, we would get sick if that went on too long. In today’s world, it is so important to keep our immune systems in tip-top condition.

The following is a list of ways to do that:

- Get good sleep and rest.
- Eat healthy and avoid too much alcohol and sugar.
- Take recommended vitamins and supplements to boost your immune system.
- Spend at least 10 minutes a day doing meditation, mindfulness breathing.
- Exercise daily.
- Avoid arguments with family.
- Connect with friends and loved ones.

Above all, do things to make you happy!

And, Happy New Year!



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.

2021 Year-in-Review

Continued

JANUARY 2021

Drs. Thomandra Sam, Lauren Rasmussen, and Leslie O'Malley Running in LSBEP Election this Month An election is underway to fill the July 2021 vacancy on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. Offering to serve on the board are Thomandra Shavaun Sam, PhD, Lauren Woodruff Rasmussen, PsyD, and Leslie A. O'Malley, PsyD.

Louisiana Pharmacies Begin Receiving COVID Vaccine for Elderly, Additional Health Care Workers on January 4 Gov. Edwards announced that doses of the COVID-19 vaccine will be available to pharmacies statewide in limited supply beginning January 4 to be administered to people 70 and older and additional health care workers.

Gov. Edwards Highlights Ochsner Super Clinic Gov. Edwards highlighted Ochsner Health's plans to develop a super clinic of comprehensive health care services in the former Sears location at Clearview City Center in Metairie, redeveloped from a traditional shopping mall to a mixed-use site of more than 1 million square feet.

Year-in-Review & Community Awards

Editorial, by J. Nelson, PhD. "Psychology's ethical challenge: censorship versus (unpleasant) facts"

Stress Solutions, by Susan Andrews, PhD. "2020: A Year of Stress (Solutions) in Review."

A Shrink at the Flicks, by Alvin Burstein, PhD. *Citizen Kane*

FEBRUARY 2021

LSBEP Determined to Push Their New Laws The Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP) appears determined to go forward with it's ambitious and comprehensive legislation, voting unanimously on Thursday, January 28, to begin the search for a legislator to sponsor their changes to the psychology practice law for the 2021 legislative session. If passed, the LSBEP'S legislation will make sweeping changes, including registering assistants, expanding the board's charter, expanding legal authority of employees, adding more fees, changing the scope of practice, modifying board composition, and exempting investigations from Open Meetings Laws.

Budget Problems Serious Says LSBEP's Dr. Henke – Dr. Amy Henke, current chair of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP), reported at the January 28 long-range planning meeting that the board has about one year before it runs out of its savings. The board is currently spending more than it takes in, she

explained, and they would have less than \$25,000 in reserves at the end of this year.

2021 Trends for Psychologists

Psychology and psychologists are in the middle of cultural and individual changes that could last for decades. For this feature we reviewed the most talked about trends that are at the heart of our science and practice, and report in detail on one of the top trends, remote work. A focus on behavioral prevention, natural immunity, telehealth and remote work are top trends.

Low-Fat Tuesday – Mardi Gras this year will be a real challenge for Louisianians to keep the carnival spirit alive during the pandemic shutdown. For this issue, our reporters covered decorating "home floats," and sharing memories, "What are you doing for Mardi Gras," 2016.

Dr. Sam Two Vote Winner in Election Dr. Thomandra Shavaun Sam edged out Dr. Lauren Rasmussen, when Sam received 105 votes to Rasmussen's 103, in the recent election. Dr. Sam received 38% of the total votes and Dr. Rasmusen received 37%. Dr. Leslie A. O'Malley came in third with 23% of the total votes cast.

Gov. Announces Appointment of Dr. Fletcher Gov. Edwards appointed Sarah Petters Fletcher, PhD, of New Orleans to the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council. Fletcher is an education program consultant and school psychologist, representing the Department of Education.

Gov. Edwards Extends Louisiana's Phase 2 Measures, Strongly Recommends Businesses Move to Remote Work for Employees The Gov. announced that he is keeping COVID mitigation measures in place for another 28 days, and strongly recommended that all businesses in Louisiana move to remote work for as many employees as possible, as COVID cases and hospitalizations surge in Louisiana.

Judge Grants Extension in Hesson Appeal William Mallory Kent, counsel for Dr. Rodney Hesson, requested a 30-day extension for filing the reply to the government's response, regarding Hesson's U.S.C. §2255. Hesson is at the center of the high profile Medicare fraud case that affected psychologists in Louisiana in 2017. Dr. Hesson's 2255 appeal is based on his view that he was not adequately represented in the original trial.

New Trend of Remote Work Relies on Psychological Science One of the most frequently noted 2021 trends is the move to at-home work. Two psychological scientists are focusing their expertise to help employers and their employees. Dr. William Costelloe and Jim Stodd have founded a new consultancy, called ThriveRemote, dedicated to applying and sharing expertise about the psychology of remote work scenarios.

Cont next pg

The Psychology Times 2021 COMMUNITY AWARD

MEDIA/PUBLIC EDUCATION

Dr. Sumer Ledet Miguez



We were thrilled to see Dr. Sumer Ledet Miguez' psychoeducational training, a comprehensive, multi-method program for women stressed by their responsibilities as mothers, partners, and breadwinners. Her "Get Present System," a virtual group program for overwhelmed working mothers, helps with psychological issues and at the same time is reducing stigma associated with reaching out for help. More psychologists need to take a page out of Dr. Ledet's playbook for making psychology more accessible to more people. Great work!

2021 Year-in-Review

Continued

Expert in Anxiety Disorders, Dr. Sumer Ledet, Employs Innovative, Psychoeducational Methods to Reach Overwhelmed Women Dr. Sumer Ledet, licensed clinical and medical psychologist, and expert in anxiety disorders, is using innovative, psychoeducational methods to reach women who struggle with being overwhelmed due to their responsibilities as mothers, partners, and breadwinners. She is continuing her comprehensive, multi-method program, by offering a live, free, "Masterclass for Busy, Overwhelmed Women." In this virtual class, women can learn how to decrease anxiety and pay attention to what matters most, explains Dr. Ledet.

Editorial, by J. Nelson, PhD. "LSBEP is solving the wrong problem with its legislation"

A Shrink at the Flicks, by Alvin Burstein, PhD. *Enola Holmes*

MARCH 2021

LSBEP Pushes Their Legislation Despite Opposition from La Psychological Assn The Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists continues their plan to introduce comprehensive legislation in the upcoming session. This despite a recent vote by the Executive Council of the Louisiana Psychological Association to oppose the bill.

Governor Edwards Expands COVID Vaccine Eligibility Gov. Edwards expanded vaccine eligibility to an additional group of Louisianans: K-12 teachers, school support staff, day care staff, those who are pregnant and Louisianans aged 55 to 64 with certain health conditions.

Judge Barbier Denies Hesson \$2255 Appeal United States District Judge Carl J. Barbier denied Dr. Rodney Hesson's \$2255 request to vacate his sentence in the high profile 2015 Medicare fraud case. The \$2255 appeal is based on the right to have adequate representation. Mr. William Kent, Federal Criminal Appeal Lawyer from Florida, who has argued before the US Supreme Court, filed a response on behalf of Dr. Hesson, and his mother, Gertrude Parker, in the US District Court. Kent said that Hesson's conduct could not be considered criminal because he made a "reasonable interpretation" of Medicare statutes.

Governor's \$36.6B Budget Favorable to Education Governor Edwards is recommending a \$36.6 billion budget with extra money being allocated to public schools and higher education.

LSU's Buckner Lab Student Earns APA Dissertation Award Katherine Walukevich-Dienst, a clinical psychology

graduate student in Dr. Julia Buckner's laboratory has been awarded a 2020 American Psychological Association Dissertation Research Award.

Dr. Brittany Joslyn and Husband, Dr. Peter Joslyn, Welcome Cecilia Louise Joslyn Dr. Joslyn and husband welcomed Cecilia Louise Joslyn into their family. Cecilia is named after two of her great-grandmothers.

We Remember Dr. Tom Hannie Thomas Joseph Hannie Jr., PhD, passed away unexpectedly on February 13, 2021. He had been dealing with a heart condition over the last year. He was 83. Dr. Hannie had a profound influence on the psychology profession in Louisiana and over the last half century was a cornerstone of change for many pivotal milestones in the profession. He was a forensic psychologist and a true applied scientist who was also a fascinating person. "Very few psychologists have ever had anything close to the impact he had on psychology in our state, and over a very long time period," said colleague Dr. John Fanning. Dr. Kim VanGeffen said, "Tom was a powerful figure in the history of psychology in Louisiana. We owe a lot to him."

Editorial, by J. Nelson, PhD. "Tom Hannie – Goodbye My Friend"

Stress Solutions, by Susan Andrews, PhD. "Healing the Healers: Stress Among Psychotherapists."

Bookshelf: My Journey to Prison: A Story of Failure, Struggle, Discipline, and Gratitude. Author, Dr. John A. Teal

A Shrink at the Flicks, by Alvin Burstein, PhD. *Two of Us*

APRIL 2021

LSBEP Pares Down its Legislation The Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists passed a motion to proceed to file a reduced version of their legislation. Public board member Chance McNeely indicated that the board is reducing it's 23-page bill and submitting a four to six-page document, with Senator Luneau. The reduction in bulk of items included in the originally proposed legislation may have been due to opposition voiced by the Louisiana Psychological Association.

APA "Stress in America" Report Identifies Impacts of Pandemic In a "Stress in America" report, researchers for the American Psychological Association found that the pandemic and the lockdowns are causing stress with impacts to individuals' physical and mental health. Researchers say that the impacts will persist past the physical threat of the virus. Stress is seriously affecting mental and physical health, including weight gain,



sleep issues and alcohol use. Adults affected most seriously included 18 to 24-year-olds, essential workers, people of color, and parents.

Gov. Edwards Eases Some COVID-19 Restrictions, Keeps Mask Mandate Some restrictions aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19 in Louisiana, including strict occupancy restrictions for bars and restaurants, will be eased this week.

International Expert in Circadian Rhythms, Dr. Roberto Refinetti, takes Psychology Chair at University of New Orleans Dr. Roberto Refinetti, biological and comparative psychologist, and international expert in circadian rhythms, is the new Chair of the Department of Psychology at the University of New Orleans. Dr. Refinetti is author of *Circadian Physiology*, currently in its third edition, and has published more than 200 articles in professional journals. His scientific reputation is at the top 3% of professors at research universities. He is Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Circadian Rhythms* and of the social science journal *Sexuality & Culture*. And this month he also becomes the Editor-in-Chief of the biological journal *Chronobiology International*.

Rep. Owen Asking that Family of Healthcare Providers Receive Help in Transferring Credentials HB197 by Rep. Charles Owen requires professional or occupational licensing boards to issue occupational licenses to the dependents of healthcare providers who relocate to Louisiana if certain conditions are met.

Rep. Mandie Landry's to Limit the Use of Solitary Confinement Measures for Mentally Disabled Rep. Landry's measure

2021 Year-in-Review

Continued

expands present law restrictions on the use of solitary confinement to include that persons who have been diagnosed by a healthcare provider at intake, or in the previous five years, or at any time during incarceration, with a Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 mental health classification [...].

Senate Bill 66 by Rep. Louie Bernard Seeks to Address "Peer Support" for Peace Officers and Safety Personnel A proposed law provides that any governmental entity that establishes a peer support program must ensure that peer support members successfully complete the training required by proposed law before being designated as a peer support member.

From Classroom to Home: One Middle School Student's Experience by Samantha Dooley. During the coronavirus pandemic, many schools turned to hosting classes virtually for the safety of students and staff. Both virtual school and in-person class have their pros and cons. The reporter describes a few of the most clear experiences.

Editorial, by J. Nelson, PhD. "A Spirit of Transparency"

Stress Solutions, by Susan Andrews, PhD. "Just How Stressed Are We Really About Covid?"

A Shrink at the Flicks, by Alvin Burstein, PhD. *Come True*

MAY 2021

Researchers from Across Louisiana Present Their Work The Southwestern and the Southeastern Psychological Associations held their conferences in March and April. Among many others, presenters included Dr. Theresa Wozencraft, Dr. Lee Matthews, Dr. Janelle McDaniel, Dr. Heather Lucas, Dr. Mary Lou Kelley, Dr. Matthew Calamia, Dr. Beth Arredondo, Dr. John Sawyer, Dr. Brian Mizuki, Dr. Sara Sohr-Preston, Dr. Madison Silverstein, Dr. Erin Dupuis, Dr. Burton Ashworth, Dr. Dena Matzenbacher, Dr. Dena Matzenbacher, Dr. Billie Clare Myers, Dr. Kimberly Hutchinson, Dr. Lawrence Dilks, Dr. Linda Brannon, Dr. Paula Varnado-Sullivan, Dr. Brooke Breaux, Dr. Amy Brown, Dr. Hung-Chu Lin, Dr. Manyu Li, and Dr. Valanne MacGyvers, and others.

Dr. Newton Named NIH Committee Chair on Lifestyle Dr. Robert Newton Jr., Associate Professor and Director of the Physical Activity and Ethnic Minority Health Laboratory at Pennington Biomedical, has been named Chairperson of the Lifestyle Change and Behavioral Health Study Section at the National Institutes of Health's Center for Scientific Review. Dr. Newton is a psychological scientist whose

research focuses on addressing health disparities in African American children, adults, and older adults.

LSBEP Legislation Passes H&W Committee with Reservations House Bill 477, the legislative effort put forth by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP), advanced out of the House Health and Welfare Committee with a favorable vote on May 4, but with the author agreeing to make changes later as matters could continue to unfold. Testimony was provided by LSBEP members, members of the Executive Council of the Louisiana Psychological Association, and a community member representing those in opposition to the measure.

State Schedules LSBEP Audit The Louisiana Legislative Auditors office has scheduled a Performance Audit of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. The audit will involve evaluating the board's regulatory processes.

We Remember Dr. Wayne Greenleaf Dr. Wayne A. Greenleaf died March 29, 2021, leaving a legacy of distinguished and far-reaching contributions in psychology that

spanned four decades. He was 78. Dr. Greenleaf served the state of Louisiana, it's citizens, and the broader societal goals by combining his knowledge in developmental disabilities, his understanding of mental illness, and his skills in organizational design and analysis. He served as the Director of Pupil Appraisal Services for the State Department of Education, the Executive Director Special Education Programs Office of Special Education, Louisiana State Department of Education Baton Rouge, the CEO for Mental Health Services at Medical Center of Louisiana at New Orleans, and the Administrator of Mental Health Services for Charity Hospital of Louisiana.

Gov. Outlines Priorities for \$1.6 Billion in American Rescue Plan Gov. Edwards outlined his plan for spending \$1.6 billion in federal funding coming to Louisiana through President Biden's American Rescue Plan.

Telehealth Bill Amended to Include Behavioral Health Representative Tanner Magee's HB 270 passed the House and if passed, will revise the definitions of the terms "telemedicine" and "telehealth" and exempt certain activity from laws pertaining to the practice of medicine.

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The Psychology Times 2021 COMMUNITY AWARD INVOLVEMENT Dr. Amanda Raines

Dr. Amanda Raines, Clinical Investigator at Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System and Assistant Professor at LSU, once again deserves the community's recognition for continuing to tackle one of the most serious problems in health and mental health, the science-practice gap, a divide between research literature and applied interventions. In 2021, Dr. Raines continued reducing that gap with her community connections and involvement efforts. A distinguished scientist herself, she directed training programs through the Louisiana Psychological Association "Science Cafe," connecting practitioners with research scientists from across the state. Well done!



2021 Year-in-Review

Continued

Multiple Bills about Abuse on College Campuses Move Forward HB 409 — Reporting abuse; SB 230 —Power-based violence on college and university campuses; and SB 232 – creating the "Louisiana Power-Based Violence Review Panel," all advanced in the legislature.

Does Your Nose, Know? Tulane's Dr. Murray Links Smell & Mating Tulane Assistant Professor Dr. Damian Murray co-authored an article for the *Human Behavior & Evolution Society*, titled "Does the Nose Know? Exploring the links between smell, disgust, and mating strategies."

Editorial, by J. Nelson, PhD. "Definitely Not a Hedgehog"

Stress Solutions, by Susan Andrews, PhD. "It IS What You Think."

A Shrink at the Flicks, by Alvin Burstein, PhD. *Elephant Song*

JUNE 2021

LSBEP Legislation Passes Senate with Some "Work" House Bill 477, the legislation put forth by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, passed out of the Senate committee after amendments. The measure was a compromise measure following the downsizing of a 23-page bill initially introduced by the psychology board in 2020 and then again this 2021. Under pressure from opponents, the board agreed to substitute a "fee bill," telling sources that without the increased fees the board would have to shut down. On the Senate floor, an amendment was attached to the bill by Alexandria Sen. Jay Luneau to rename the 2009 Act 251, "The Dr. James W. Quillin, MP, Medical Psychology Practice Act."

Gov. Edwards Signs Updated Public Health Emergency Order Ending Most Restrictions Gov. Edwards signed an updated public health emergency order last week that removes all remaining business capacity restrictions and the vast majority of masking requirements.

Dr. Salcedo Reappointed to HTPC Advisory Board Dr. Rafael Salcedo of Gretna has been reappointed to the Human Trafficking Prevention Commission Advisory Board. Salcedo is a clinical psychologist and was nominated by the state board. Dr. Salcedo is known for his advocacy and comprehensive treatment program design for the young victims of human sex trafficking. Salcedo and wife Beth, a licensed speech- language pathologist, founded the non-profit, advocacy group, the Louisiana Coalition Against Human Trafficking.

Gov. Edwards Signs Ex. Order for Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Task Force The nation recognized May 5, 2021 as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Awareness Day. Gov Edwards signed a proclamation declaring the same in Louisiana and creating the

Governor's Task Force on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls. Indigenous women suffer murder rates ten-times the national average.

Does Telepsychology Stack Up? A Review of a Comparative Meta-analysis on Efficacy Mental Health Services Delivered via of Video Conferencing Technology by *Thomas Lipscomb* COVID-19 pandemic has changed lives worldwide. The author reviewed important questions as to the efficacy of distance treatment for a broad range of healthcare services including mental health-related services.

Mizell's Bill on Women's Sports Gains Wide Margin of Votes Senator Beth Mizell's controversial SB 156, the "Fairness in Women's Sports Act", passed both chambers. The final passage in the House was 78 yeas, 19 nays, and 8 absent. The Senate vote was 29 yeas, 6 nays, and 4 absent. It has been sent to the Governor.

Bill to Create Office of Human Trafficking Prevention Passes House Senator Ronnie Johns' measure, SB 170, that creates the office of human trafficking prevention, passed the House with by a vote of 101 yeas and 0 nays

HB 79 to Enhance Patients' Rights Moves Forward A measure to provide for the

selection of a treatment facility by a patient and the protection of a patient's right to receive treatment, has passed the House with 97 yeas and 0 nays.

Dr. Pears on June & PTSD Awareness June is National PTSD Awareness Month, June 20 is National PTSD Screening Day, and June 27 is National PTSD Awareness Day. Dr. Kelley Pears, Psychologist, PTSD/SUD Specialist and a member of the PTSD Clinical Team at the Alexandria VA Health Care System spoke about the month to the *Times*.

Editorial, by J. Nelson, PhD. "Assimilated by the Board"

Stress Solutions, by Susan Andrews, PhD. "Winnie-the-Pooh and Reducing Stress."

Bookshelf: The Better Brain – Overcome Anxiety, Combat Depression, and Reduce ADHD and Stress with Nutrition. Authored by Bonnie J. Kaplan, PhD and Julia J. Rucklidge, PhD.

A Shrink at the Flicks, by Alvin Burstein, PhD. *Words on Bathroom Walls*

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2021

COMMUNITY AWARD

ALTRUISM

Dr. Sonia Blauvelt

During 2021, Dr. Sonia Blauvelt continued her leadership role for the suicide prevention program for the COVID-19 Emergency Response for Suicide Prevention Project in southeast Louisiana. She and her colleagues identified areas of southeast Louisiana as having high rates of COVID- 19, deaths, intimate partner violence, and poor health outcomes overall. These individuals are the most vulnerable and Dr. Blauvelt found ways to reach and help those who are most seriously impacted by the national health and mental health crisis. We are grateful to Dr. Blauvelt for her energy, empathy, and commitment to help those struggling most in our community!



2021 Year-in-Review

Continued

JULY 2021

We Remember Dr. Jim Quillin Dr. James Quillin passed away May 25 after a short battle with cancer. Dr. Quillin was the undisputed leader of the movement to provide specially trained psychologists with "prescriptive authority" or RxP. In 2004, many viewed him as the mastermind behind an almost impossible achievement—the political maneuvering that gave Louisiana medical psychologists, and the state psychology board, the right to prescribe medication. The achievement was applauded by national groups including the American Psychological Association. Among other state and national roles, Dr. Quillin was the leader of the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists, commonly referred to as LAMP.

Dr. Charles Figley Named Distinguished Psychologist for 2021 Dr. Charles Figley, the Paul Henry Kurzweg Distinguished Chair in Disaster Mental Health, Professor and Associate Dean for Research in the Tulane School of Social Work, and Director of the Tulane’s award-winning Traumatology Institute, has been named the 2021 Distinguished Psychologist by the Louisiana Psychological Association. Dr. Figley has served as co-founder of two graduate programs at Tulane, as Founding Program Director of Tulane's Master of Science degree in Disaster Resilience Leadership Program and as Founding Program Director of the City, Culture, and Community PhD Program, on the American Psychological Association Council of Representatives and on the Executive Council for its Division on Trauma Psychology.

Dr. Sonia Blauvelt Honored as 2021 Recipient for Psychology in the Public Interest The Louisiana Psychological Association named Dr. Sonia Shah Blauvelt as the 2021 recipient of the award for Psychology in the Public Interest. "We were especially impressed with your extensive work with underserved minorities, and your efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic," wrote Dr. Laurel Franklin, the chair of the awards committee. Dr. Blauvelt serves as the project director for The Fisher Project, a statewide suicide prevention program funded by a \$620,000 COVID-19 Emergency Response to Suicide Prevention SAHMSA grant. The majority of clients served by The Fisher Project are living in poverty and are from historically oppressed populations, according to the Mental Health Association for Greater Baton Rouge.

Gov. Signs HB 477 into Act 238 House Bill 477, put forth by the state psychology board, was signed by the Governor and

allows the state psychology board to charge a registration fee for each assistant to a psychologist, not exceed \$50. Act 238 also allows the board to charge "reasonable" fees for a CPD activity which may be offered, sponsored, or co-sponsored by the board. The board will be able to charge up to \$200 for special services.

Gov. Signs Budget Bill, Investing in Higher Education Gov. Edwards signed the budget bill, which invests in many of the Governor's key priorities, including increased funding for education. "In terms of higher education," said the Governor, "the budget supports a \$19.8 million faculty pay raise, and additional \$14.5 million in the funding formula for both four and two year institutions, fully funds TOPS as well [...]"

New Pennington Mission Secured in House Defense Spending Bill U.S. Congressman Garret Graves announced that he is paving the way for a Center of Excellence in Military Health and Nutrition at Pennington Biomedical Research Center.

Act 1 Strengthens Rights for Victims of Sexual Assault The new law allows

victims of sexual assault to receive early termination of their residential leases.

Gov. Edwards Vetoes Sen. Mizell's Bill on Women's Sports Gov. Edwards announced he had vetoed Senate Bill 156 authored by Sen. Beth Mizell. The bill, known as the "Fairness in Women's Sports Act," sought to prevent transgender girls and women from participating on athletic teams or in sporting events designated for girls or women at elementary, secondary and postsecondary schools.

Act 73 Aids Awareness to Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias The Gov. signed HB 379 by Rep. White, providing that LDH may educate healthcare providers on the importance of effective care planning, including treatment options, support and services, long-term care options, advanced directives, and care at every stage of Alzheimer's disease, and also on the use of validated cognitive assessment tools.

Act 372 Supports Patients' Rights to Select Tx Facility The Governor has signed a measure to provide for the selection of a treatment facility by a

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COURAGE
Dr. Charles Figley



Dr. Charles Figley, Professor and Distinguished Chair in Disaster Mental Health at Tulane, continues his exemplary contributions to society and proves himself a leader once again in developing messages that can make a difference. This time he and Mark Russell took on the military establishment in their book about the psychological impact of war, *Psychiatric Casualties: How and Why the Military Ignores the Full Cost of War*. It takes courage to tell it like it is. We are impressed with Dr. Figley and his lifelong dedication to helping all those suffering from trauma and trauma-related disorders.

2021 Year-in-Review

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patient and the protection of a patient's right to receive treatment.

Times Honored by Louisiana Press Association *The Psychology Times* was honored with several awards for the 2021 Better Newspaper Competition held by the Louisiana Press Association in June. The *Times* earned first place recognition in Community Service and Dr. Alvin Burstein was named second place for the prestigious Sam Hannah Award, for the Best Regular Column.

Editorial, by J. Nelson, PhD. "We Might as Well 'Give Psychology Away' —We Aren't Using It."

Stress Solutions, by Susan Andrews, PhD. "Today's Pregnant Woman Has More to Manage."

A Shrink at the Flicks, by Alvin Burstein, PhD. *Quo Vadis, Aida?*

AUGUST 2021

Governor Urges Precautions as Louisiana Hits Record Covid Cases The Governor said that COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in Louisiana both hit records, and urged individuals to take immediate precautions for their own and others' safety.

Dr. Rizzuto Named Interim Director of the LSU School of Leadership & HRD Dr. Tracey Rizzuto, expert in industrial–organizational psychology, has been appointed the interim director of the School of Leadership & Human Resource Development by the Louisiana State University College of Human Sciences & Education. Dr. Rizzuto is the associate director of the School of Leadership & Human Resource Development, the Mary Ethel Baxter Lipscomb Memorial Endowed Professor. She is a leader in workplace disaster recovery through the Katrina Aid and Relief Effort, the Baton Rouge Choice Initiative, and smart policing and prosecution initiatives such as the Baton Rouge Area Violence Elimination program.

Dr. Amy Mikolajewski Honored as 2021 Early Career Psychologist by Louisiana Psych Assn Amy Mikolajewski, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Tulane University School of Medicine was named the 2021 Early Career Psychologist by the Louisiana Psychological Association. Her research focuses on externalizing disorders over the lifespan, with a particular interest in biological, dispositional, and environmental correlates. She is the recipient and PI of the NIH/Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development grant.

Women's Sports at Center of Political Clash in SB 156 In a clash of ideologies and efforts to discern whether the "Fairness in



Women's Sports Act" would promote discrimination or protect against reverse discrimination, the Louisiana House of Representatives failed to override the Governor's veto. The measure, authored by Senator Beth Mizell, would have had the effect of prohibiting transgender females from competing in traditional women's sports. The Louisiana Psychological Association opposed SB 156 and the Louisiana School Psychological Association labeled the bill as discriminatory to trans individuals.

Former Gov. Edwin Edwards, Key Figure in 1964 Psychology Practice Act, Dies at 93 On July 12, former Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards passed away at the age of 93. He was the only four-term governor in the state and he was instrumental in the Psychology Practice Act, passed in 1964.

Act 123 Limits Fees Assessed by Courts in Juvenile Cases Act 123 eliminates certain fees, costs, and taxes in juvenile delinquency cases including costs for mental examinations.

Act 329 Makes Changes to Civil Involuntary Outpatient Treatment Existing law, Part III-A of Chapter 1 of Title 28 of the La. R.S., outlines civil involuntary outpatient treatment for persons suffering from mental illness. Act 329 makes changes including deleting prior law which required that a person's history of noncompliance with mental health treatment result in certain outcomes.

Editorial, by J. Nelson, PhD. "Hope Lies in the Process..."

Stress Solutions, by Susan Andrews, PhD. "How Long is Your To-Do-List?"

Bookshelf: *Psychiatric Casualties: How and Why the Military Ignores the Full Cost of War.* Authored by Mark Russell and Charles Figley

A Shrink at the Flicks, by Alvin Burstein, PhD. *Undine/Ondine:* A Double Feature

SEPTEMBER 2021

Gov. Tours Stormed-Ravaged Coastal Parishes in Hurricane Ida Aftermath Gov. Edwards is visiting the storm ravaged parishes this week after Hurricane Ida made landfall at Port Fourchon, clocking in at a strong category four with wind gusts up to 172 mph. The storm was the third strongest in Louisiana history, coming in after the Last Island Hurricane of 1856, and Hurricane Laura, in second place, a 2020 storm that leveled much of Lake Charles.

Dr. Thomandra Sam Appointed by Governor to State Psychology Bd Gov. Edwards appointed Thomandra S. Sam, PhD of Zachary to the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. Dr. Sam is clinical supervisor for the Sexual Behavior Treatment Program within the Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice.

Teen Girls Suicide Attempts up by 50% According to a report from the CDC,

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2021 Year-in-Review

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suspected suicide attempts by teenage girls have increased by 51% during the COVID pandemic. During the 2020 pandemic, emergency room visits for suspected suicide attempts began to increase among adolescents aged 12–17 years, especially among the girls.

New Facts Point to Discrimination in National Exam, Selection Programs at State Boards *by J. Nelson.* The debate over an additional exam for those applying for a state psychology license has shined the light on a nest of scientific problems originating at the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards, but legally and morally land at the doorstep of every state psychology board. The situation hits Louisiana particularly hard. While only 4% of licensed psychologists nationwide are African-Americans, Louisiana has a 34% Black population, a group chronically underserved by mental health professionals. We report on the issues.

Dr. Laurel Franklin Named 2021 Recipient for Contributions in Psychological Science Dr. Laurel Franklin, Assistant Chief, Psychology Service, Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System and Clinical Associate Professor, in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Tulane University School of Medicine, was honored with the Louisiana Psychological Association's 2021 award for *Contributions in Psychological Science*. Her program of research focuses on trauma- and stressor-related disorders, as well as psychotherapies for PTSD to veterans living in rural and underserved areas throughout Louisiana.

Dr. Amy Henke Earns Service Award for Advocacy on Behalf of Early Career Professionals & Students The Louisiana Psychological Association named Dr. Amy Henke as the 2021 recipient of the award for *Distinguished Service in Psychology*. "Dr. Henke has represented psychology by testifying [...] on behalf of our profession, she is staunch advocate for the LGBTQ+ community, and been a voice for the ASPPB to take a deeper look at the EPPP2 and how it may serve as a barrier to practice for groups that are underrepresented in our field," officials said.

Over \$1.5 Million in Grants Awarded to LSU Pennington Biomedical Research Center The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is funding two research projects at LSU Pennington Biomedical Research Center. The \$1,578,543 in funding will support research efforts for obesity treatments and aging.

Hughes' Act 322 Changes Statute of Limitations in Crimes Against Children HB 492 was signed by the Governor, removing the time limits for crimes against children.



New Office for State Americans with Disabilities Act Position Established Act 452 creates the office of the state Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator within the division of administration.

Editorial, by J. Nelson, PhD. "Hurricane Stories Again"

A Shrink at the Flicks, by Alvin Burstein, PhD. *PIG*

OCTOBER 2021

Psychology Department at U. of Louisiana Lafayette Celebrates 100 Year Anniversary The psychology department at the University of Louisiana–Lafayette is marking its 100th anniversary. The birthday celebration is part of the centennial of the College of Liberal Arts, UL Lafayette's oldest academic college. Head of the Psychology Department at UL Lafayette, Dr. Amy Brown, said, "The Psychology Department's major events this academic year in honor of the COLA Centennial are our research showcase next week and 'Psychology Week' next spring."

Governor Extends Indoor Mask Mandates for Another Month Gov. Edwards extended Louisiana's statewide indoor mask mandate for another four weeks following the state's

worst COVID-19 surge of the entire pandemic.

Dr. Larrieu Recipient of the Janet R. Matthews, PhD, Outstanding Psychology Mentor Award Dr. Julie Larrieu has been named by the La. Psychological Association the 2021 recipient of the *Janet R. Matthews, PhD, Outstanding Psychology Mentor Award*. Dr. Larrieu is a developmental and clinical psychologist and Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Tulane University School of Medicine, as well as Director of the Psychology Division at the School of Medicine. Those nominating her said, "We believe Dr. Larrieu represents all of the qualities of an outstanding mentor, and her work has significantly impacted the growth and development of psychologists and psychology in Louisiana and beyond."

Psychologists Needed, Says New AFCC-LA Pres. Judge Oppenheim *by Leslie Todd* The new President, Hon. Patti Oppenheim, 22nd JDC, of the Louisiana Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) noted that psychologists are the least well-represented mental health professionals in AFCC-LA and she wants to actively promote their engagement. "Collaboration between

2021 Year-in-Review

Continued

legal, financial and mental health professionals gives families a fighting chance. Mental health professionals often seem overwhelmed at the prospect of potentially having to testify in court, but they forget that the children and parents they decided to help need them most during a court hearing," Oppenheim said.

Invisible Changes in the "Complaints Committee" of the State Board and the Rising Price Tag *by J. Nelson* Over the last two decades the structure, personnel, and tone of the board's complaints subcommittee has changed dramatically, evolving from a small, basically volunteer group of senior psychologists, often hand-picked for their subspecialty knowledge to investigate a complaint, to a committee of criminal law enforcement professionals. In this report we review these changes, the meaningless impact these changes have had on public safety, and the increasing costs, both financial and emotional, to psychologists.

Organizations Receive Grants to Support Post-Ida Recovery LA Healthcare Connections announced on Sept. 29 that four organizations in some of Hurricane Ida's hardest hit areas have been awarded \$260,000 in funding.

Act 351 Establishes a "Foster Youth's Bill of Rights" to be Implemented by Dept of CFS Sen. Regina Barrow's measure establishes a "Foster Youth's Bill of Rights" to be implemented by the Department of Children and Family Services.

Act 433 Expands Those Who Provide Psychosocial Service Prior law defined "psychosocial rehabilitation services" (PSR services) and new law expands the minimum eligible educational requirement to include a bachelor's degree from an accredited university or college in the fields of counseling, social work, psychology, sociology, rehabilitation services, special education, early childhood education, secondary education, family and consumer sciences, or human growth and development with a minor in counseling, social work, sociology, or psychology.

Birds, Humans & the Covid-19 Pandemic *by Samantha Dooley* With the Covid-19 pandemic still going strong, will birds fly south the same way, or at all? What effect does the pandemic have on migratory birds?

Editorial, by J. Nelson, PhD. "Psychologists Matter"

A Shrink at the Flicks, by Alvin Burstein, PhD. *CODA*

NOVEMBER 2021

Psychologists Open Center for Specialized OCD Treatments Dr. Melissa Dufrene and Dr. Kristin Fitch, two of the founding members of the Louisiana OCD Association, have opened a new center, The Rise Center for OCD and Anxiety. Their goal is to help address the shortage of specialized treatment services available for the OCD, a serious, chronic condition affecting an estimated 35,000 individuals in Louisiana. "The absence of intensive treatment programs for OCD and related disorders is a huge problem in Louisiana," said Dufrene and Fitch.

Gov. Lifts Mask Mandate Statewide, Except for K-12 Gov. Edwards will lift Louisiana's statewide mask mandate in all settings except for K-12 schools, after sustained improvement across the state.

LSU's Dr. Calamia Earns Prestigious Early Career Award The National Academy of Neuropsychology has named Dr. Matthew Calamia as the 2021 recipient of their prestigious Early Career Award. Dr. Calamia is Associate Professor of Psychology and Director of the Psychological Services Center at Louisiana State University. He is also an adjunct faculty member at the Institute for Dementia Research and Prevention at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center and has been affiliated with the Jefferson Neurobehavioral Group in New

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The Psychology Times

2021

COMMUNITY AWARD

OUTREACH/VISION

Dr. Melissa Dufrene
and Dr. Kristin Fitch

Dr. Melissa Dufrene and Dr. Kristin Fitch not only lead the way in the Louisiana OCD Association, now they have created The Rise Center for OCD and Anxiety to reach more people and educate the public and also the profession about this serious, chronic disorder that cripples people in their everyday life. These two psychologists are confronting a shortage of specialized treatment and a lack of understanding in the profession that should have been addressed years ago. Well done ladies!



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Orleans. The National Academy of Neuropsychology is the professional association for experts in the assessment and treatment of brain injuries and disorders, and its members are at the forefront of cutting-edge research and rehabilitation in the field of brain behavior relationships.

APA Apologizes for Its Part in Promoting Systemic Racism The American Psychological Association (APA) Council of Representatives adopted three resolutions apologizing for its part in systemic racism and pledging to participate in remedies and change. The first resolution was "Apology to People of Color for APA's Role in Promoting, Perpetuating, and Failing to Challenge Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Human Hierarchy in U.S." The second, was "Role of Psychology and APA in Dismantling Systemic Racism Against People of Color in U.S." And the third resolution was "Advancing Health Equity in Psychology."

FDA Okays 5-Minute Dementia Test A 5-minute, computerized cognitive assessment that is completed using an iPad has been given the okay by the US Food and Drug Administration. Developed by Cognetivity Neurosciences Ltd, CognICA is a cognitive assessment for the early detection of dementia.

Act 294 Calls for More Support for School Children Sen. McMath's new law requires public schools, for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years, to provide expanded academic support to each student in grades four through eight who failed to achieve mastery.

LPA Hosts USC's Dr. Lopez at Fall/Winter Workshop The Louisiana Psychological Association will host a blended in-person/virtual Fall/Winter Workshop. Delivering *The Janet & Lee Matthews Invited Address: "Shifting Cultural Lenses in Clinical Practice,"* will be Dr. Steve Lopez, professor of psychology at University of Southern California.

PTR and Dr. Simoneaux Address Risk Assessment Webinar John Simoneaux, PhD, Professional Training Resources of Pineville Louisiana, will present the webinar, "Predicting Danger: Evidence Based Strategies."

LSBEP Presents First CE Webinar The Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists will offer a continuing education event, "Multicultural and ethical issues in psychology: The example of neuropsychological assessment of Spanish speakers," by Antonio Puente, Ph.D.

Editorial, by J. Nelson, PhD. "Star-Spangled Men & Women"

Stress Solutions, by Susan Andrews,

The Psychology Times

2021

COMMUNITY AWARD

INNOVATION

Dr. Matthew Calamia

Dr. Matthew Calamia was brought to our attention when he received the National Academy of Neuropsychology award for early career achievements. In reporting on this news we discovered an innovative powerhouse of research going on at Dr. Calamia's laboratory, with new ideas, such as using virtual reality and web-based approaches, flowing freely from both his work and that of his students. His cutting edge research in rehabilitation for brain behavior conditions deserves our highest recognition.



PhD. "Stress and Your Immune System During the Pandemic."

Bookshelf – Bedtime Stories from the Barn. Authored by Beverly Stubblefield, PhD. Illustrations by James Yanno.

A Shrink at the Flicks, by Alvin Burstein, PhD. *Atonement*

DECEMBER 2021

Supervision Issue Resurfaces for Provisional Licenses At the November 12 meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP), the Board's attorney provided an opinion that LSBEP could deny approval for a plan of supervision where supervision is to be conducted by medical psychologists who do not hold a license as a "psychologist" under the state psychology board. Dr. Michelle Moore, chair of Supervision and Credentials at the LSBEP, had first presented the problem in August.

Drs. Holcomb and Lambert Offer to Serve on Psych Bd Dr. Matthew Holcomb and Dr. Jesse Lambert will be running for a July 2022 opening on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

New Findings in Dr. Walczyk's Deception Theory Louisiana Tech's Dr. Jeffery Walczyk and his co-author Natalie Cockrell have published new findings on Walczyk's popular theory of deception. His Activation-Decision-Construction-Action theory is regarded as one of the leading cognitive theories of deception in psychology. Dr. Walczyk is the Mary Robin Dorsett Endowed Professor in the Department of Psychology at Louisiana Tech University. He is currently working on a chapter for *Morality and Creativity* and has served as guest editor for special edition of *Frontiers in Psychology*.

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Tulane's Dr. Courtney Baker Leads Project DIRECT in New Orleans Dr. Courtney Baker and her team members are partnering with 13 New Orleans childcares, Head Starts, and pre-K/K classrooms within charter schools, which serve low-income children, in a program named Project DIRECT, a community-engaged approach, aimed to reduce disparities in mental health and academic achievement. Baker and her team are reaching children who live in poverty, racial and ethnic minority children, and children who have experienced trauma. Dr. Baker is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at Tulane University, a licensed clinical psychologist, and directs the APA-Accredited School Psychology doctoral program.

LDH Announces Grant for Chronic Disease Prevention The Louisiana Department of Health, Well-Ahead Louisiana, the chronic disease prevention and healthcare access arm of the Louisiana Department of Health, has been awarded \$345,000 in federal funding through the Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act.

US Reps Letlow and Graves Introduce The Parents Bill of Rights Act US Congresswoman Julia Letlow introduced the Parents Bill of Rights Act. She represents Louisiana's 5th Congressional District. The Parents Bill of Rights is built on five core principles that would apply to all schools nationwide that receive federal funding.

Gov. Edwards Announces \$1.5M Federal Grant to Address Human Trafficking in Louisiana Gov. Edwards announced that Louisiana has been awarded a \$1.5 million grant by the United States Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime that will be used to improve outcomes for child and youth victims of human trafficking.

Dr. Marva Lewis Joins "Call to Action" for Change in Infant Mental Health Journal Tulane's Dr. Lewis joined colleagues in a "Special Statement" and call to action for the *Infant Mental Health Journal*. The statement, "Call to action: Centering blackness and disrupting systemic racism in infant mental health research and academic publishing," was published in November.

Editorial, by J. Nelson, PhD. "Tens Years Later"

Stress Solutions, by Susan Andrews, PhD. "Stress Over the Holidays."

Christmas Bookshelf recommendations by Drs. John Fanning, Sumer Ledet Miquez, Randy Lemoine, Marva Lewis, Del McNeely, Bill McCown, Brittany Joslyn, and Kim VanGeffen.

A Shrink at the Flicks, by Alvin Burstein, PhD. *Slalom*



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COMMUNITY AWARD
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Courtney Baker



Another treasure we uncovered in 2021 was Dr. Courtney Baker and her project in New Orleans to reach children who live in poverty, racial and ethnic minority children, and children who have experienced trauma. It is an understatement to say that Dr. Baker's program is excellent. She has set the bar for quality community psychology services and engagement. Baker and her team members are partnering with 13 New Orleans childcares, and Head Starts, in order to reduce disparities in mental health and academic achievement. Her effort builds involvement of key individuals at all levels. Amazing work!



The Psychology Times' BOOKSHELF

Who's Writing What?

Ritual in Human Evolution and Religion *Psychological and Ritual Resources* *by Matt J. Rossano, PhD*

Dr. Matthew Rosanna's newest book is a beautifully elegant and concise text connecting the complex issues of psychological ritual, group behavior, and evolutionary psychology. In it he continues his lifelong exploration of the beauty and complexity of ritual, including the scientific underpinnings. He willingly admits his joy and passion of the subject and writes, "All life is gesture. Ritual is gesture, perfected. A rich life is one filled with ritual."

Rosanna maintains that we are an intensely social species and often our happiness hinges on the quality of our relationships which often are maintained through the interconnectedness of ritual.

Rosanna argues that rituals are created as mechanisms for resource management. He bases his argument on several claims including that evolution and fitness became contingent on psychological states and that these states became resources. He explores how ritual actually manages the psychological resources, cultivating them and directing them.

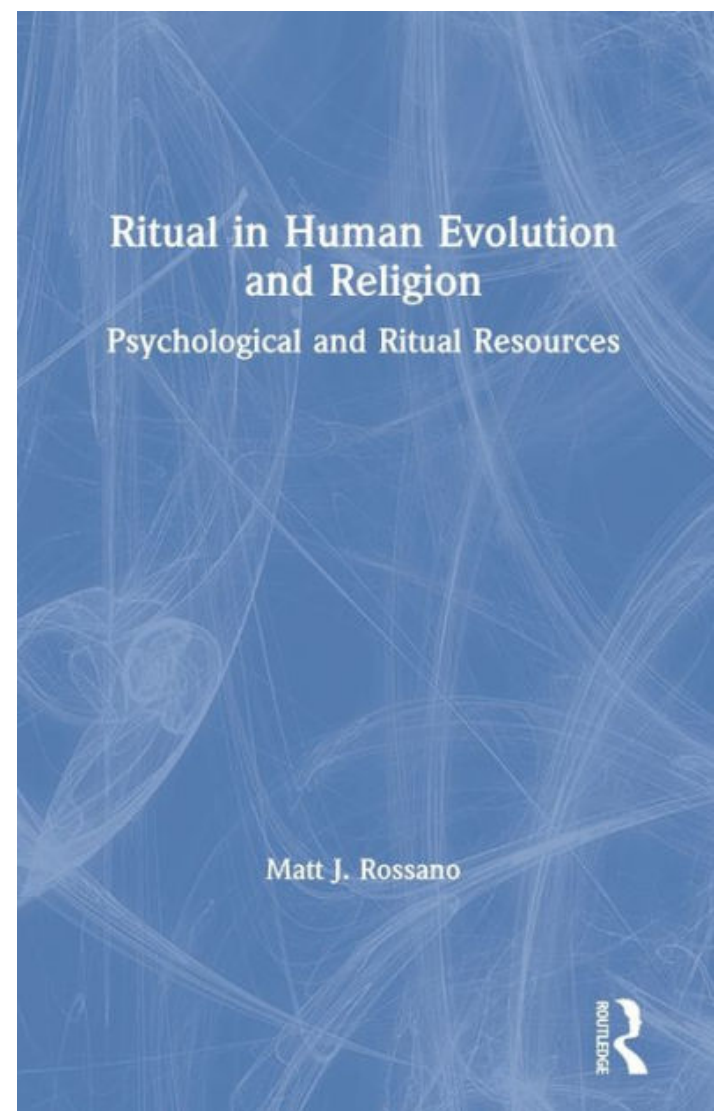
He bases much of his work on the notion that humans are hyper-social animals. "We cooperate with one another in ways that far exceed that of any other species," Rossanna writes, and puts forth evidence that we have evolved to interdependency where survival depends on working with others. "You either figured out how to work with others, are you starved."

Then there was group competition. Over time the forging groups developed a competitive design with each other for limited resources. This laid the foundation for what Rosanna calls psychological states—a state of mind, including thoughts and feelings, and which causes certain behaviors. "Ultimately, psychological states reduce to particular patterns of brain activity," he notes. Dr. Rosanna explains how these psychological states become resources in and of themselves and have prosocial implications. Ritual manages these resources.

He supports his views saying that more than a decade of research has shown that ritual activity increases levels of prosocial psychological states including those states such as "goodwill, empathy, trust, liking, perceived unity and similarities." He also notes that ritual participation is associated with greater generosity and group conformity.

He explains ritual and contrasts it with routine, ritualized behavior, and useless rituals. Rosanna points out that a central theme of this work is that rituals do accomplish an important psychological goal and manage important psychological resources. However, he writes "This idea is at odds with prevailing scholarly views on ritual."

Throughout the chapters he reviews empirical work showing how rituals create and nurture prosocial psychological resources. He explains how ritual and cooperation work, how



ritual and social bonding occur, and how ritual and belief resonate together. He also tackles the concept of ritual and trust and human groups, and explains how ritual replenish his psychological resources and promote social capital and nurturance between group participants.

He warns that the constructive results of rituals are not a given, And that "...the ends resulting from ritual cohesion are not *necessarily* constructive or moral in any universal sense."

Rosanna has captured and delineated ritual types and the work they do in the community of humans. He includes communal recommitment, individual recommitment, tension management, sacrifice offering or atonement, traditional communal transitions, communal transitions, personal transitions, and personal transition initiation. He explains how each of these solve a varying problem in the group, provide a resource and do "Ritual work."

Dr. Matt Rossano, has served as Professor and past Chair of the Department of Psychology at Southeastern Louisiana University.

He has served as ad hoc reviewer for over twenty journals including *Perception*, *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, *Review of General Psychology*, *Topics in Cognitive Psychology*, *Current Anthropology*, and *British J. of Social Psychology*. And he has served as ad hoc reviewer for Brook/Cole Publishing, Cambridge University Press, MIT Press, Elsevier Press, Columbia University Press, Oxford Press, and National Science Foundation.

Dr. Rossano, expert in evolutionary psychology, has also authored *A Dialogue about the Mind, the Soul, and What It Means to Be Human*; *Supernatural Selection: How Religion Evolved*; *Evolutionary Psychology: The Science of Human Behavior and Evolution*; as well as book chapters in *The Nature of God: Evolution and Religion*, *Cognitive Archaeology and Human Evolution*, *The Biological Evolution of Religious Mind and Behaviour*, and *New Developments in Consciousness Research*.

Rossano's article, "The essential role of ritual in the transmission and reinforcement of social norms," published in *Psychological Bulletin* in 2012, has been often cited. He writes that ritual and ritualized behavior is essential to the transmission and reinforcement of social norms, and that these norms are morally significant for cooperation and social organization.

A Shrink at the Flicks

The Father A Review

by Alvin G. Burstein, PhD

Aristotle, in *The Poetics*, defined tragedy as a medium that arouses pity and fear in the audience, a kind of catharsis. Florian Zeller, in his debut as a film director, adapts his play, *Le Pere*, to the screen in a remarkable reminder of a fate that is soul-shaking and threatens us all. Some, the fortunate, escape it, but those who are caught in its grip suffer a grievous loss that they did not deserve, one which robs them of their essential self.

Anthony Hopkins plays the protagonist in a performance that won him the Best Actor award at the 93rd Academy. The film was released in the United States in February 2021 and is available on Hulu and Amazon Prime.

The film opens with the father, Anthony, alone in his London apartment. His daughter, Anne, played by Olivia Coleman, comes to visit him. She needs to deal with her father's having driven away his most recent caretaker, a crisis because, as she finally tells him, she plans to move to Paris with a lover. Anthony is taken aback by the news of her impending departure, but stoutly maintains his ability to manage on his own. He insists, further, that the caretaker was a thief who had purloined his wristwatch. Anne suspects that her father might have hidden the watch in a repository he has in his bathroom. She finds it there and returns it to him. The implication is clear. Anthony is becoming increasingly forgetful.

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 pieces in e-zines;



courtesy photo

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.



As the film unfolds, fractured timelines, unannounced flashbacks and duplicated characters invoke in the minds of the audience a replica of Anthony's growing dementia.

Contributing to the weight of Anthony's loss is Anne's dilemma. Her focus on caring for her father has led to a breakup in her marriage. Her father's ongoing idealization of Lucy, her younger sister, and her father's insistent and invidious preference for Lucy galls her in ways she cannot express. And she is further burdened by having to sacrifice her own needs in order to care for her father, whose memory loss shields him from even recognizing that Lucy has died in an earlier auto accident.

Anthony's on-going fixation on his watch suggests an emphasis on the issue of time. Paul Ricoeur, in *Time and Narrative*, argues that the human experience of time is tied to the human capacity to organize experience into narrative episodes in which time is embedded. In a sense, our identities are defined by the role we are playing in the story that we construct about our lives. As Anthony becomes increasingly confused, his ability to recognize, not just the people around him, but who he, himself is, also dissipates.

As the film ends, Anthony is a tragic figure, stripped of his dignity, lost, in tears, begging for his mother.

Pity and fear: strong stuff.

Up-Coming Events

C.G. Jung Society to Present "Spirit of the Future," February 1

The C.G. Jung Society will present "Spirit of the Future: Reclaiming the Value and Meaning of the Individual in Times of Collective Upheaval," February 1 at 7:30 pm. The event is to be held online.

Presenter is Elizabeth Colistra, PhD. Colistra is a certified Jungian analyst and Licensed Professional Counselor with a private practice in the French Quarter in New Orleans.

She trained at the C.G. Jung Institute of New York and the Jungian Psychoanalytic Association while completing her doctorate from Pacifica Graduate Institute. She is a faculty member of the New Orleans Jungian Seminar and an analyst member of the Inter-Regional Society of Jungian Analysts.

"We will explore Jung's notion that 'If the whole is to change, the individual must change himself.' The cultural, societal, and national crises that are taking place across the world, and especially here in the United States, challenge us to critically think about and question Jung's premise.

"Is individual change enough? Is personal analysis and a commitment to one's individuation process really enough?"

For additional information go to www.jungneworleans.org

AFCC-LA State Conference to be Held Friday, March 18th in Baton Rouge

The AFCC-LA State Conference will be held Friday, March 18th at the Baton Rouge Embassy Suites. The all-day conference will offer CEUs for Family Court-related issues such as the use (and misuse) of technology and risk management for working with professionals working with DV cases.



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