

## No Substantive Changes After Public Feedback on Proposed Rules from Psychology Board

After publishing over 19,000 words of new proposed regulations, the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists conducted a public hearing on December 16. The board dismissed calls from the public for substantive changes.

Proposed rule changes include those for fees, registration and oversight of assistants, continuing education rules, training, credentials and scope of practice for neuropsychology, specialty designations, ethics for school specialists, and the rules for using an Emeritus title.

More than 20 individuals submitted criticism of the proposed rules, the majority of comments had to do with the oversight of assistants to psychologists.

As required by law, the State Board published a "Notice of Intent" of the changes in November 20 issue of the *Louisiana Register*. According to several sources attending the public meeting, the board members wanted to avoid "substantive" changes brought about by feedback, which would then require a second Notice of Intent.

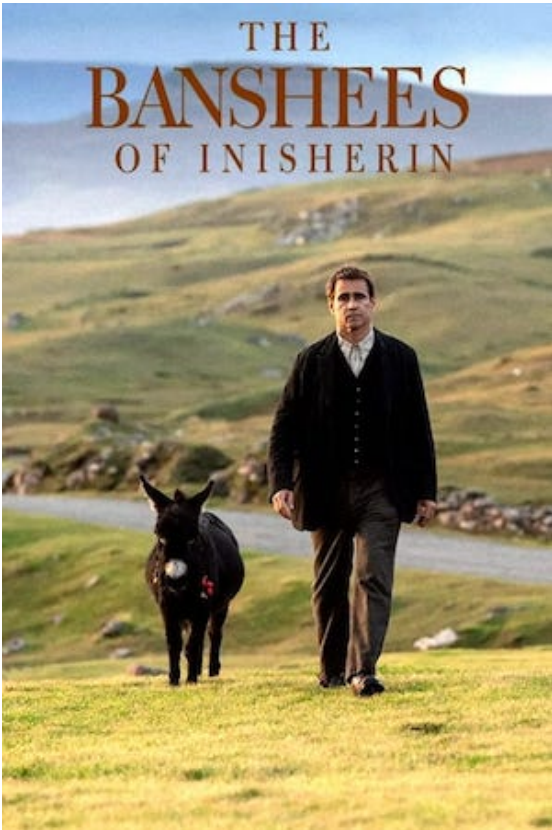
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## Gov. Edwards Touts Positive Outcomes of Criminal Justice Reforms

In two press releases, Gov. John Bel Edwards touted the state's improved criminal justice program after a November report by PEW and a bipartisan report by the Pelican Institute highlighted significant improvements in Louisiana's criminal justice reform outcomes.

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Dr. Burstein's Review Page 15



## Year-In-Review

The year 2022 was a strange one, the sluggish lethargy of the pandemic still affected our community in many ways.

We reported on educational activities that resumed in the spring, some virtual and some person-to-person. The Southwestern Psychological Association held its convention in Baton Rouge. People began to come out of their caves.

Also in the spring our news included legislative activities and we reported closely on bills that affected psychology practices. Sen. Mizell passed her women's sports bill and while the governor threatened to veto it, in the end he changed his mind. We reported on a slew of legislation that was passed, including bills on the psychiatric

collaboration model, one on divorce evaluations, and one on prenatal anxiety.

A performance audit by the Louisiana Legislative Auditors Office found some problems in the complaints process of the state psychology board, which kept busy developing rules for its fee bill.

Throughout the year the *Times* reported on psychologists and psychological scientists that were achieving results for bettering quality of life for others. We review these many accomplishments in the article and highlight several in our Community Awards.

Our year-in-review article continues on page 7. The staff of the *Times* wishes you all the best for the new year.

## The Psychology Times 2022 COMMUNITY AWARDS

The *Times* staff scanned the 2022 news and activities and found glowing examples of community contributions and leadership. Based on principles of organizational and community psychology, we looked for creativity, win-win solutions, contributions to scientific truth, and improvements in subgroup functioning—and we easily found them. We gave bonuses for courage and vision, for those stepping out of their silos and comfort zones, and for going the extra mile. For our Community Awards we focus on these special people, some new and some regulars, who pushed for excellence in hoping to make our community better, who innovated and persevered, and who made that extra effort to improve our lives and the lives of others. We thank and honor them for their vision and dedication. The awards are scattered through the year-in-review article, pages 7 through 14.

# Editorial Page – Opinions

## Only Two Things Left for Psychologists

by J. Nelson

I was talking to Kim VanGeffen about the current expansion of power at the LSBEP and we were reminiscing about the good old days (GOD). It was a time when the vision of psychology as a profession was articulated by great masters like Don and Virginia Glad, Joe Dawson, Art Riopelle, Sue Jensen, and Larry Siegel, to name a few.

Kim and I agreed that psychotherapy has now become the territory of many professions (rightly so) but that psychometric assessment is still mostly under our umbrella, at least for now. I said that the other characteristic that makes us different, maybe even unique, is the fact that we are applied scientists. We use the questioning, scientific mindset.

*Personnel and Organizational Psychology* was published in 1982, written by then LSU professors Larry Siegel and Irv Lane.

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One of the delightful finds in this classic text is the description of what a psychologist is, crafted at a time when perhaps it was easier to define. Professional psychologists who deliver services, the authors wrote, “do so with a scientific perspective: professional practice is applied research. Solving a real problem in the real world [...] requires that the issues be defined, alternative solutions be evaluated, and the optimal solution implemented.”

As applied scientists, we understand that making decisions and solving problems involves independent, dependent, and extraneous variables. Good decision making requires a back-and-forth exchange between theory and application, deductive and inductive reasoning.

The professional applied scientist’s approach to a problem or decision requires an understanding of validity—without validity our decisions are meaningless. At best, meaningless decisions are simply noise in the system, taking up space and resources. At worst, these meaningless decisions are self-oriented, misleading and destructive.

What does it mean to be an applied scientist with a scientific mindset? It does not mean “follow the science.” It does not mean “believe me because I’m the expert.” It does not mean I am morally—or otherwise—superior. And it does not mean we censor feedback or critique of our findings.

Being an applied scientist requires constant feedback loops and critique, never being satisfied that we have captured all of the extraneous variables that could be influencing our predictors and judgments. It means we acknowledge there is always a source of bias somewhere, somehow, that we are probably missing.

Watching the state psychology board perform its work, I wonder if thinking like an applied psychologist, and the scientific mindset, is something we have lost.

[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.]

## Corrections & Clarifications

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



# Governor Edwards Names Terri Ricks Head of DCFS

On December 21, Gov. John Bel Edwards named Terri Ricks the new secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services, according to the press release. Ricks has been serving as interim Secretary since former Sec. Marketa Walters stepped down last month. Gov. Edwards also named Amanda Brunson as Deputy Secretary. Brunson has been with DCFS since 2021, when she was hired as Special Projects Officer in the Child Welfare Division.

"I want to thank Terri and Amanda for their dedication and willingness to fill these important roles," said Gov. Edwards. "No doubt there are many challenges facing child welfare agencies, including here in Louisiana, but I am impressed by the way Terri has taken her years of knowledge and put it into leading the department and finding solutions. Amanda likewise will be a vital asset as we work to give Louisiana's children the services they deserve."

According to the press release, Ms. Ricks has played an essential role in the leadership and management of DCFS and has been responsible for enterprise-wide efforts since 2016. Those efforts include leading the restructuring of DCFS in 2016 and fundamentally reframing the Family Support Division to include a greater emphasis on workforce initiatives, a shift to more family-centered child support, increased client access through more robust customer service, and increased poverty competency of staff. Ms. Ricks represents DCFS on the Governor's Workforce and Education Subcabinet, a cross-agency collaborative effort primarily focused on harnessing Louisiana's untapped talent. She also led the efforts to create the department's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) unit. Responsive to Louisiana's needs, she has increased partnerships with community organizations, national foundations, and others to decrease poverty and increase equity and family stability.

# Louisiana Attorney Gen Jeff Landry Files Lawsuit On Government Involvement in Social Media/Speech

Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry and Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt have brought a lawsuit to show the federal government is colluding with social media companies to censor speech. This according to Landry's office.

Attorney General Landry said in a press release on December 6, 2022, "Our case has exposed many ways the federal government colluded with social media companies to censor freedom of speech on their platforms. Chan's deposition showed that the FBI was part of this incredible conspiracy. All Americans should be alarmed and outraged!"

Attorney General Schmitt said, "Missouri and Louisiana are leading the law in exposing exactly how the federal government colluded with social media companies to suppress speech online. Our deposition makes it clear that the FBI played an outsized role in working to censor speech ahead of the 2020 election."

As part of the lawsuit, Landry and Schmitt deposed FBI supervisory special agent Elvis Chan. Chan testified that he and the FBI had quarterly meetings then monthly meetings with major social media companies in the lead-up to the 2020 election. During these meetings, Chan warned of the potential for a Russian "hack and dump" operation. The deposition testimony was able to show how the federal government and the FBI colluded with social media companies to sensor freedom of speech on their various social media platforms.

## Letters to the Editor

Happy Holidays to you and your family, Julie.

As always, your monthly publication, *The Psychology Times*, is a wonderful and engaging read. The December 2022 issue (Vol. 13, No. 12) is no exception.

While I could rave about multiple articles in this most recent issue, I particularly wanted to commend you on the article "Who Profits? The 50<sup>th</sup> Percentile EPPP Cut-Off."

You (and those who contributed to your article) are to be thanked for taking the initiative to research the development and use of the EPPP, including the interplay of ASPPB with state licensing boards. The issues you raised and summarized (absence of predictive validity, the financial self-interest on the part of ASPPB, the impact of the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile cut-off on the licensing of new psychologists, and the adverse impact on minority applicants) should be conveyed broadly and in language that is easily understood.

I believe your piece on the subject does the job!

Finally, in acknowledging your Archimedes-inspired call for sick leave, I want to state the obvious: Whenever you cease to publish *The Psychology Times*, the field and practice of psychology will be diminished by the absence of your voice. This statement is not intended to pressure you into continuing until you are unable to write. It is intended to acknowledge the tremendous value you provide to the community.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Best wishes for the holidays and new year.

Courtland Chaney, PhD  
Industrial-Organizational Psychologist  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana



"I'm afraid of low places."

# No Substantive Changes After Public Feedback on Proposed Rules from Psychology Board, continued

Dr. Kim VanGeffen from the Public Affairs Committee of the Louisiana Psychological Association, noted, "The Board stated that they will be unlikely to make major changes to the Rules as, to do so, would require re posting the Rules and having another period of commentary. They may make what they would term minor changes."

The *Times* asked Dr. Greg Gormanous, current chair of the State Board, to comment and he agreed to provide individual feedback. " I am offering my comment as an individual. Also I am stipulating that you include the entire quote," Dr. Gormanous wrote.

"The public hearing on rule making initiated by LSBEP served its purpose. Written comments were read into the record. The written comments were from many people who were attending virtually. LSBEP also requested oral comments from a member of the public who attended in person. When the hearing ended, the Board, being sensitive to public attendees, next devoted a substantial amount of time and discussed most of the comments. Those deliberations resulted in several important non-substantive tweaks," he said.

The board appeared to ignore the requests to show evidence of a need for the new detailed oversight and management regulations for assistants, a problem voiced by many of those commenting.

Public comments also included details of managing assistants. According to VanGeffen, "The Board explained that the process of registering assistants will require an 'administrative review' and not full approval of the Board," said VanGeffen. "Some people commented that the current wording of the Rules suggests that one would have to employ the person first before submitting the application for registration." Also, "Currently the Rules require that the supervisor be "on site" while the assistant is performing services," she noted. "There were a number of comments about how this is not consistent with the new Medicare guidelines [...]. "There were questions about whether ATAPs who are currently employed would be "grandparented."

The new regulations effort stems from the 2021 House Bill 477, legislation put forth by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, now Act 238.

HB 477, authored by Representative Joe Stagni, was a compromise measure following the downsizing of a 23-page bill introduced by the psychology board in 2020 and then again in 2021. Under pressure from opponents, the board agreed to substitute a fee bill, telling sources that without the increased fees the board would not be able to operate in the future. This message resonated with



Screen shot: The state psychology board at public meeting held December 16th.

the majority of those attending a special meeting of the Louisiana psychological Association called for by petition of those opposing the measure.

According to the Notice of Intent, the proposed rule changes will increase revenue collections for the LSBEP by\$21,000 for FY 23 and \$18,050 in FY 24 and FY 25. The estimate is 420 assistants.

Also according to the Notice, the Board claims that benefits include a positive impact for licensed psychologists and also for competition.

"The proposed rule changes will benefit Licensed Psychologists by reducing their risks associated with hiring unqualified individuals to work with vulnerable populations..." And, "The proposed rule changes are anticipated to have a positive effect on competition and employment. Licensed Psychologists who utilize ATAP's are able to serve a larger client base than if working independently.

Next, the Board is required to respond to all comments and submit a report to legislative oversight committees, House Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, according to the Administrative Procedures Act.

"The agency shall issue a response to comments and submissions describing the principal reasons for and against adoption of any amendments or changes suggested in the written or oral comments and submissions. In addition to the response to comments, the agency may prepare a preamble explaining the basis and rationale for the rule, identifying the data and evidence upon which the rule is based, and responding to comments and submissions. Such preamble and response to comments and submissions shall be furnished to the

respective legislative oversight subcommittees [...]

Also, "Prior to the adoption, amendment, or repeal of any rule or the adoption, increasing, or decreasing of any fee, the agency shall submit a report relative to such proposed rule change or fee adoption, increase, or decrease to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature and the presiding officers of the respective houses as provided in this Section. [...]

This review is to include numerous items including: "(3) The specific citation of the enabling legislation purporting to authorize the adoption, amending, or repeal of the rule or purporting to authorize the adoption, increasing, or decreasing of the fee. [...]" (ii) A summary of all comments received by the agency, a copy of the agency's response to the summarized comments, and a statement of any tentative or proposed action of the agency resulting from oral or written comments received."

The oversight subcommittees determine among other things, whether the rule change or action on fees is in conformity with the intent and scope of the enabling legislation, and whether the rule change or action on fees is acceptable or unacceptable to the oversight subcommittee.

The public meeting was held December 16 and according to the Administrative Procedures Act was required to be at least 35 days after the notice was published. The Notice was published November 20, 2022. According to the Act, "Any hearing pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph shall be held no earlier than thirty-five days and no later than forty days after the publication of the *Louisiana Register* in which the notice of the intended action appears."



# Gov. Edwards Touts Positive Outcomes of Criminal Justice Reforms, continued

In December, the Governor said the Pelican Institute, a conservative think tank, released an analysis of crime data in Louisiana that drew four conclusions:

- 1) Property crimes are decreasing in Louisiana
- 2) Increases in violent crime were a nationwide event in 2020, impacting almost every state
- 3) Violent crime increases in Louisiana were lower than in other southern states
- 4) Increases in violent crime are not correlated with criminal justice reforms or decreased incarceration rates.

According to the announcement, one of the key goals of bipartisan criminal justice reform was to reserve prison beds and law enforcement resources for more dangerous offenders. Incarceration numbers for Louisianans convicted of non-violent crimes have dropped significantly thanks to bipartisan criminal justice reform, but Louisiana now has more people incarcerated for violent offenses than before criminal justice reform. According to the Pelican Institute analysis, violent offenders are also serving longer sentences now than they were before bipartisan criminal justice reform.

"This report proves that bipartisan criminal justice reform has actually helped Louisiana fight the nationwide increase in violent crime by focusing our law enforcement resources on violent offenders," said Governor John Bel Edwards. "Don't let lazy narratives fool you. We have gotten smarter on crime, and tougher on violent crime. Conservative, liberal, and non-partisan experts all agree that our reforms have been successful, because the data proves it. We still have a lot of work to do to bring down crime rates, but we're better off thanks to bipartisan criminal justice reform."

In November, the Governor's office pointed out that the Pew Charitable Trusts published

a story highlighting the transformative impact bipartisan criminal justice reforms have had on Louisiana in the five years since taking effect.

Reporting for PEW, Michelle Russell wrote:

"This fall marks five years since Louisiana enacted its landmark criminal justice reforms. Signed by Governor John Bel Edwards in 2017, the 10 bills passed with strong bipartisan majorities and followed the recommendations of the Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Task Force, an interbranch body of justice system leaders and stakeholders.

"The new laws included changes to sentencing, corrections, and community supervision. In the legislation, policymakers focused on ensuring adequate prison space for those who pose a public safety threat, strengthening probation and parole practices, eliminating barriers to reentering society, and reinvesting savings to reduce recidivism and support victims. Using the most recent publicly available data, here are five findings about how Louisiana's system has changed since the reforms took effect.

"The state's prison population has fallen 24%, driven entirely by a decline in people convicted of nonviolent offenses.

"Louisiana's reforms sought to steer people convicted of less serious crimes away from prison and shorten the time incarcerated for those who could be safely supervised in the community. In the summer of 2017, before the new laws took effect, there were about 35,500 people under the Louisiana Department of Corrections' jurisdiction held in prisons or local jails throughout the state. By the

summer of 2022, that number had fallen nearly a quarter to about 27,000. A report recently presented to lawmakers showed that the declining prison population was entirely driven by a reduction in people convicted of nonviolent offenses. That number shrank by about 11,000 between 2016 and 2021. Over the same period, the number of individuals who were incarcerated for violent offenses increased by almost 1,400."

Dr. Susan Tucker, psychologist, was involved in these reforms. She was previously the Assistant Warden, licensed psychologist, and program developer at the Bossier Parish Correctional Center, designed the Steve Hoyle Intensive Substance Abuse Treatment Program. The program first began at the Forcht Wade Correction Center Keithville, Louisiana, and was relocated to the Medium Security Facility for the Bossier Sherriff located between Benton and Plain Dealing, LA.

Tucker's programs earned state and national recognition, including a legislative commendation, the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment grant, and the governor's grant for prevention. In 2010 the Vera Institute of Justice, an organization dedicated to improving justice systems through research and innovation, noted that the program, "...should be a model for the nation."

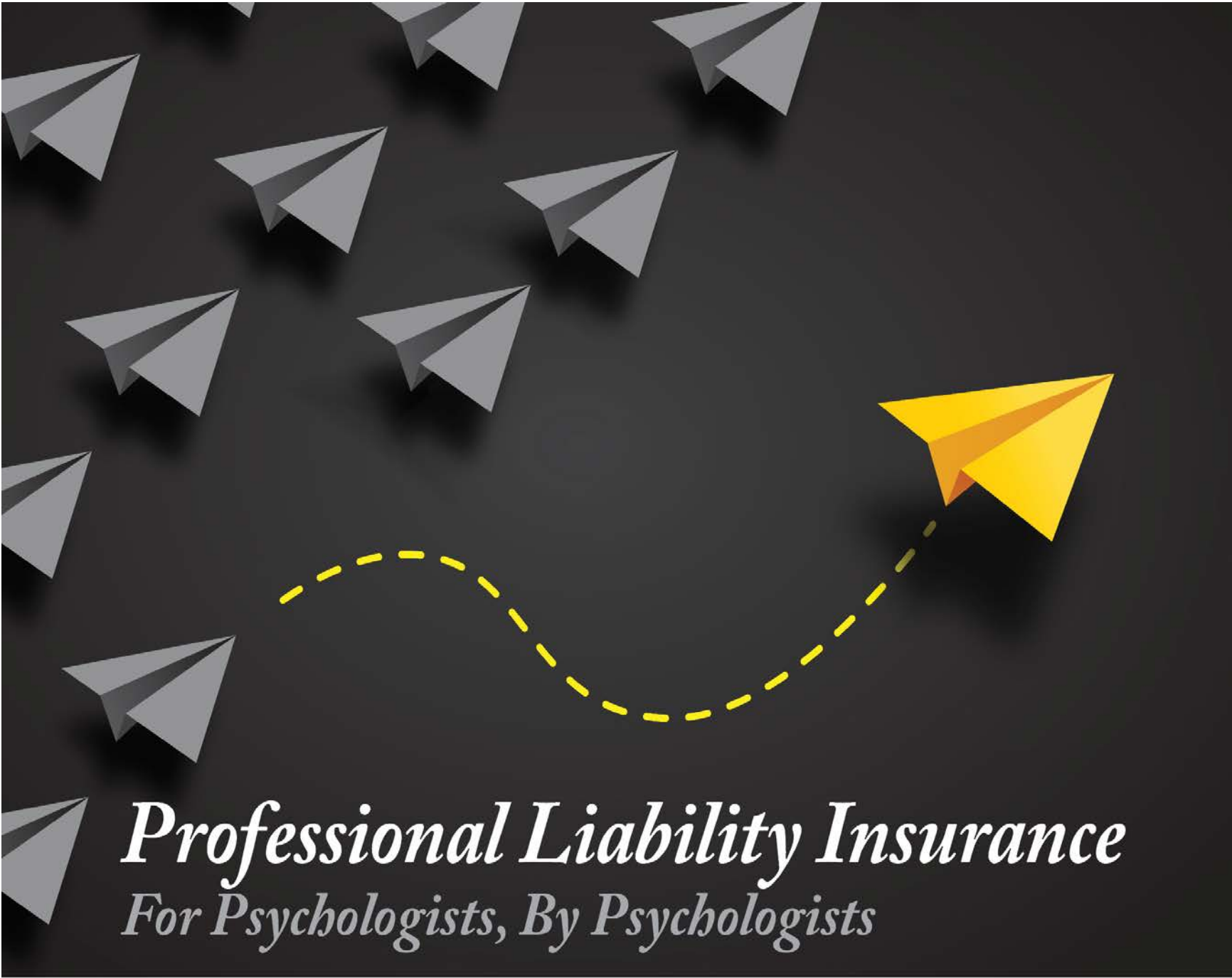
In 2015, the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University has named Dr. Susan Tucker and her treatment programs as one of this year's recipients of the prestigious Bright Ideas awards for innovation.



*Dr. Susan Tucker talking to a news reporter in Shreveport Louisiana in 2015. Dr. Tucker and her team were a source of key psychology input to reforms that are now paying off for the state of Louisiana in criminal justice outcomes.*

*Previously with the Department of Corrections for Louisiana, Dr. Tucker is currently leading mental health policy for Mississippi.*

*(courtesy photo)*



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# 2022 Year-in-Review

## Continued

### JANUARY

**Milder Omicron Displacing More Lethal Delta Variant Across Louisiana & US** Data from the countries that were hit first, 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.

**Surgeon General Warns of Youth Mental Health Crisis** 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.

**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.

### Year-in-Review/Community Awards

**Editorial**, by J. Nelson, PhD. “Let’s Dismantle Some Systemic Racism”

**Stress Solutions** by Susan Andrews, PhD. New Years’ Resolution: Keep Your Immune System Strong

**Bookshelf** *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.

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

### FEBRUARY

**Governor’s Budget Includes Help for Higher Education** On Jan. 24, Gov. Edwards announced his budget priorities for the next fiscal year, which include new, recurring investments in education at every level.

**Dr. Matthew Holcomb Receives Majority in LSBEP Election** Dr. Matthew Holcomb captured the majority of votes in a state psychology board election conducted online by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of

Psychologists, reported at the board’s long-range meeting last month. Holcomb received 152 votes of the 256 votes cast. Eligible voters, those licensed under the state board as psychologists, total 820 individuals. Dr. Jesse Lambert received 78 votes.

**Dr. Thomas Takes Top Position at Louisiana Tech** Dr. Donna Thomas has been appointed Chief Academic Director for Partnerships at Louisiana Tech University, reporting to the Provost, Dr. Terry McConathy. Dr. Thomas has served as chair of the Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Department at LaTech for almost 10 years and is the George and Jean Baldwin Endowed Professor.

**Dr. Cherry Distinguished Speaker at Southwestern Psychological Assn to be Held in Baton Rouge** The Southwestern Psychological Association will hold its annual convention in Baton Rouge, April 8 through 10, at the Crown Plaza Hotel. Dr. Katie Cherry, the Emogene Pliner Distinguished Professor of Aging Studies at Louisiana State University, and the Director of Research and Community Outreach, LSU Life Course and Aging Center, is this year’s Psi Chi Distinguished Speaker at the event. Dr. Cherry will present, “Severe Weather Events and Psychosocial Well Being: Variables that Matter after a Disaster.”

**La Psychological Association to Host APA Past-Pres. Dr. Jennifer Kelly at Convention** The Louisiana Psychological Association will host Dr. Jennifer Kelly, clinical health psychologist and past president of the American Psychological Association, at their 2022 Spring convention to be held April 8–9 in New Orleans. Dr. Kelly was elected the 2021 President of the American Psychological Association.

**International Doctors in Alcoholics Anonymous: A Welcoming Place to Turn** by Kelley Pears, PhD Correspondent, IDAA. Turning to substances and addictive behaviors is at an all time high. Pressures and stresses on psychologists, physicians, and other healthcare workers are higher than ever in today’s medical environment. Yet, substance misuse and addiction rates are no different among healthcare workers than they are in the general population. According to researchers, up to 15% of healthcare professionals will misuse substances during their lifetime.

**Bookshelf** *Retirement Experiences of Psychologists* Edited by Rodney R. Baker and Patrick H. DeLeon Drs. Rodney Baker and Patrick DeLeon have put together a fascinating combination of stories from the generation of psychologists who are currently retiring from active practice, service, and teaching. The effort stems from a brain child of their symposia presented at the American Psychological Association (APA) running from 2014 through 2019. *Retirement Experiences of Psychologists* captures a patchwork of different perspectives from high-powered psychology professionals.

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## The Psychology Times 2022 COMMUNITY AWARD

### INNOVATION – Dr. Beverly Stubblefield

"When life gives you lemons, make lemonade" must be Dr. Beverly Stubblefield's motto. She endured violations of her Constitutional rights, culminating in a crashed career path. She picked herself up, dusted herself off, and, fueled by her creativity, faith, and passionate love of everything equestrian, morphed into a successful children's book author. In 2022 Beverly produced another delightful book based on her experiences in animal-assisted psychotherapy and her years of running The Equestrian Therapy Center in Slidell, an innovation that won her the New Orleans City Business Innovator award in 2007. After 30 years of clinical practice, Dr. Stubblefield is now retired and living with her husband Burt Kemp in rural North Mississippi, where she continues to enjoy writing (*Bedtime Stories from the Barn*), riding horses, and playing the organ for church.





# 2022 Year-in-Review

## Continued

**Editorial**, by J. Nelson, PhD. “Policing the information channels”

**Stress Solutions** by Susan Andrews, PhD. Stress Can Increase Your Risk of Mortality

**A Shrink at the Flicks**, by Alvin Burstein, PhD. *The Power of the Dog*

### MARCH

**Legislative Session Begins March 14, Sen. Mizell Returns with "Fairness in Women's Sports Act"** Several hundred bills are filed already including the return of Senator Beth Mizell's "Fairness in Women's Sports Act." The proposed law, SB 44, will have the effect of prohibiting transgender females, those assigned as male at birth, from competing in traditional women's sports. The effort failed to override a veto by the governor last year.

**Governor Prays for Ukraine** Last week, Gov. Edwards issued a statement saying, "I am holding the people of Ukraine in my prayers and in my heart, as their safety and sovereignty is threatened. The Ukrainians deserve to know peace and I hope all Louisianans will join me in praying that this peace comes swiftly," he said.

**Discrimination Complaint about LSBEP Discussed in Private** A Request for Investigation, stating that board members at Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists are operating outside of their area of competence in regard to selection testing and racial discrimination, was reviewed in an executive session of the Board last month.

**Did the BA Bd Follow Psychology Down the Rabbit Hole?** Last October in our report, "Invisible Changes in the 'Complaints Committee' of the State Board and the Rising Price Tag," we reviewed how the structure, personnel, and tone of the state psychology board's complaints subcommittee had changed dramatically. Evolving from a small, basically volunteer group of senior psychologists, to a committee of criminal law enforcement professionals, these changes were accompanied by skyrocketing legal costs, for both the board and the defendants. For this report we examined how the Behavior Analysts appear to have followed the psychologists down the same rabbit hole, creating another complaints committee that is steeped in secrecy, financial conflicts of interests, and due process violations.

**Experts Point to Alarming Trend of Increased Opioid Related Overdose Fatalities** A new report warns of soaring overdose deaths from the opioid crisis. Authors from the Lancet's, "Responding to the Opioid Crisis in North America and Beyond: Recommendations of the Stanford-Lancet Commission," published in February, said that in the USA and Canada, 2020 was the worst year on record for fatal opioid overdoses.

The US overdoses rose 37%. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said that provisional data analysis estimates for the 12 months ending in May 2021, there were 75,387 deaths from opioid toxicity.

**Editorial**, by J. Nelson, PhD. “Every Morning Now”

**Stress Solutions** by Susan Andrews, PhD. Some Benefits of Keeping Indoor Plants Around

**A Shrink at the Flicks**, by Alvin Burstein, PhD. *The Tinder Swindler*

### APRIL

**Louisiana Researchers Converge on Baton Rouge for the Southwestern Psychological Association Annual Conference, April 8-10** Representatives include those from Loyola, LSU Alexandria, LSU Shreveport, McNeese State University, Northwestern State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, University of Louisiana Lafayette, University of Louisiana Monroe and other independent researchers.

**Gov. Edwards Budgets More for Higher Education** The Louisiana Legislature convened March 14 for the 2022 Regular Session, and hundred bills have been filed and are under review by Legislators. The Governor's proposed budget includes \$31.7 million for faculty pay raises in higher education.

**Discrimination Complaint Rejected by LSBEP** A Request for Investigation, stating that members of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists are operating outside of their area of competence in regard to selection-testing and racial discrimination, was rejected by the Board. In a letter dated March 7, Ms. Jaime Monic, the Executive Director, said that the members do not have jurisdiction over themselves. Also, she said, they are not engaged in the practice of psychology as board members. However, they are open to reviewing this issue, Ms. Monic wrote.

**Cybersecurity Expert Offers Essential Ideas for Defending Yourself and Your Clients** by Leslie Todd Those of us who work with victims of intimate partner violence or vengeful expartners have seen how badly technology can be misused to harm our clients. And we also know that just as private citizens, we have to be on guard against cyber shenanigans. Then there's our offices, our electronics files, our phones.... it's pretty daunting, right? Fortunately, there are folks who specialize in educating us so we can keep our clients and ourselves safe.

**Gov. Makes Appointments in March** Melinda McGee Richard of Baton Rouge has been appointed to the Louisiana Department of Health. S



**More Fed Funding for Hurricane Victims** U.S. Congressman Garret Graves said that \$1,287,770,000 is allocated and related to natural disasters in 2020 and 2021. These funds are from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). So far, only \$600 million of \$5 billion had been allocated for those impacted by Louisiana's 2020 hurricanes.

**Environment & Health Council on Costal Resiliency** The most recent conference focused on Medical Marijuana in Louisiana. Other conferences have explored the topics of Living a Better Life in Louisiana, Effective Water Management, Diabetes, a Report Card.

**More Presenters from SEPA** The Southeastern Psychological Association held its Annual Meeting last month in South Carolina. Among those presenting were students of Dr. Erin Dupuis, faculty sponsor from Loyola University, and students from Louisiana State University, with faculty member Dr. Mary Lou Kelley. Taylor Standberry and Dr. Dupuis presented their research, "The Association Between Online Gaming Relationships, Social Support, and the COVID-19 Pandemic."

**LPA Hosts Dr. Kelley** The Louisiana Psychological Association will host Dr. Jennifer Kelly, clinical health psychologist and past president of the American Psychological Association, at their 2022 Spring convention to be held April 8–9 at the New Orleans Marriott Lakeway. Dr. Kelly will deliver the Janet and Lee Mathews Invited Address.

**Editorial**, by J. Nelson, PhD. “Illusion of Evidence Based Medicine”

**Stress Solutions** by Susan Andrews, PhD. Acute Stress is Helpful... Chronic Stress is Harmful



# 2022 Year-in-Review

Continued

**A Shrink at the Flicks**, by Alvin Burstein, PhD. *I'm Your Man*

MAY

**Gov. Edwards Signals Veto of Mizell's SB 44** Senator Beth Mizell's "Fairness in Women's Sports Act," was reported out of committee with amendments and voted on by the full Senate on April 19. The measure passed by a vote of 29 to 6. The proposed law, SB 44, will have the effect of prohibiting transgender females, those assigned as male at birth, from competing in traditional women's sports. Gov. Edwards vetoed the same measure last year.

**Dr. Slaton Named 2022 Distinguished Psychologist by LPA** Dr. Karen Slaton, who has been at the forefront of psychology's transition to integrated health care for most if not all of her career, and engaged in practice, research, and teaching, has been named the 2022 Distinguished Psychologist by the Louisiana Psychological Association.

**"Psychiatric Collaborative Care Model" Passes House 98 to 0** The measure provides requirements for the psychiatric Collaborative Care Model and requires mental health or substance abuse benefits for services delivered through the model. The bill is pending in the Insurance Committee.

**More Opioid Treatment** According to a press release on April 27, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) will open two new Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) in Houma and Bogalusa, bringing the overall number of Louisiana OTPs to 12. The evidence-based behavioral health treatment facilities will increase access to treatment services for 400 to 1,200 individuals per month.

**More from SWPA** This feature continues our report of psychological scientists and researchers from across the state who presented their work, including Hannah Westerfield, Tierra Blair, Cynthia Ross Lindsey, PsyD from Northwestern, ULL students Emily Carriere, Cydnei Meredith, and Jamilia McKinnley, with Dr. Courtney Thomas, Dr. Erika Caramillo-Hatch, Dylan John, Andrea Eggenberger, Dr. Amy Brown, Dr. Brooke Breaux, Dr. Theresa Wozencraft, Tranace Alexander, and Maren Glass.

**Editorial**, by J. Nelson, PhD. "Validity"

**Bookshelf** *Therapeutic Cultural Routines to Build Family Relationships - Talk, Touch and Listen While Combing Hair* by Marva Lewis & Deborah Weatherston, Editors. Dr. Marva Lewis and her colleagues have produced a fascinating, creative and surprisingly profound text acknowledging

*Therapeutic Cultural Routines to Build Family Relationships* offers theory and applications based in simple grooming activities for practitioners who want to truly help children avoid or overcome racial trauma. *Therapeutic Cultural Routines* is essential knowledge for those who work with children, supervise others, or engage in community-based efforts, and who want to remove racism at its core.

**A Shrink at the Flicks**, by Alvin Burstein, PhD, *Cow*

JUNE

**Dr. Cohen's Newest Research in Clinical Psychological Science** Dr. Alex Cohen, clinical psychologist and professor at Louisiana State University, continues his efforts to adapt behavioral technologies for investigating a wide range of clinical issues, including suicidality, depression, psychosis, mania, and anxiety. His newest publication is "High Predictive Accuracy of Negative Schizotypy with Acoustic Measures," published recently in the flagship clinical journal, *Clinical Psychological Science*.

**Fat & Happy Legislature Adjourns June 6** The Legislature adjourns this week after a calm session that was supported by an influx of extra funding. Additional funds included a flood of COVID-19 pandemic recovery money,

**Dr. Constans Recognized for Contributions** Dr. Joseph Constans, clinical psychologist and Senior Manager for Suicide Prevention within the Department of Veterans Affairs, has been recognized by the Louisiana Psychological Association for the 2022 *Contributions in Psychological Science Award*.

**Governor Announces "Internet for All" Initiative Jointly with NTIA** Along with the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Governor Edwards announced that Louisiana will participate in the "Internet for All" initiative, a program designed to provide high-speed internet for all Americans at an affordable cost.

**OBH Expanding Opioid Treatment Services to Shreveport, Hammond** Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) announced it is expanding opioid use disorder treatment in the Northwest and Northshore regions of Louisiana. Accessible, evidence-based, 24/7 treatment is now available in Shreveport and is coming to Hammond in June of this year. These areas were chosen because of their high rate of opioid prescriptions.

**Louisiana Department of Health Rolls Out New Mental Health Crisis Response System** "With the introduction of the Louisiana Crisis Response System, Louisianans enrolled in Medicaid will have access to a continuum of rapid,

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## The Psychology Times

### 2022 COMMUNITY AWARD

# INVOLVEMENT – ULL Psychology

It is hard to come up with a group of people who were more impressive in their ability to involve others and build a community of people and knowledge about psychology than those in the Psychology Department of University of Louisiana Lafayette. Perhaps it's because they're celebrating 100 years but they were out in force at the Southwestern Psychological Association convention in Baton Rouge in 2022. Drs. Amy Brown, Brooke Breaux, Theresa Wozencraft, Valanne MacGyvers, Manyu Li, and others, made their presence known and brought hordes of students with them. Top this off with the exceptional mentoring of Dr. Hung-Chu Lin, ULL Professor of Psychology, who has raised involvement and mentorship to a high-level. She was named for her mentoring by the University and also recognized by the state psychology association as the Janet R. Matthews, PhD, Outstanding Psychology Mentor. Community involvement at ULL is a model the rest of us should embrace.





# 2022 Year-in-Review

## Continued

**Dr. Martin's Team at Pennington Out with New Weight Loss Study** Dr. Corby Martin, along with colleagues and lead author Dr. Christoph Höchsmann, who is a former postdoctoral researcher in Dr. Martin's lab, have a new article, "Association Between Weight Loss, Change In Physical Activity, and Change in Quality of Life Following a Corporately Sponsored, Online Weight Loss Program," published in the journal *BMC Public Health*. The research involved quality of life analysis and its correlation to corporate weight loss programs. His findings showed that quality of life, as assessed by self-report, increased with weight loss and was further enhanced by physical activity.

**Feature: "10 Years Ago"** Opponents Fend Off LSBEP Attempt to Regulate Bas UNO's Dr. Laird Looks at Family To Improve Teen Driver Safety Plan to Merge LSUS with LaTech is Abandoned *Times'* Request for 251 Memo Rejected Again by LSBEP School Psychologist's Tweets Draw Sharp Criticisms Pennington's Dr. Tiffany Stewart Wins \$2.3 Million NIH Grant To Study Health of Female Athletes

**Editorial**, by J. Nelson, PhD. "From the Rooftop"

**Stress Solutions**, by Susan Andrews, PhD. Can Stress Affect the Fetus?

**Bookshelf** *More Bedtime Stories from the Barn* Dr. Beverly Stubblefield has produced another delightful book based on her experiences in animal-assisted psychotherapy and her years of running The Equestrian Therapy Center in Slidell, *More Bedtime Stories from the Barn*. Stubblefield again blends psychological elements, endearing characters, and faith-based approach to life and its challenges in this second offering of her series. Like the first book, *More Bedtime Stories from the Barn* is designed to be used with children and their parents.

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

### JULY

**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."

**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 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.

**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*. "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.

**Dr. Gormanous Sues LSBEP Over Disability Accommodation** 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 the Attorney General, one specifically issued on April 5, 2022, the board could not accommodate Dr. Gormanous' request to attend virtually.

**Louisiana Medicaid Expands Dental Coverage for Adults with Intellectual, 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.

**"Financial Infidelity"** by AFCC Correspondent Leslie Todd. 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. "Financial infidelity" occurs when one spouse knowingly hides their financial ineptitude-- or outright scams-- from the other.

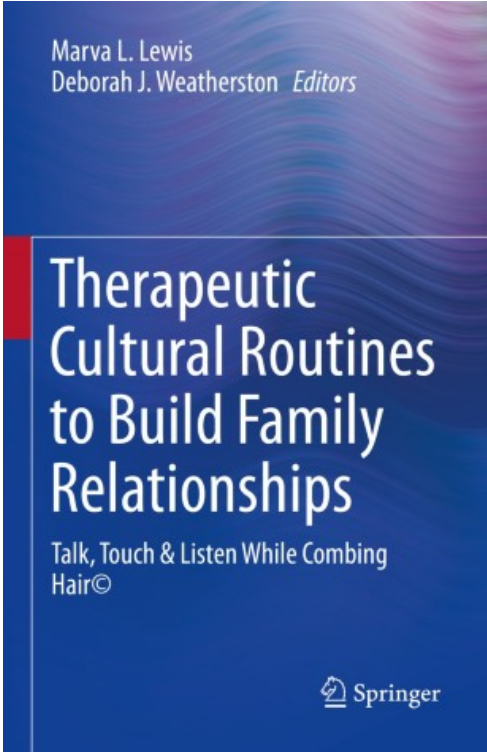
**Louisiana Researchers Present at Annual Convention of the Association for Psychological Science** The Association for Psychological Science held its annual convention in Chicago, May 26–29. Psychological scientists and researchers from across the state presented their work throughout the event. Representatives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

Cont next pg

## The Psychology Times 2022 COMMUNITY AWARD

### MEDIA/EDUCATION – Dr. Marva Lewis

We were very impressed with Dr. Marva Lewis' newest book and the appeal she has created around the fascinating topic of hair and race. Dr. Lewis gathered her colleagues to produce a fascinating, creative and profound book, acknowledging the historical roots and practice of colorism, and laying out essential knowledge for those who work with children, supervise others, or engage in community-based efforts, and who want to remove racism at its core. The authors describe how historical roots of racism, through automatic and often unconscious reaction to racial features, can lead to the rejection of young children, early and dramatically, and become embedded in the youngster's self-concept. In an acknowledgment of the transmission of unconscious messaging, the authors explain how racial features may well be an unrecognized factor in the emotional response to children, and an unconscious issue in the quality of the attachment. Well done!





# 2022 Year- in-Review

Continued

**Editorial**, by J. Nelson, PhD. “Seeing Beyond the Administrative Nose on Our Face”

**Stress Solutions**, by Susan Andrews, PhD. Ever sit beneath a tin roof in the rain?

**Dr. Tom Stigall's LSU Lake Pelicans**  
These are delightful views of the Louisiana State University Lakes and the interesting inhabitants in our state.

**A Shrink at the Flicks** by Al Burstein, Ph.D. *Top Gun: Maverick*

**Feature: "10 Years Ago"** Behavior Analysts Study Commission Grows to 17 Key Officials, with Two Parents School Psychology Internship Program Threatened New CE Guidelines Being Reviewed N.O. Neuropsychologist Offers More Help in High Stakes Testing Forensic Psychologists Dr. Larzelere Explains Primary Care Psychology Dr. Courtney's Suit Goes Forward Psychology & Cyberspace

AUGUST

**Mizell's Bill Becomes Law This Week Without Gov.'s Signature** Senator Beth Mizell's "Fairness in Women's Sports Act," becomes law this week after the Governor declined to veto or sign the measure. The new law, Act 283, will have the effect of prohibiting transgender females, those assigned as male at birth, from competing in traditional women's sports.

**Gov. Edwards Appoints Dr. Holcomb to LSBEP** Dr. Holcomb captured the majority of votes in a state psychology board election, receiving 152 votes of the 256 votes cast. Eligible voters, those licensed under the state board as psychologists, total approximately 820 individuals.

**State Psychology Board Embarks on Major Overhaul of Rules & Regulations** In their February minutes, posted on July 11, the state psychology board outlined major changes and updates they intend to make to the regulatory law governing psychologists. Central to these changes is the new section of administrative Rules on registration of assistants to psychologists, including regulations on who may be an assistant, their credentials, how the board will investigate complaints, and how to regulate supervision of the assistants.

**Dr. Dickson Honored for Distinguished Service** Dr. Amy Dickson has been named recipient of the 2022 Award for Distinguished Service in Psychology by the Louisiana Psychological Association, announced at the spring convention. Dr. Dickson is Assistant Professor at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, (LSUHSC), Department of Psychiatry, New Orleans, Louisiana. She is a licensed Clinical Psychologist, Infant Team Director, and Psychology Section Deputy Chief.

## The Psychology Times 2022 COMMUNITY AWARD

### ALTRUISM – Dr. Amy Dickson

Dr. Amy Dickson, Assistant Professor at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, deserves our kudos and thanks for her continued service to the most vulnerable populations in the state. Her work with the Department of Child and Family Services brings her in close contact with children who are suspected of having been abused and neglected. She has served as Director of the Victims Assistance Program for the Department of Psychiatry at LSUHSC, managed a crisis hot line to assist families in the New Orleans area impacted by violence, and co-directed the Harris Infant Mental Health Program. She is a Child-Parent Psychotherapy trainer, Director of the Orleans Parish Infant Team, part of a Safe Baby Court, and trains around the country on infant mental health and court team work. Wow!



**Louisiana Department of Health Launches New 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline** In a July 18 press release, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) announced that they have launched the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. The new 3-digit number that replaces the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to make it easier for people to receive assistance.

**The Psychology Times Wins Six Awards at Louisiana Press Assn Better Newspaper Competition** The Times won both second and third place in Best News Story competition. The judges commented on the balanced news reporting in the *Times*. “Well balanced and tells all sides of the story.”

**Editorial**, by J. Nelson, PhD. “New Level of Needless Red Tape”

**Stress Solutions**, by Susan Andrews, PhD. Stress as a Trigger of Autoimmune Disease

**Legal Climate on Abortion Leaves Louisiana Psychologists Guessing** The overturning of Roe vs. Wade, shifting decisions to the state level, has left many in Louisiana mental health community guessing due to the tangled web of court challenges, procedural maneuvers, and new legislation. The legal, ethical and moral issues for those counseling women are anything but clear.

**Freedom Summer and a Lesson in the First Amendment** by J. Nelson I was nine years old when I received my earliest lesson in the First Amendment. It was the 1960s, and my father took on the Ku Klux Klan. He was the editor/publisher of a weekly newspaper in what was surely the poorest, most backward place in God's green-

Coushatta, Louisiana, the county seat of Red River Parish. It was a long battle over secrecy and ignorance, with lots of skirmishes to protect the public's right to know what was really happening.

**A Shrink at the Flicks**, by Al Burstein, Ph.D. *Everything Everywhere All At Once*

**Feature: "10 Years Ago"** BP Funds Health Projects in LA Coastal Community APA Cranks Up in Orlando This Week Gov Appoints Dr. Burnett to LSBE Members Named to BA Group LSU Education Professor Dr. Rita Culross Speaks in London on Talent Development in Olympic Athletes

SEPTEMBER

**Business Psychologists Continue to Press State Board on Single Hurdle EPPP and Racial Discrimination** As follow-up to their January complaint that the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists is inappropriately using the national licensing exam as a single hurdle, resulting in discrimination against Blacks and other minorities, a group of psychologists have submitted a position statement to the Board. In the statement, the psychologists give seven ethical and legal points, and argue that using the EPPP is not only illegal but also inherently discriminatory," and that, "The test is racist, and its use must be restricted."

**Dr. Gormanous Drops His Lawsuit after Motion is Denied** A Stipulation of Dismissal with prejudice was filed on July 29, closing the proceedings after Judge Terry Doughty, United States District Court, denied Dr. Gormanous' Motion for Preliminary Injunction.

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# 2022 Year-in-Review

## Continued

**Dr. Cunningham Gives Invited Address Psychologists Present at APA** Michael Cunningham, PhD from Tulane University gave an Invited Address on, “Research with Black Populations: Examples with Adolescents and Implications for Researchers.”

**Dr. Claire Houtsma Recognized for Early Career Contribution in Suicide Prevention** Dr. Claire Houtsma, a research scientist in suicide prevention, was honored this spring by the Louisiana Psychological Association with their Early Career Psychologist Award. Dr. Houtsma is the Suicide Prevention Coordinator at Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System. She is a licensed Clinical Psychologist and the Core Investigator at South Central Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center.

**Early Data Show Racial Disparities in Monkeypox Cases, Warns La Health** Nearly 60% of monkeypox cases in Louisiana have occurred among Black Louisianans, and about 27% have occurred among white Louisianans.

**20M Grant for Collaborative Science** LA CaTS Network, which has built a statewide research infrastructure based on a collaborative partnership involving 11 major Louisiana academic, research and healthcare delivery institutions, has been selected by the National Institutes of Health to receive a \$20 million, five-year grant to continue its work to make Louisiana healthier by addressing health disparities and improving health outcomes in the state’s underserved population with chronic diseases.

**Dr. Zhang Honored** The National Science Foundation has awarded Dr. Don Zhang, LSU Department of Psychology Assistant Professor, its Career Award, the Foundation's most prestigious grant for early-career faculty. Zhang's research is in the field of industrial and organizational psychology. "This highly competitive grant supports an individual’s research helping build a firm foundation for a lifetime of research and academic leadership," explained Keller.

**Dr. Nemeth Honored by Am. Board of Prof. Neuropsychology** The American Board of Professional Neuropsychology has named Dr. Darlyne Nemeth for the 2021 Distinguished Service Award in recognition for Leadership, Training, Practice Innovations and International Relations. Dr. Nemeth is a psychologist and medical psychologist and founder of the The Neuropsychology Center of Louisiana in Baton Rouge.

**Editorial**, by J. Nelson, PhD. “Obsessed over Multicultural Issues but Ignoring the Elephant”

**Stress Solutions**, by Susan Andrews, PhD. Children Suffer from Stress, Too



**Family Supervision** by Leslie Todd. Private practitioners are needed to fill a crucial role that too few social service agencies offer. Supervised visitation and exchange services are niche services in the Family Court arena. When there has been a rupture between the parents, a hostile game of “keep away” may arise. Every exchange may be an opportunity for drama. Once allegations are made—valid or otherwise, the Court is compelled to act in “an abundance of caution,” which often leads to curtailed parenting time.

**Bookshelf:** *Parental Guide to Bedtime Stories from the Barn* *Parental Guide to Bedtime Stories from the Barn*, Beverly A. Stubblefield, PhD. This companion volume to Dr. Beverly Stubblefield’s *Bedtime Stories from the Barn* and *More Bedtime Stories from the Barn*, lays out basic psychological principles embedded in her delightful stories. She guides parents and caregivers in how to help youngsters through psychological experiences of distress. The *Parental Guide* explains the metaphor of the horses’ conversations in her two storybooks and outlines approaches and methods that adults can use to soothe, teach, and encourage the youngster through difficult times.

**A Shrink at the Flicks**, by Alvin Burstein, PhD. *Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris*

**Feature: "10 Years Ago"** Dr. Stacy Overstreet Appointed Tulane Psychology Chair New Regs for Psychologists’ Continuing Education Proposed Talent Development for Olympic Athletes Can Be Complex and Challenging, Says LSU’s Dr. Culross Three Years Later - Who Paid for Act 251 and Why? WE REMEMBER Dr. Ray Houck

### OCTOBER

**Dr. Stewart Champions the Whole Person Approach for Female Athletes** Pennington Professor and psychologist Dr. Tiffany Stewart is leading two new studies that will reveal more connections between physical resilience and psychological health in female athletes. “Female athletes face a unique mix of stresses to their mental, physical, hormonal and immune health during training and competition,” said Dr. Stewart to Pennington news. Stewart is the Director of the Behavior Technology Laboratory at Pennington Biomedical Research Center. “For too long, sports have focused solely on the results – wins, losses, faster times, and higher scores – while ignoring athletes’ mental health. But mental resilience and emotional well-being are every bit as important to succeeding in athletic endeavors or life overall.”

**Louisiana Sends Support to Florida** "I have spoken with Governor DeSantis and instructed our state agencies to offer resources, personnel and expertise to Florida officials, some of which is already on its way," said Governor Edwards.

**Dr. Mary Treuting on Being Dean of LSU Alexandria College of Social Sciences** Mary Boone Treuting, PhD, Professor of Psychology and a licensed psychologist, and who served as Chair of the Psychology Department at Louisiana State University Alexandria (LSUA), was promoted to the role of Dean of the College of Social Sciences last year. For this feature, we were able to interview Dr. Treuting and discover some of the challenges and joys of moving from Professor and department chair to Dean at LSU Alexandria.



# 2022 Year- in-Review

Continued

**OCD Louisiana to Hold Annual Walk  
October 9 in New Orleans**

OCD Louisiana will hold the Annual *1 Million Steps 4 OCD Walk* on Sunday, October 9, at Washington Square, 700 Elysian Fields Ave, New Orleans. The event is free and check-in is 9 AM. OCD Louisiana is an official affiliate of the International OCD Foundation with the goal of furthering the Foundation’s mission in the state of Louisiana.

**Dr. Gormanous Releases Statement  
about Lawsuit**

On September 9, Dr. Greg Gormanous notified colleagues by email and explained the outcomes of his lawsuit against the state psychology board, of which he is now the chair.

**Gov. Appoints Dr. Fanning**

In June, the Governor announced that he reappointed Dr. John T. Fanning of Jefferson to the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund Advisory Board. Dr. Fanning is a clinical psychologist and a representative of an organization recognized for its work in advocacy programs for persons with traumatic head injuries.

**BA Board Publishes Intentions for  
Rules**

The Behavior Analyst Board intends to amend LAC 46:VIII.803 and 807. This amendment establishes new deadlines for licensed behavior analyst and state certified assistant behavior analyst and also deletes two categories previously listed as acceptable for continuing professional development.

**Dr. Mixon Honored for LGBTQ+  
Advocacy**

The Louisiana Psychological Association named Dr. Clifton Mixon for their 2022 Award for Psychology in the Public Interest, announced at the Spring meeting. "This award is given to an individual who has made significant scholarly or practical contributions to the health and well-being of the general public through their work in psychology," said Dr. Amanda Raines.

**Dr. Joseph Tramontana Newest  
President of the American Society of  
Clinical Hypnosis**

"ASCH is an interdisciplinary organization and unique among organizations for professionals using hypnosis because members must be licensed healthcare workers and, at a minimum, must hold a doctorate, PA Certification, APRN, CRNA, or master’s degree in a health care discipline considered appropriate for the Society," said Dr. Tramontana.

**Editorial**, by J. Nelson, PhD. “Good  
Decisions”

**Stress Solutions**, by Susan Andrews,  
PhD.10 Stress-Free Minutes a Day  
Keeps the Doctor Away

**Bookshelf:** *Sports Hypnosis in Practice Scripts, Strategies and Case Examples* by Joseph Tramontana, PhD. *Sports Hypnosis in Practice* is a delightful, candid and enormously useful book for clinicians working with athletes. Licensed clinical psychologist, and one-time runner, sprinter and coach, Dr. Tramontana applies his clinical skills and imagination to the mental side of sports. He weaves together hypnotherapy techniques, elements from the culture of competitive athletics, and specific directions for uncovering meaningful personal imagery, to help athletes improve their performance.

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

**Feature: "10 Years Ago"** BA Group Makes  
First Key Decision – To Be Regulated  
Dr. Tiffany Stewart Interviewed by Huffington  
LSBEP

Proposed Cont’ Ed Changes Draw  
Comments  
Dr. Hutto Takes On New  
Department at U. of LA  
Monroe  
Dr. Nemeth’s Book Released  
THE POWER  
LIST 2012

NOVEMBER

**Researchers Find Dissatisfaction,  
Stress** In their annual "Stress in America" survey, the American Psychological Association' (APA) has found deep dissatisfaction and stress related to the state of the country and the government. According to the APA press release, the researchers found that 70% of adults do not think people in the government care about them and 64% said they felt their rights are under attack.

**Dr. John Simoneaux to Speak on Law,  
Ethics and Mental Health** Forensic and clinical psychologist, Dr. John Simoneaux, will speak about the ethical interface between Louisiana law and mental health, in November. Presenting also is attorney William “Chuck” Credo III, Esq. who will speak on the protective custody process, legislative updates, and liability.

Dr. Simoneaux will be helping psychologists understand how to communicate with attorneys and judges in a way that ensures orders from the court appointing psychologists to serve as experts are correctly written, said association officials.

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The Psychology Times  
2022 COMMUNITY AWARD

## COURAGE – La Assn for Psychological Science

Starting in January and persisting throughout the year, psychologists from the Louisiana Association for Psychological Science confronted the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists on their misuse of the national exam and racial discrimination. The Board is inappropriately using the national licensing exam in a way that discriminates against Blacks and other minorities, denying their property rights. 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. Louisiana is specifically in need of psychologists who understand the Black experience. The board has rejected each effort but this group is not giving up. Challenging the board not only takes talent, it requires courage of convictions. We thank Dr. Marc Zimmermann for his leadership and the persistence of the LAPS group.



# 2022 Year-in-Review

Continued

**Louisiana Department of Health Reports Successes, Launches New Business Plan and Initiatives** The FY 2023 business plan titled “Invest: Teaming Up for a Stronger LDH and a Healthier Louisiana,” contains 18 initiatives, 45 goals and 253 deliverables under five major commitments that will measure progress and provide accountability to Louisiana residents and stakeholders.

**Experts Discuss Coastal Resiliency Initiatives** Each year EHCL hosts an annual conference in support of its mission to provide factual discussions on environmental, health and economic development topics.

**New AFCC Guidelines for Plan Evaluators Contain Wisdom for Those Working with Families** by Leslie Todd. After two years of review and revision, The Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) Board of Directors has approved new Guidelines for Parenting Plan Evaluations. These Guidelines replace the former Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluations. The 33-page document is an excellent resource for mental health professionals who may be interested in adding Family Court work to their services.

**Editorial**, by J. Nelson, PhD. “Political Diversity”

**Stress Solutions**, by Susan Andrews, PhD. Are There Benefits to Masking? Margaret Mead on Halloween and the NOLA Mardi Gras Holidays

**Bookshelf:** *Psychiatric Casualties How and Why the Military Ignores the Full Cost of War* by Mark Russell and Charles Figley. The authors point out that the toll of war is huge and the prevalence of post traumatic stress is underestimated, covered over by stigma and fears of being diagnosed, contributing to a culture with excessive waiting times for veterans, high rates of suicide and addictions, inadequate treatment and organizational scandals. The two trauma experts offer a courageous critique of the ongoing failures in military mental health care in the United States.

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

**Feature: "10 Years Ago"** LA School Psychological Association Conference in Lafayette Nov 7 to 9 LA Psychologists Note Issues for Understanding Military Life

## DECEMBER

**State Board to Take Control Over Psychologists' Assistants** The state psychology board is proposing new rules and regulations to govern the use of assistants to Psychologists.

## The Psychology Times 2022 COMMUNITY AWARD

### VISION – Dr. Tiffany Stewart



Dr. Tiffany Stewart is a powerhouse when it comes to perseverance and vision. For 2022 she is leading more new studies that will reveal connections between physical resilience and psychological health in female athletes. “Female athletes face a unique mix of stresses to their mental, physical, hormonal and immune health during training and competition,” said Dr. Stewart. Stewart is the Director of the Behavior Technology Laboratory at Pennington Biomedical Research Center. “For too long, sports have focused solely on the results – wins, losses, faster times, and higher scores – while ignoring athletes’ mental health. But mental resilience and emotional well-being are every bit as important to succeeding in athletic endeavors or life overall.”  
Thank you thank you

The notice for new rules was published in the November issue of the Louisiana Register. The proposed rules include the conditions for the use of assistants, the responsibilities of supervising psychologists, and the disciplinary activities.

**UNO's Dr. Harshaw Studies Tylenol** University of New Orleans psychology professor Dr. Christopher Harshaw is uncovering the possible link between a common pain reliever and developmental disorders. His findings have been published in the October issue of *Pharmacology, Biochemistry and Behavior*.

**Jungian Analyst & Author Dr. Del McNeely Finds Psychotherapy in Decline** The Trickster plays a critical role in psychotherapy, says McNeely. As an archetype of transition, the Trickster can guide the journey of “individuation” that is essential in psychotherapy. The Trickster mediates between the conscious and unconscious world, Dr. McNeely points out, a needed requirement in psychotherapy for truth and psychological growth. In her book *Becoming*, she considers the issue that personal growth for the individual is being dismissed by both the profession and the medical industrial complex.

**Who Profits? The 50th Percentile EPPP Cut-Off** by J. Nelson. Psychologists from the Louisiana Association for Psychological Science submitted a complaint to the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists saying that the Board is inappropriately using the national licensing exam in a way that discriminates against Blacks and other minorities, denying their property rights.

The crux of the matter is in the use of the 50th percentile as a pass-fail hurdle for the national examination. This cut-off automatically eliminates half of the candidates seeking a license, all of which hold doctoral degrees and are otherwise qualified.

**Gov. Edwards Makes Appointments** Constance A. Bellone of Madisonville has been appointed to the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board. Dr. Bellone is the CEO of Health & Education Alliance of Louisiana.

**More Proposed New Rules** The Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists is proposing changes to fees, the continuing education rules, training, credentials and scope of practice for Neuropsychology specialty designation, and the rules for using an Emeritus title.

**DCFS Resignation** On November 10, Gov. John Bel Edwards announced that he has accepted the resignation of Department of Children and Family Services Secretary Marketa Walters.

**Editorial**, by J. Nelson, PhD. “Sick Leave and Community Psychology”

**Stress Solutions**, by Susan Andrews, PhD. What happens to your Brain When you see a bird in Nature?

## Christmas Bookshelf

**A Shrink at the Flicks**, by Alvin Burstein, PhD. *A Christmas Story/A Christmas Story Christmas*



# A Shrink at the Flicks

## *The Banshees of Inisherin* A Review

by Alvin G. Burstein, PhD

In 1963, when I moved from the University of Michigan to the Neuropsychiatric Institute of the University of Illinois, I met one of the last giants of Psychology, Ernest A. Haggard, who held a professorship there and a prestigious career investigator's award from the National Institute of Mental Health. In contrast to the contemporary trend of increasing specialization in psychology, Haggard's research was wide ranging. It included studies of fleeting changes in facial expression, details of responses to Rorschach's test, and the effects of confinement on submariners and of social isolation on inhabitants of farms on the fjords of Norway.

This last study was much on my mind as I watched *The Banshees of Inisherin* because of its setting, a fictional isolated island off the coast of Ireland. I was also drawn to the film, which has been characterized as a black tragicomedy, because of its reception. Released by Searchlight Pictures in 2022, it won multiple awards at the 79th Venice International Film Festival and, more remarkably, a 15-minute standing ovation.

It was written and directed by Martin McDonagh. It stars Colin Farrell as Padriac, Brendon Gleeson as Colm, and Kerry Condon as Siobhan, Padriac's sister. Each of them is stunningly effective in leading the audience through the tale.

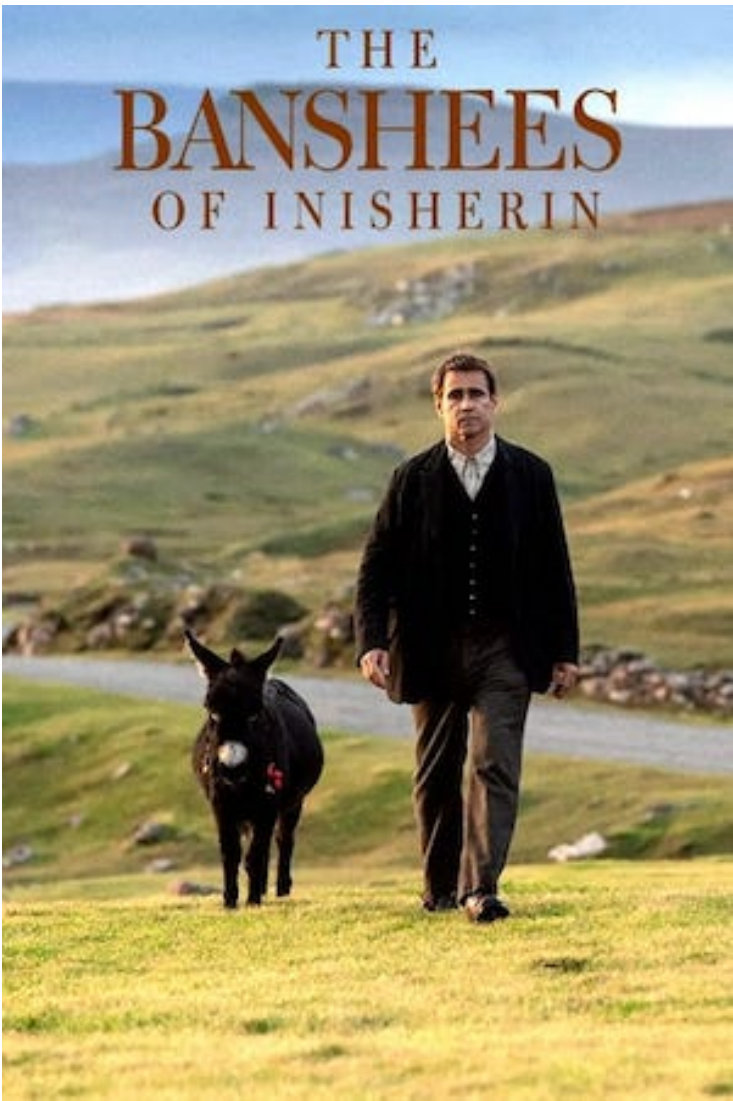
Guest Columnist,  
Dr. Alvin Burstein

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



The story centers on a rupture of the previously close relationship between the two men. Heretofore, they have met regularly to drink and talk at the isolated island's pub. With no warning, Colm tells Padriac that he wants nothing more to do with him. Padriac is devastated, and unable to account for the change, seeks fruitlessly somehow to restore it. Colm ultimately tells his former companion that, if Padriac persists in attempting to relate to him, Colm will amputate one of his own fingers. When he does so, the unspeakably horrid event shocks Padriac, but doesn't forestall his efforts. The horror ratchets up with Colm's hacking off four more fingers and flinging them at Padriac's door.

Padriac's pet burro dies as a result of ingesting one of the digits. Grief-stricken and enraged, Padriac tells Colm that he will burn down the latter's cottage while Colm is in it, warning Colm to make sure his former friend's dog is outside. Padriac carries out his threat, rescuing the dog, only to learn that Colm escaped the inferno.

Colm suggests to Padriac, that, with the burning of his cottage, their feud might end. Padriac responds that would have been the case only if Colm had died in the fire. In a cryptic ending, as Padriac turns to leave, Colm thanks him for looking after his dog, and Padriac responds. "Any time."

My summary cannot do justice to some elements of the context: the war between Catholics and Protestants being waged on the mainland; an explicit contrast between the merits of niceness and fame; the suicide of Siobhan's rejected suitor; a crone, part Banshee, part Greek chorus, who predicts two deaths; an alcoholic child abusing policeman; and an uproariously amusing priest.

Professor Haggard had described the urgent hunger for companionship that drives social isolated groups to hyper-cathect non-human objects. He had also warned that the hermetic sealing up of social settings can fuel the intensity of over-heated emotional reactions. He could have written a book about Inisherin.

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