



## Gov. Edwards Issues Statement on Court Overturning Roe V. Wade

In a June 24 press release, Gov. John Edwards issued a statement about the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization ruling by the United States Supreme Court, which overturned Roe v. Wade.

Gov. Edwards said, "I am and have always been unabashedly pro-life and opposed to abortion. However, I understand that people on both sides of this complex issue hold deeply personal beliefs, and I respect that not everyone,

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## Dr. Gormanous Sues LSBEP Over Disability Accommodation

Dr. Gregory Gormanous, Vice Chair of the Psychology Board, has filed a Motion for Preliminary Injunction, saying that the Board has refused to provide him with necessary accommodation, virtual attendance, under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), so that he can fulfill his duties as a member of the state board.

According to documents obtained from Gormanous, he requested to be reasonably accommodated under ADA. On May 10, Board chair Dr. Gina Gibson met with attorney Amy Groves Lowe and in an email dated May 13, Dr. Gibson said that based on a legal opinion from Ms. Lowe and legal opinions issued by

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## Legislative Auditors Review Strengths, Weaknesses of State Psychology Board

A performance audit by the Louisiana Legislative Auditors Office has found problems in the complaints process of the state Psychology Board. The audit, led by Ms. Emily Dixon, Performance Audit Manager, and begun in August 2021, examined the Board's processes for licensing, monitoring, and enforcement. The performance of the board was compared to the requirements set forth in the Psychology Practice Act, and found to be in compliance with "most best practices."

However, the auditors found numerous problems with the complaints committee performance. They said that the average time for resolving a complaint was 338 days and that the Board had no internal time frames for accomplishing its investigations. The auditors also stated that the board had no "disciplinary matrix," and no way to track the nature and outcomes of complaints or to analyze the data. They also found numerous errors,

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## Dr. Lin Named 2022 Janet Matthews, PhD, Outstanding Psychology Mentor

Dr. Hung-Chu Lin, Professor of Psychology at the University of Louisiana Lafayette, has been named by the Louisiana Psychological Association as the 2022 Janet R. Matthews, PhD, Outstanding Psychology Mentor.



Dr. Hung-Chu Lin  
(courtesy photo)

"This award recognizes and honors Dr. Janet R. Matthews for her lifetime of mentoring work and the impact she had on psychologists in Louisiana," said Dr. Amanda Raines, spokesperson for the Louisiana Psychological Association, at the group's spring convention.

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# Editorial Page – Opinions

## Seeing Beyond the Administrative Nose on Our Face by J. Nelson

I found a kindred spirit with Dr. Tom Hannie who always reminded me that he approached every new forensic case like a research study. There's a certain humility to that, and a comfort in knowing our judgments emerge from a scientific process.

I am thankful for the Louisiana Legislative auditors' critique of our state Board. (See story page 1.) It is a good start at much needed reform. The auditors, very politely, pointed out multiple inconsistencies and inaccuracies in the Complaints Committee processes. These problems would have otherwise remained invisible because the data is not accessible to any form of public records request.

The auditors' suggested solutions—more fines and more regulations—are premature. The auditors, as would be expected, have one level of analysis, an administrative, tactical, and/or



bureaucratic level. They had no way to look at the total system, the way psychologists can by using the tools of our science.

From an organizational psychology perspective, the complaints committee can be viewed as an intervention. We can see it as containing causal, intervening, and outcome variables. With adequately measured (scaled) variables we can assess reliability, and then validity. We can find out if we're actually accomplishing anything meaningful. We might even eventually assess utility, the cost per unit of outcome.

The auditors' review found that the complaints process lacked even minimal efforts at scaling, what they called a "matrix."

Matters such as utility cannot be addressed from a narrow administrative perspective. This is why many government agencies, and also many business organizations, grow their bureaucracy and continue with poor outcomes and cost overruns.

We might be looking at the same bureaucratic mindset when it comes to Dr. Greg Gormanous' request for ADA accommodations. (See page 1.) He is being refused virtual attendance because of open meetings laws. But there is no real evidence the virtual participation would inhibit the public's rights. It might just promote transparency.

Group dynamics tell us that the Board can either be productive, accomplishing valid, real work, or it can protect its own self-interests. A set way of doing things and costly, ineffective programs are often the result of the latter.

I am not nearly as polite or diplomatic as the auditors. The Board has been sorely mismanaged, and needs both structural and process reforms. There is an invisible toll being taken on those unlucky enough to get caught in the complaints process. And the licensees are the ones who also pay the bill for a problematic complaints program with skyrocketing costs.

So thank goodness for the auditors, as far as it goes. Now, more is required from psychological scientists.

One interesting side note from the auditors' report—You can now have an allegation that you are "rude." The hypersensitive culture has reached all the way into board complaints.

*[Julie Nelson is a licensed psychologist, journalist, 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](mailto: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](mailto:psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com)

State & National News

Gov. Edwards Issues Statement, continued

including many in my own party, agrees with my position.

"While we are still reviewing the decision issued by the Court this morning, Louisiana has had a trigger law in place since 2006 that would outlaw abortion, without exception for rape and incest, should the United States Supreme Court overturn Roe v. Wade.

"I asked the Legislature to include exceptions for rape and incest in the legislation most recently passed. While the bill that passed expanded the exceptions from the 2006 law to include instances of medical futility and treatment of ectopic pregnancies, these important exceptions were not included.

"As I have said many times before, I believe women who are survivors of rape or incest should be able determine whether to continue with a pregnancy that is the result of a criminal act.

"And, to be clear, the legislation I recently signed protects all forms of contraception, including emergency contraception, which remains fully legal and available in Louisiana.

"Being pro-life means more than just being against abortion. It means providing the necessary resources and implementing policies that provide real options and not just lip service to the children, women, and families we are blessed to serve. Now more than ever, it's critical that Louisiana funds services to support women, children, and families throughout their lives, which is why I have expanded health care through our Medicaid program and lobbied for measures to make sure workers are paid better and more fairly. It's also why I've supported better funding for Louisiana's public education system, including early childhood education. I believe all people should have the opportunity to succeed and that starts with providing a strong foundation early in life.

"Make no mistake, there is much more that we can do to support women, children, and families, and I hope that my fellow pro-life public officials will join me in these efforts in the coming months and years."

Governor Announces He Has Signed More Bills

- Gov. John Bel Edwards announced that he signed bills from the 2022 Regular Legislative Session. These included:
- ACT 64...SB 61 Creates "Mental Health" special prestige license plate.
- ACT 75...SB 66 Enhances penalties for violation of a protective order when committed while in possession of a firearm.
- ACT 81...SB 165 Provides for internal claims and appeals process and external review procedures for health insurance issuers.
- ACT 82...SB 169 Requires annual meetings of and reports from the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission.
- ACT 83...SB 194 Provides relative to the membership of the Louisiana Health Works Commission.
- ACT 119...HB 81 Provides relative to the Occupational Licensing Review Commission.
- ACT 120...SB 40 Provides relative to protections for foster children.
- ACT 129...SB 136 Provides relative to protections for emergency room personnel, emergency services personnel, and healthcare professionals.
- ACT 130...SB 148 Provides for post-conviction relief for victims of human trafficking.
- ACT 132...SB 366 Prohibits certain health insurance cost-sharing practices.
- ACT 140...HB 265 Provides relative to victim notification.
- ACT 143...HB 286 Provides relative to healthcare provider credentialing in the Medicaid managed care program.
- ACT 151...HB 334 Provides relative to employment with behavioral health services providers of peer support specialists.
- ACT 173...SB 64 Provides relative to crimes of violence and sex offenses.
- ACT 180...SB 94 Provides relative to instruction on child assault awareness and prevention in public schools.
- ACT 188...HB 784 Provides relative to universal perinatal mood disorder screening for primary care doctors.
- ACT 189...HB 826 Includes addiction counselors and other behavioral health providers within the definition of "healthcare provider" in the La. Telehealth Access Act.
- ACT 210...HB 337 Establishes a special identification card designation for persons with autism spectrum disorder.
- ACT 220...HB 447 Provides relative to certain violent crimes committed by juveniles.
- ACT 296...SB 106 Provides relative to disciplinary proceedings by a professional or occupational board or commission.
- ACT 324...HB 245 Provides relative to minors taken into protective custody from schools.
- ACT 326...HB 266 Provides relative to the Louisiana Commission on HIV, AIDS, and Hepatitis C Education, Prevention, and Treatment.



"And after years and years of therapy, she lived happily ever after."



State & National News

Legislative Auditors Review Strengths, Weaknesses of Psychology Board continued

inconsistencies, and lack of follow up.

The auditors sampled internal documents from fiscal years 2019 through 2021. During this three-year time, LSBEP received 71 complaints and closed 63 of these complaints. Eight, or 12.7%, resulted in a public, disciplinary action. There was one, non-public, impaired psychologist procedure and 11 Letters of Education, also non-public. According to this data, 43 of the cases were dismissed with no action. A total of 85.7% were either dismissed or received a letter with educational information.

The auditors found that the board required an average of 338 days to resolve a complaint. The time ranged from eleven days to more than three years. Eight (12.7%) of the 63 complaints took more than two years to resolve, and an additional 13 (20.6%) of the complaints took more than one year to resolve.

" [...] LSBEP has not established internal timeframes for resolving complaints, and its process for tracking complaints does not record accurate and complete information. As a result, the Board cannot ensure that it is investigating and resolving complaints in a timely manner," they said.

The auditors found that LSBEP’s process for tracking complaints included inaccuracies and inconsistencies.

"LSBEP tracks complaint information in a spreadsheet, an investigation log, and a complaints log. However, we compared these three documents to each other and to LSBEP’s paper complaint files and Board meeting minutes that contain complaint outcomes, and found that none of the tracking documents were accurate or complete. For instance, the spreadsheet did not include all complaints, incorrectly listed some closed complaints as open, and did not include all instances of disciplinary action.

"[...] we found that three Letters of Education were sent to the licensees more than five months after the Board voted to send them." And, "... we identified five complaints that LSBEP did not ensure were fully closed. These five complaints included one licensee who was never sent a Letter of Education that the Board voted to send in June 2019 about mandatory reporting of abuse."

The auditors sound that four complaints were never presented to the Board for closure."

The auditors also found that "LSBEP has not adopted a disciplinary matrix that aligns with regulatory best practices to ensure that disciplinary actions are consistent and appropriately escalated based on the number and/or severity of violations."

The auditors found the following categories and percentages of allegations. (See Audit Exhibit below.) The most frequent category of 25% came in from allegations of "Substandard Care, Negligence, or Malpractice." This was followed by 20% for "Unprofessional Conduct, Discrimination, or Rude Treatment." Next was "Failure to Maintain or Provide Accurate Patient Records" at 16%, "Multiple Relationships or Conflict of Interest," and "Practice Without License, Misrepresentation of Credentials, or Practice Outside of Scope," both at 14% of allegations.

The auditors noted, "According to LSBEP, staff create separate spreadsheets to track the compliance of each disciplined licensee and use calendar reminders for monitoring specific activities.

"However, these processes are not formalized in policy and

staff have not followed them consistently. In addition, the Board does not have a process for systematically and periodically monitoring whether all disciplined licensees have performed required corrective actions, reimbursed disciplinary costs as ordered, and continue to comply with ongoing Board restrictions."

The auditors noted that, "LSBEP did not report four (44.4%) of the nine adverse actions it issued during fiscal years 2019 through 2021 to the NPDB in accordance with federal law."

The auditors recommended that the Psychology Board require all licensees to undergo a background check, Instead of just new licensees. And, they recommended that the Board query the National Practitioner Data Base for enforcement information when making license decisions and for continuous monitoring.

The auditors also indicated that the Legislature may want to authorize the Psychology Board to impose fines for discipline and administrative noncompliance.

In a response, the Board agreed with all the auditors' recommendations. Specifically, they agreed to "... establish a system where complaints are prioritized and investigated on a case-by-case basis considering risk to the public in accordance

with the Audit, the Act, LAPA, and other applicable law and oversight. This system will ensure complaints are processed within reasonable time periods, factoring in the complexity of the case. These procedures are currently in practice, but not explicitly stated in policy. Additionally, the board has recently hired two full-time employees including in-house counsel whose primary focus is on the complaint adjudication process. Timeframes for internal monitoring will be determined to ensure compliance."

The Board agreed to "... establishing a process for tracking complaints that includes documenting the status, nature, and outcome of all complaints; periodically reviewing open complaints; and regularly analyzing complaint data to assess compliance with agency policy and identify opportunities for improvement. Over the past 3 years, the board has worked to improve financial stability in order to employ staff who can develop these processes understanding that this is vital to operations and best practice."

The 37-page report is available online at [https://app.lla.state.la.us/publicreports.nsf/0/dd11af03beda7797862588540052a678/\\$file/00026f93.pdf?openelement&.7773098](https://app.lla.state.la.us/publicreports.nsf/0/dd11af03beda7797862588540052a678/$file/00026f93.pdf?openelement&.7773098).

Exhibit 2 Allegations Received by LSBEP, by Type of Complaint Fiscal Years 2019 through 2021		
Type of Complaint	Number of Allegations	Percent
Substandard Care, Negligence, or Malpractice	25	16.5%
Unprofessional Conduct, Discrimination, or Rude Treatment	20	13.2%
Failure to Maintain or Provide Accurate Patient Records	16	10.5%
Multiple Relationships or Conflict of Interest	14	9.2%
Practice Without License, Misrepresentation of Credentials, or Practice Outside of Scope	14	9.2%
Treatment or Evaluation without Informed Consent	9	6.0%
False or Deceptive Statements	7	4.6%
Fraud, Improper Billing, or Billing Dispute	7	4.6%
Insufficient Supervision or Allowing Unlicensed Person to Practice	7	4.6%
Failure to Report Abuse	7	4.6%
Misreported to LSBEP	7	4.6%
Sexual Misconduct, Harassment, or Inappropriate Relationships	5	3.3%
Substance Abuse	4	2.6%
Patient Abandonment or Lapse in Continuity of Care	4	2.6%
Breach of Confidentiality	4	2.6%
Criminal Activity, Disciplinary Action, or Failure to Report	2	1.3%
Total	152*	100.0%
*Some complaints contained multiple allegations. Source: Prepared by legislative auditor’s staff using categories created based on review of LSBEP paper complaint files.		



## Dr. Gormanous Sues LSBEP Over Disability Accommodation, continued

the Attorney General, one specifically issued on April 5, 2022, the board could not accommodate Dr. Gormanous' request to attend virtually.

In her May 13 email, Dr. Gibson offered accommodations including requesting that attendees wear masks and maintain social distance, and special seating arrangements for Dr. Gormanous.

In a June 6 filing in the United States District Court Western District of Louisiana, Dr. Gormanous asked for a Preliminary Injunction in his favor against defendants Jaime T. Monic, in her official capacity as Executive Director of the LSBEP, and the LSBEP as a political entity. He alleged that Ms. Monic and the LSBEP have unlawfully discriminated against Dr. Gormanous by (1) failing to provide a reasonable accommodation and (2) using eligibility criteria that tends to screen out people with disabilities.

Dr. Gormanous is 74 years old and has various medical conditions, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and a pacemaker, that make him highly susceptible to COVID-19, noted authors of the June 6 Motion.

"Dr. Gormanous faces an immediate and urgent need for injunctive relief as the LSBEP has been unable to hold a board meeting since March 18, 2022, due to the LSBEP's refusal to permit Dr. Gormanous and another board member with a disability to attend board meetings virtually," noted the June 6 Motion.

"Finally, the public interest favors an injunction. The intent and purpose of Congress in passing the ADA was to ensure that individuals with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate. The requested injunctive relief would ensure that individuals with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in the activities of the LSBEP."

The motion's authors said that Judge Drell in Alexandria, Louisiana addressed the interplay of the Louisiana Open Meetings Law with the ADA in a ruling stating, "What is omitted from argument of counsel is the rise of significant new technologies such as Zoom and others that allow for public participation at meetings either in person or virtually, with

members of the public being able to see and hear entire meeting contents by real time video, the full opportunity to ask questions and to participate fully."

The Motion's authors indicated that both Dr. Gibson and Ms. Lowe referenced a Louisiana Attorney General Opinion that attendance via teleconference was only permitted during a declared state of public emergency. However, this Opinion did not involve a request to attend by remote means as an accommodation/modification under the ADA, said the authors.

In a personal statement to friends and colleagues, Dr. Gormanous wrote on June 26: "I take my oath above seriously & I value transparency - that's what the open meetings law is about. [...] The LA licensing board is composed of individuals who are just as conscientious & dedicated as I in fulfilling their oath of office. When principled psychologists have different interpretations of things, they attempt to address them with civility. That is what I had tried to do unsuccessfully. I wanted to resolve these issues without a civil lawsuit [...]"

"Essentially the Board is expending professional and financial resources to assert incorrectly that state law supersedes federal law. The Board's decision to defend discriminating against a board member may eventually cost more of the Board's limited financial & human resources. A different decision to enfranchise the member by defending adherence to federal law."

## Gov. Edwards Tests Positive for COVID

In a June 24 press release, Governor John Bel Edwards' office announced that following a routine COVID-19 test after returning from travel, he has tested positive for COVID-19. The Governor is fully vaccinated against COVID and up-to-date on recommended booster doses. The Governor does not currently have symptoms and will follow recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and will isolate for five days.



*Dr. Gregory Gormanous, Vice Chair of the Psychology Board, has filed a lawsuit saying that the Board has refused to provide him with necessary accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Here, in 2015, Dr. Gormanous (right) served as the Board's Executive Director and speaks with Board attorney Lloyd Lunceford.*

## Louisiana Medicaid Expands Dental Coverage for Adults with Intellectual, Developmental Disabilities

In a June 30 press release, Louisiana Medicaid said it will be expanding dental care coverage for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities

Louisiana Medicaid is expanding its comprehensive dental care to adults ages 21 and up with intellectual or developmental disabilities who are enrolled in the New Opportunities Waiver, Residential Options Waiver or the Supports Waiver.

More than 12,000 people will have access to the new dental coverage which will become effective July 1. The coverage includes diagnostic services, preventive services, restorative services, endodontics, periodontics, prosthodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, and emergency care.

The expansion is part of the Louisiana Department of Health's (LDH) Fiscal Year 2022 Business Plan, Together: Building a Stronger LDH and a Healthier Louisiana. "Oral health is critical to our overall health, shaping our physical and mental well-being at every age. This expansion of coverage will improve the health and well-being of Louisianans with intellectual or developmental disabilities by providing routine and preventive dental care," said LDH Secretary Dr. Courtney Phillips.

"Providing comprehensive dental services for those who are enrolled in the New Opportunities Waiver, Residential Options Waiver or the Supports Waiver will help individuals maintain good oral health and prevent serious health issues in the future." Many states have found that investing in preventive dental care for Medicaid enrollees saves public dollars by preventing emergency department visits and expensive, complicated treatments and hospitalizations arising from neglect of oral health. In June 2021, Gov. John Bel Edwards signed the Act 450 bill into law in Louisiana which made the new expanded coverage possible.





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# Financial Infidelity: Do You Know How to Help Your Clients?

by Leslie Todd, LCSW

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Correspondent

According to Statistica, 6% of spouses have financial double lives: secret credit cards or hidden accounts. Few of us clinicians are specially trained to deal with money problems, but all of us will discover financial shenanigans. These may range from the client who admits to hiding expensive purchases from a partner to the naïve client who finds her husband has never paid their taxes.

Many parties will come to us with the guilt of hidden debt. Pre-marital counseling might uncover student loans or credit card balances one party was afraid to disclose to another. All clinicians will deal with clients whose addictive behaviors have caused sizeable debt. Within marriage, this kind of financial burden makes reconciliation all the more challenging. “Financial infidelity” occurs when one spouse knowingly hides their financial ineptitude-- or outright scams-- from the other.

Mental health professionals may be more comfortable asking about clients’ sex lives than their financial habits. We need to know how to look for red flags and when to refer to financial experts. This is why your referral list should include forensic accountants.

In cases of intimate partner abuse, financial skills may mean the difference between life and death. We may need to teach a victim of domestic violence how to access money to prepare for an escape. In this case, “stashing cash” is an act of self-protection, not financial infidelity.

A “friendly” divorce case will entail serious discussions about assets, property division, and future income. We must listen carefully to our clients’ financial concerns for their future and their children’s well-being. Forensic accountants can assist in determining income for child support and interim spousal support and advice about what is taxable. (Child support and interim spousal support are not taxable to the spouse receiving the funds.)

Forensic accountants can help the parties understand the status of the community assets and liabilities, including discussion of any prenuptial agreement and a general understanding of the lifestyle of the parties. They can analyze family businesses and consult on the value of the company and “personal goodwill,” a factor in valuation.

Divorce may complicate tax issues. Forensic accountants can advise on how to file returns and the benefits of claiming dependents. They also educate a non-financially astute spouse on realities such as financial outlook, the need for a budget or a job, how to file a return, and whether one can afford to keep the family home once the divorce is finalized. Accessing health-care coverage is another important consideration for many women and children post-divorce.

A forensic accountant will follow the money trail when one party has malicious intent. This is often needed in cases of high-conflict divorce. One spouse’s inheritance or family-owned business may be conned, or your client could be an innocent spouse in income tax fraud.

A forensic accountant knows what documents to look for to trace how the money was taken and where it has been secreted.

Your client may come in with a confession or suspicions about the partner’s behavior and intentions. You need to have some basic understanding of the family income and lifestyle from the beginning. Once you suspect a discrepancy between reported income and lifestyle, it’s a red flag.



Here are common techniques for hiding money. Some of these may be used for good or ill; others are downright criminal.

**Stashing cash.** This is most easily done by using a debit card for everyday purchases such as groceries or gas and getting a little cash back every time. One can also have a friend or relative hold cash or other assets unbeknownst to the spouse.

**Having secret bank accounts.** These can range from local to off-shore. People with dual citizenship or family in other countries may rely on this method.

**Siphoning off money from new raises.** One can arrange at work to have an increase in pay deposited to a hidden account.

**Overpaying taxes** and having the refunds sent to a separate address.

**Using a family-owned business** in various shady ways: under-reporting income, paying salaries to (unemployed) family members, running non-business expenses through the company, making a relative or friend part-owner hide assets, etc.

**Embezzling** from an employee and keeping that money secret from the spouse.

*[Leslie Todd, LCSW, served as President of the Louisiana Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts at its founding and again in 2018-2020. She is the 2022 recipient of the international organization’s Tim Salius President’s Award for her contributions. Learn more about the La. Chapter at [www.afccla.org](http://www.afccla.org).]*

# Louisiana Researchers Present at Annual Convention of the Association for Psychological Science

by James Glass

The Association for Psychological Science held its annual convention in Chicago, May 26–29. Psychological scientists and researchers from across the state presented their work throughout the event. Representatives include those from Louisiana State University, Louisiana State University Health Sciences, Louisiana State University Shreveport, Louisiana Tech, Loyola, and University of Louisiana Lafayette.

## LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Christian Ledet, Kelsey Coulthard, and Mary Lou Kelley from Louisiana State University presented, "Posttraumatic Stress Symptom Severity Impacting College Students' Grade Point Average."The study examined potential negative consequences of subclinical levels of traumatic stress on academic functioning. Results of the study found that as posttraumatic stress symptoms increased, overall grade point average decreased, suggesting that trauma symptoms should be viewed as a continuous variable, increasingly impacting academic functioning.

Kaitlyn McCauley and Kelsey Coulthard from Louisiana State University explained, "The Effects of Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms on College Students' Routines." Authors said: Undergraduate students experiencing posttraumatic stress (PTS) symptoms or posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) have less consistent routines. Routines are associated with positive overall functioning. The results showed that the number of PTS symptoms negatively impacted college students' routines. These findings suggest that routine maintenance may be beneficial in ameliorating PTS symptoms.

Caroline Scherzer, Elizabeth Lewis, and Julia D. Buckner all from Louisiana State University presented "Social Anxiety and Alcohol Use-Related Problems: The Roles of Drinking Refusal Self-Efficacy and Drinking to Cope." These authors stated, "We tested whether drinking refusal self-efficacy and drinking to cope mediated social anxiety symptoms and alcohol use-related problems among 360 current undergraduates who endorsed past month binge drinking. Greater social anxiety was related to less drinking refusal self-efficacy and more drinking to cope, which was related to greater alcohol user related problems."

Kelsey Coulthard, Kristen Hollas, and Mary Lou Kelley from Louisiana State University presented, "Traumatic Events and Family Support on College Students' Academic Achievement." The researchers noted college students exposed to trauma have lower grades, but perceived support may lessen trauma related symptoms. Social support is typically provided through friends and family; however, rarely studied individually in relation to stress. This study examined the influence family support has

on students' academic success after trauma exposure.

Julia D. Buckner and Caroline Scherzer from the Louisiana State University and Michael J. Zvolensky of the University of Houston presented, "Microaggressions and Cannabis Use and Related Problems Among Black Adults: The Roles of Cannabis Use Motives." According to the program, among 106 Black current cannabis users, microaggressions (MA) were related to cannabis problems ( $r=.30$ ), not cannabis frequency ( $r=.03$ ). MAs were related to cannabis problems indirectly via coping,  $b=.014$ , and conformity,  $b=.002$ , motives; and via the sequential effects of coping motives and cannabis frequency,  $b=.003$ .

JoHannah Smith, Kelsey Coulthard, and Mary Lou Kelley from Louisiana State University explained the "Effects of Social Support on College Students' Adherence to Daily Routines." According to the authors, it is not known whether social support leads to greater routine adherence in college students, and vice versa. In this study, greater social support positively impacted college students' daily routines. The more social support a college student perceives, the more likely their routines will stay consistent.

## LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

Katrina Spontak and Sebastián Del Corral Winder of Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center and Michael Poulakis from University of Indianapolis discussed, "Owning White Privilege: Reducing Prejudice Qualitatively." According to the program, whiteness provides significant social, economic, educational, and health privileges. Using

the consensual qualitative research (CQR) methodology, we explored White male perceptions' on race, culture, and cross-cultural interactions. Results illustrated a continuum in understanding and acknowledgment of systemic racism, emphasizing the need for systemic changes in education, policies, and individual awareness.

## LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY SHREVEPORT

Yong Dai of Louisiana State University Shreveport and Qing Zeng from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley presented, "Important Child Qualities: A Cross-Cultural Comparison between Chinese and Americans." According to the authors, "A comparison revealed that while Chinese were more likely than Americans to mention independence, thrift saving money and things, and hard work as important child qualities." Americans are more likely to mention imagination, tolerance and respect for others, determination and perseverance, religious faith, obedience, and self-expression as important child qualities.

Tracie L Pasold from Louisiana State University Shreveport along with Jennifer L Anderson of Louisiana State University presented, "Hypervigilance Among Law Enforcement Officers: A Notably High Level Predominates and Is Associated with Coping Styles." The authors noted high hypervigilance scores were observed with similar means across men and women. Important coping style differences were noted between men and women. Negative associations were observed between all coping styles and hypervigilance for women while positive associations for all except one were observed for men.

Cont next pg





# Louisiana Researchers Present at Annual Convention of the Association for Psychological Science, continued

## LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

Frank P. Igou of Louisiana Tech University, Shane McKnight, Christina Cantu, and Michelle Leong all from Louisiana Tech University presented, "Race, Gender and Rating Errors: An Applied Example." Researcher presented an examination of rating errors from a recent a recent (2019) law enforcement promotional procedure. The errors examined include central tendency, leniency, severity, halo, and race and gender effects. How to control for these errors, and practical and legal considerations are discussed.

Shane McKnight. Christina Cantu, Matthew Castillo, Reid LaBruyere, and Frank P. Igou from Louisiana Tech University presented, "Validation of the Transnegativity Scale." The authors explained this study examines the validation procedure for a scale measuring prejudice towards transgender individuals. Results suggest that the 12-item scale is psychometrically valid and distinct from other measures of Transphobia (Nagoshi, 2008) and Stigma Consciousness (Pinel, 1999).

## LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS

Avery Colle Camila Ortiz, Anna Laura Figueroa, and Madison W. Silverstein from Loyola University New Orleans, and Angelica M. Pagan and Sarah P Alonzi from University of California Los Angeles, presented, "An Exploration of Racial Disparities in Covid-19 Vaccination Rates." Authors said it is vital to address disparities in vaccination rates to reduce vaccine hesitancy and increase vaccine uptake. The current study aimed to explore how race/ethnicity and vaccination status correlate with psychological factors such as belief in conspiracy theories, level of perceived risk, and anxiety related to COVID-19.

Madison W. Silverstein from Loyola University New Orleans, along with others, presented, "Regional Differences in Prosocialness in the United States at the Beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic." According to the authors, prosocial behavior, or actions intended to help others, is of particular interest amid the COVID-19 pandemic when messaging heavily relies on appealing to prosocialness to encourage health behaviors (e.g., mask-wearing, vaccination). This study sought to determine whether there are regional differences in prosocialness in the U.S. to inform health messaging.

## UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

Mateo A Chavez and Valanne MacGyvers both from University of Louisiana at Lafayette spoke about, "Music and Math: Investigating the Effects of Key and Tempo on Mathematics Anxiety." According to the presentation, math anxiety is described as the most prevalent subject phobia and college students are a vulnerable population. Music interventions in elementary classrooms help sharpen math skills and improve confidence in math. This study seeks to examine whether music can buffer and/or alleviate feelings of math anxiety in college learning settings.

Kristine Melancon and Brooke O. Breaux from University of Louisiana at Lafayette presented, "How Do Language Choices Influence Public Stigma in Regard to Substance Use?" The authors noted, "We are interested in the degree to which the public stigma associated with substance use is affected by the language used to describe an individual. We predict that person-first (as compared to identity first) language and that the word "substance" (as compared to "drug") will result in lower public stigma."

Mateo A Chavez and Valanne MacGyvers both from University of Louisiana at Lafayette asked the question, "Can Grit Facilitate Mindset Shifts in Socially Anxious Persons?" According to the program. some socially anxious persons view their symptoms as unchangeable traits, which often intensifies this anxiety. These persons endorse a fixed mindset and see obstacles as impassable barriers. The study's purpose is to examine whether



an intervention designed to inspire grit can facilitate a change in mindset concerning social anxiety.

Ashley Fromenthal and Manyu Li both from University of Louisiana at Lafayette presented, "Perceived Social Support and Life Satisfaction in Older Adults: The Role of Sense of Autonomy." They explained this study will extend previous studies to investigate the relationship between perceived social support and one's end of life satisfaction, and whether subjective social status and perceived autonomy may moderate the relationship.

Amy L. Brown, Madeline M Jones and Alondra Meraz from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and Samantha Arbella of North Carolina State University presented, "Gender, Sexual Orientation, and Sexual Victimization: A Descriptive Analysis." In this study, cisgender women were more likely to report victimization than cisgender men or gender minorities; more bi/pansexual and asexual people reported victimization than did heterosexual or gay/lesbian participants. However, most bi/pansexual and all asexual participants were cisgender women, suggesting gender confers more risk than does sexual orientation.

Kathie Li, Jaci Philliber, Danielle Barnes, and Hung-Chu Lin all from the University of Louisiana Lafayette presented, "The Buffering Effects of Resilience on Childhood Trauma and Depression." Data from 663 college students showed resilience may play a buffering role in the effect of childhood trauma on depressive symptoms beyond demographic, sociopsychological, and physical health factors. These findings are relevant to the association between depression symptoms and childhood trauma and have implications for interventions targeting college students' resilience.

Madeline M Jones, and Hung-Chu Lin from University of Louisiana Lafayette presented, "The Interaction between Gender Expression and Sexual Orientation on Social Distance: Distance Greatest Against Straight, Conforming Man." This study examined college students' social distances against male vignette targets that varied by conformity of gender expression and sexual orientation. Participants reported the greatest social distance against the straight target with conforming gender expression. Social distance did not differ in all three other combinations, suggesting acceptance.

Science & Education

Louisiana Researchers at Association for Psych. Science, continued

Hung-Chu Lin, Aidan Guidry, and Prynceston Fant of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette presented, "Sexual Minority College Students Showed Stronger Association between Loneliness and Suicidality during the COVID-19 Pandemic." This study examined the disparity across sexual orientations in the association of loneliness with suicidality above and beyond a range of sociodemographic, psychological, and the COVID-19-related factors. Sexual minority students showed higher risks for both loneliness and suicidality. Also, sexual minority students revealed stronger impacts of loneliness on suicidality.

Kiara E. Martin and Valanne MacGyvers both from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette presented, "The Role of ACEs on Academic Achievement and Psychological Well-Being, and the Examination of Protective Factors." According to the program, researchers have found that academic achievement and psychological well-being may be negatively impacted by adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). The purpose of this study is to understand the effects ACEs have on academic achievement and psychological well-being, and how the protective factors of resilience, mindset, and campus connectedness mediate this relationship.

Brianna Sadighian and Manyu Li from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette explained, "Generational Differences in Attitudes Towards Seeking Professional Mental Health Services in Asian Americans." The authors noted, "While the Asian American population grows, and mental health disorders remain prevalent, there is still an underutilization of services. Generation status, enculturation adherence, and stigma may predict Asian American attitudes towards seeing professional services for mental illness. This study plans to gain an understand behind these relationships."

Victoria L. Karpuszkka and Brooke O. Breaux from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette presented, "The Simultaneous Processing of Music and Language: Searching for Evidence of Embodiment." Might embodied language effects be influenced by the presence of music? Despite a significant interaction of language, music, and direction of movement, we found no clear embodiment effects related to language or music. Participants did respond faster to happy is up statements as compared to sad is down statements.

Michele I. Feist at University of Louisiana at Lafayette and Jan Edson Rodrigues Leite from Universidad Federal da Paraiba presented "An Intrinsic Preference: Using Frames of Reference to Locate Objects in Brazilian Portuguese." According to the program, spatial terms in many languages are ambiguous between viewer-centered (relative) and object centered (intrinsic) readings. This paper asks whether Brazilian Portuguese speakers, like English speakers, prefer the relative reading. In contrast with English, our findings suggest a preference for the intrinsic reading of uses of right and left in Brazilian Portuguese.

Stress Solutions

by Susan Andrews, PhD

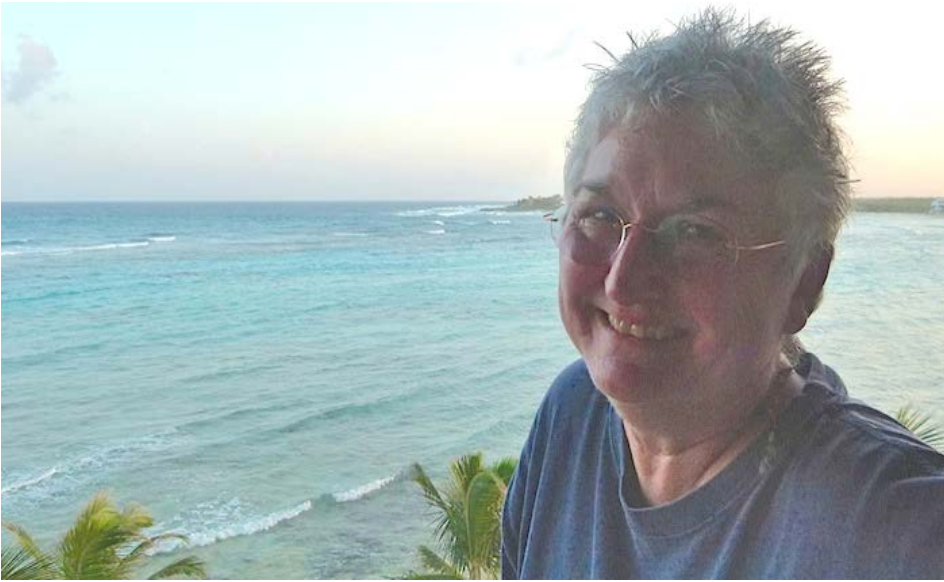
Ever sit beneath a tin roof in the rain?

As I sat here listening to the rain hit the roof and trying to think of what to write about, I realized that I was feeling relaxed and peaceful. I love that sound. It is so calming. It is amazing that even imagining yourself sitting beneath a tin roof in the rain can have the same effect as physically being there. Our imagination is that strong. It can take us on wonderful experiences. And, of course, imagination is also largely responsible for our fears and anxiety. Let's focus today on using imagination to create a relaxed, calm state of mind. Imagination can be the key to becoming more conscious of when we are stressed and knowing when and how to consciously change that state of mind.

Using your imagination to create a relaxed and focused state of mind is critical to learning how to consciously reduce stress. This is also a good place to start if you are new to meditation. Our imagination is extremely powerful and may be the most important of all our faculties. You can literally sit in a closet and re-live a wonderful experience or imagine something you want to create.

Why not gift yourself a few minutes of imagining you are sitting beneath a tin roof in the rain. Or, choose another favorite experience or place and go there for a few minutes. Start by finding a comfortable seat or lying down. Remove unnecessary sounds or just screen those sounds out. Do something to signal to your subconscious mind that you are going to create a relaxed but attentive state of mind. Once comfortable, close your eyes and focus on your breathing. It should become a little slower and even. Notice your heartbeat. Don't worry about trying to slow it down if it seems fast. It will quieten down in a few moments.

Next, check your body for places where you feel muscle tension and consciously let that go. Take a deep breath and let it out slowly through pursed lips. Now, you are ready to imagine a beautiful place in Nature. Maybe imagine one you know well but are not there now. Or let your imagination make up one you have never seen. Choose a place where you feel safe and comfortable. Slowly add the details of color, time of day, sounds of Nature, the smells; the more detail you imagine, the more real the experience becomes. Remember, once you get there, you do not have to DO anything. Just BE.



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. Lin Honored as 2022 Janet Matthews, PhD, Outstanding Psychology Mentor, continued

Dr. Raines announced that the Association was honoring Dr. Lin for 2022. "Her dedication to supporting, encouraging, and guiding undergraduate and master's level psychology students is truly remarkable," said Dr. Raines.

"Each semester, she mentors an average of 15 undergraduate and graduate students in her lab," said Raines. "Students not only learn critical thinking skills but how to design sound research studies, test hypotheses, and communicate findings. In the classroom, Dr. Lin creates a space that is welcoming and accessible for those with learning disabilities and/or non-conforming identities. She further assists students who are facing financial hardships or experiencing psychological distress. In summary, she provides essential, foundational experiences, through her research and teaching, to facilitate the growth and development of her students."

As well as a professor at University of Louisiana Lafayette (ULL) Dr. Lin is also the Chair of the Institutional Review Board and she holds the endowed SLEMCO/LEQSF Regents Professor in Liberal Arts.

Her research focus includes the development of emotions, parenting, attachment relationships, and developmental disabilities. She runs the Developmental Science Laboratory (DSL), which takes an interdisciplinary approach to examine the complexity of adjusted and maladjusted developmental processes.

She is a Sponsored Collaborator with The Developmental Risk and Cultural Resilience Laboratory at Pediatric Newborn Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School. Among her other collaborators are the Cecil J. Picard Center for Child Development and Lifelong Learning, College of Behavioral, Social, and Health Sciences, Clemson University, and the Cognitive Science of Language & Education Lab, Department of Psychological Science, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

Dr. Lin earned her doctorate in developmental psychology from the University of Connecticut and it is a board certified specialist of academic pediatric dentistry in Taiwan and holds a DDS degree from the school of dentistry in the national Taiwan University.

Also this year the ULL Graduate School selected Dr. Lin as the recipient of the 2022 Outstanding Master's Mentor Award.

In *ULL News*, Dr. Amy Brown, department head for Psychology, said, "She is very supportive of the professional development of her master's students: encouraging them to apply for grants and awards, and to present research at conferences. In interacting with graduate students, Dr. Lin is warm and supportive, but also holds high standards—she expects hard work and improvement, and creates an environment where students feel empowered to work hard and succeed."



*Dr. Hung-Chu Lin and five of her students presented at the 31th Convention of the Association for Psychological Science, May 2019, Washington, D.C. Left to right: Nicholas Barker, Steven Stringfellow, Hung-Chu Lin, Lindsey Held, Madison Holmes, Maddison Knott. (Courtesy photo.)*

Dr. Lin directs the Developmental Science Laboratory (DSL) where interested faculty and students take an interdisciplinary approach to studying The complexity of adjusted and maladjusted developmental processes. The DSL projects include:

- The long-term physical and mental sequelae of adverse childhood experiences.
- The relation between adverse childhood experiences and sexual self-esteem.
- Mindfulness and resilience as protective factors for individuals with childhood trauma.
- Social stigma (explicit and implicit) towards individuals with developmental disabilities/LGBTQ populations.
- Perceived parental behaviors, relational identity, and internal working models.
- The development of empathy and understanding of theory of mind.
- Using simulation paradigms to observe emotional responses and physiological arousal.
- Interpersonal problems, emotional regulation, and anxiety disorders.

Dr. Lin said to *ULL News*, "No words can express how rewarding and fulfilling it is to grow along with my research children academically, professionally, and personally," Lin said. "I'm grateful to play a role in these students' lives as they pursue their academic and personal development."

"As a mentor, I constantly question and examine my preconceived assumptions and beliefs about mentees and strive for bias-free mentoring. By actively listening and discerning, I convey my unconditional

respect and emphatic care with affirmation, understanding, and acceptance."

What does she believe are the most important characteristics that have supported her in being such a successful mentor?

"Being grateful to play a role in these students' lives as they pursue their academic and personal development," said Dr. Lin. "Being unconditionally respectful to individual differences in students' competencies, learning styles, communication patterns, and personality qualities. Being clear when setting goals and expectations for their works while maintaining flexibility to tackle with unexpected events."

What are some of the most enjoyable experiences she has had as a mentor to her students? "To grow academically and personally together with them," Lin said.

Dr. Lin sets out her methods and philosophy in her Mentorship Statement, including:

"Unconditional respect for individual differences. Mentees come from various racial/ethnic and sociocultural backgrounds. Every one of them displays distinctive approaches to learning and dispositional



# Dr. Lin Honored as 2022 Janet Matthews, PhD, Outstanding Psychology Mentor, continued

characteristics when tackling challenges or stressful situations. As a mentor, I constantly question and examine my preconceived assumptions and beliefs about mentees and strive for bias-free mentoring. By actively listening and discerning, I convey my unconditional respect and empathic care with affirmation, understanding, and acceptance. At the core, each mentee is a unique individual; thus, my mentoring is tailored to the uniqueness of the individual's needs to maximize the mentee's academic progress and personal growth.

"Mentoring is like parenting. It was at the end of a departmental award ceremony a couple of years ago when one of my mentees (who was recognized as the outstanding graduate for that academic term) introduced me to her mother, 'Mom, I'd like you to meet my *research momma!*' Feeling tremendously touched and proud, I regarded this title of *research momma* beautifully represented my relationships with my mentees."

UUL News reported that Madeline Jones, master's candidate in psychology, describes Dr. Lin as "an amazing mentor" who "has given me strength and confidence throughout my time in this program. I would describe my relationship with Dr. Lin as one filled with mutual respect, kindness, communication, support, and positivity. I attribute my success as a graduate student to her qualities as a mentor, especially her resourcefulness, efficiency, and determination."

Five of Dr. Lin's researchers have been accepted to various doctoral programs around the country. Madison Holmes has been accepted to the PsyD program at Mercer University. Maddison Knott has been accepted to the doctoral program in clinical

psychology at Southern Mississippi University. Lindsey Held has been accepted to the doctoral program in experimental psychology with a concentration on developmental psychology at the University of Alabama. Kylie Garger has been accepted to the doctoral program in developmental psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Michelle Grisham has been accepted to the doctoral program in developmental psychology at the Northern Illinois University.

Reviewed publications with student coauthors include:

Lin, H.-C., & Janice, J. (2020). Disengagement is as revealing as prosocial action for young children's responding to strangers in distress: How personal distress and empathic concern come into play. *International Journal of Behavioral Development*;

Flynn, N. S., Harrington, J. H., Knott, K. M., & Lin, H.-C. (2020). Job satisfaction in direct support professionals: Associations with self-efficacy and perspective-taking. *Societies*;

Lin, H.-C., Bourque, J., Zeanah, P., & McFatter, R. (2018). Perceptions of stress and enrichment in caregivers of children with autism spectrum disorder: Implications for community support. *Societies*.;

Conference Presentations with Student Coauthors (All Peer Reviewed) include:

Lin, H.-C., Held, L., & Malley, K. The Associations between adverse childhood experiences, emotion regulation, and adult distress symptoms. Poster proposal accepted to be presented at the 2019 International Convention of Psychological Science, March, 7-9, 2019, Paris, France.

Lin, H.-C., McDermott, M., Zeanah, P., & Held, L. (2019, March). Posttraumatic stress disorder in the association between childhood trauma and

somatic symptoms. Poster proposal accepted to be presented at the 2019 SRCD Biennial Meeting, March 21-23, 2019, in Baltimore, Maryland, USA.

Lin, H.-C., Knott, M., LaHaye, L., Flynn, S., Stringfellow, S. Latiolais, B., & Holmes, M. (2019, May). Difficulty in emotion regulation exacerbates the association of adverse childhood experiences with depressive symptoms. Poster proposal accepted to the 31st Convention of the Association for Psychological Science, May 23-26, 2019, Washington D.C., USA.

Lin, H.-C., Hughes, A., Held, L., Malley, K., Kinsland, M., & Barker, N. (2019, May). The role of difficulty in emotion regulation in the association of adverse childhood experiences with attachment insecurity. Poster proposal accepted to the 31st Convention of the Association for Psychological Science, May 23-26, 2019, Washington D.C., USA.

How did she make the shift from dentistry to psychology?

"Indeed, I have a degree in Doctor of Dental science (DDS). My certified specialty is Pediatric Dentistry. I had worked at the National Taiwan University Hospital for 10 years," Dr. Lin said. "A large part of my work as a pediatric dentist involved behavioral management to help my child patients comply to and gain positive experiences from dental procedures. I also observed many teenagers suffering from myofascial pain dysfunction syndrome. I became increasingly interested in behavioral sciences and the intricate connections between mind and body to an extent that I made a big career change and came to the US to study developmental psychology. I miss practicing in dentistry (I enjoyed it so much), but I also have been extremely happy with what I am doing now as a researcher and a teacher. Psychology is such an exciting field that keeps amazing me," Dr. Lin said.



Dr. Lin and her students presented at the Louisiana Undergraduate Research Conference, Fall 2018, at UL Lafayette. Left to right: Bailey Latiolais, Madison Holmes, Lauren LaHaye, Ashley Hughes, Hung-Chu Lin, Maddison Knott, Lindsey Held, Krista Malley, Sarah Flynn, Steven Stringfellow, and Nicholas Barker. (Courtesy photo.)





# The LSU Lakes

## Dr. Tom Stigall - Photography

*Editors Note:* For our July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday issue we decided to share again the photography of Dr. Tom Stigall.

He embraced photography in his retirement and he also served as the president of the Louisiana Photographic Society and a photographic artist. He had work accepted for a national competition hosted at LSU.

“My work is eclectic as to subject matter,” he said. “It is the product of a desire to preserve images that will be experienced by the viewer as meaningful: esthetically pleasing, sympathetic and nurturing, awe-inspiring or arresting.”

These are delightful views of the Louisiana State University Lakes and the interesting inhabitants in our state.

All photos by Dr. Tom Stigall.





# A Shrink at the Flicks

## Top Gun: Maverick A Review

by Alvin G. Burstein, PhD

As a youngster, going to a movie was a special experience for me. Omaha could swelter in the summer heat and in the nineteen thirties and forties the marquees of the theatres promised “twenty degrees cooler inside” which added to the attraction of the exotic decor and the magic of the silver screen. The exigencies of covid made me bid farewell to considerable delights, but I came to relish the world of streaming movies which included actors who were strangers to me and writers and directors who were not denizens of Hollywood.

But when the movie rating aggregator *Rotten Tomatoes* reported a film showing only in theaters Paramount’s *Top Gun: Maverick*—critic ratings of 97%, audience approval ratings even higher and blockbuster earnings of over 913 million dollars in its first weeks-- fully vaccinated and boosted, I decided to don a mask and take the risk..

Before I tell you about the film, I must disclose two personal biases: the first is that I found the half hour or more of advertisements of all kinds followed by the glare and blare of coming “attractions” beyond annoying. Then, too, the film’s star, Tom Cruise, playing Pete “Maverick” Mitchell, has been a highly visible public advocate for Dianetics. Dianetics was founded by L. Ron Hubbard. His first description of this approach to self-improvement was published in the May, 1950 edition of the pulp magazine *Astounding Science Fiction*. Later, Hubbard was quoted as saying “You don’t get rich writing science fiction. If you want to get rich, you start a religion.” As a psychologist and psychoanalyst, I regard Dianetics as having evolved into a cult, an exploitative one.

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;

*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.



courtesy photo



That said, I enjoyed the film. It is a confection of familiar devices that provide excitement, if not suspense.

Its center is an attack on a site at which an unnamed foreign nation is about to develop an atomic weapon. The details of the attack echo the raids on the death star in *Star Wars* that involve the running of a perilous gantlet. The emotional tone of the film is an echo of that in *Independence Day*, a triumphant patriotic exceptionalism that teeters on the edge of jingoism. The film features a sexy woman bartender who echoes Marion in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

To me the most interesting aspect of the film was its exploration of the interaction between human and mechanical factors at the extremes. The attack teams in this film must fly at speeds that subject them to 10 g forces and at speeds where there is no time to think, where, as one of the characters puts it, the question of “What were you thinking?” doesn’t make any sense.

That, too, is an echo. In *Ford v Ferrari*, the race driver says, “There’s a point at 7,000 rpm where everything fades. The machine becomes weightless. It just disappears. All that’s left, a body moving through space and time...7,000 RPM...that’s where you meet it. You feel it coming. It creeps up near you, and it asks you a question. The only question that really matters. Who are you?”

To say that these devices are familiar is not to diminish their very artful deployment in this film. *Top Gun: Maverick* is like an ice cream sundae—no surprises maybe, but a thoroughly enjoyable confection.



# 10 Years Ago ... What *The Psychology Times* was reporting on in July 2012

## Behavior Analysts Study Commission Grows to 17 Key Officials, with Two Parents

The “Behavior Analysts Licensure and Regulation Study Commission,” a group recently created by a Senate Resolution, is scheduled to meet this Friday. The Commission is to study the issues for regulation of behavior analysts and report to the Senate. The Study Commission was initially formed by Senate Resolution 110, authored by Senator Morrell, who emerged as a leading opponent of the LSBEP effort to develop regulations for Behavior Analysts under the state psychology board.

## Community Support Rallied in Time School Psychology Internship Program Threatened

An eleventh hour message that the Louisiana School Psychology Internship Consortium (LAS\*PIC) was to be cancelled prompted a number of actions by the program director and concerned colleagues. These efforts to support the program, one of only eleven APA-accredited school psychology internships in the US, forestalled the Department of Education’s apparent decision to cancel funding. In late June, Director Dr. Alan Coulter received an “official cancellation” of the program.

## New CE Guidelines Being Reviewed

Executive Director of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, Ms. Kelly Parker, noted to the *Times* that the board continues with their goal of updating the continuing education guidelines and a draft of the new program is being reviewed by state officials now. Proposed changes will track the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) task force on “Maintenance of Competence and Licensure.”

## N.O. Neuropsychologist Offers More Help in High Stakes

New Orleans clinical neuro-psychologist Dr. Michael Chafetz has published another work in a series of research studies mapping out statistical reasoning for psychologists who work in high-stakes testing situations, “To Work or Not To Work: Motivation (Not Low IQ) Determines Symptom Validity Test Findings” (*Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*),

## Forensic Psychologists Feel Budget Cuts as State Restructures, Lumps Services

Forensic psychologists who work with state referred clients have formed a task force to study their concerns as the state continues restructuring and reducing its services due to overall budget problems. Dr. Jesse Lambert, a forensic psychologist from Gonzales, Louisiana, outlined the situation.

## Dr. Larzelere Explains Primary Care Psychology

Dr. Michele Larzelere, of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, Department of Family Medicine, explained the evolving role of the primary care psychologist to participants at an online conference for LPA.



“Hola” visited the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychology at their June meeting. The Goldendoodle pet of Dr. John Courtney needed a place to crash and the board adjusted. This photo was on page 1, July 2012.

## Dr. Courtney’s Suit Goes Forward

Dr. John Courtney, a member of the psychology board, filed a lawsuit for libel against Angie’s List and Dr. Bartholomew Vereb, a psychiatrist. Dr. Vereb is reported to have posted, “This is not a physician. He is not qualified. He is a quack.” And, “These people are not doctors. They have no medical training whatsoever. They misrepresent themselves.” And, “They are, quite frankly, dangerous. They have no qualifications whatsoever.”

## Psychology & Cyberspace

Dr. Rick Stevens, associate professor of psychology at the U. of Louisiana of Monroe, has used the technology of the “virtual world” to help him with his research, to get his students involved, and just to “liven up classes a bit,” he told the *Times*. “Virtual reality,” he said, “is a process in which the cues that we use to generate our mental model of the world are used to produce a shared visual environment.”

### BOOKSHELF

*International Handbook of Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders*  
Johnny L. Matson and Peter Sturmey  
Editors

Dr. Johnny Matson, distinguished research master and director of clinical training in the LSU Psychology Department, together with colleague Dr. Peter Sturmey from Queen’s College in New York, has once again gathered his extensive community of experts together, this time to produce the *International Handbook of Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders*. The *Handbook* is part of Springer’s Autism and Child Psychopathology Series, also edited by Dr. Matson.

# The Psychology Times

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