



Photo BR ACVB

## More Cuts To Health Care, Higher Ed

State officials called for another \$157 million in cuts that will "fall heavily on health care and higher education," according to a report in the *Times Picayune* on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

This set of cuts is part of the continuing crisis in the state, expected to continue in 2011 and 2012 due to national economic conditions. The *Times-Picayune* reported that about 300 people would be laid off in the Department of Health and Hospitals and about 109 in higher education. **Con't pg 4**

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- Dr. Desselle and "PE", page 8
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## New Guidelines Considered for Psychologists

The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) provided its draft proposal on "competence and licensure" at the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, October 13-17<sup>th</sup> in Savannah, Georgia. The task force on "Maintenance of Competence and Licensure" (MOCAL) **Con't pg 6**

## Self Nominations Due Nov 5th for LSBEP

Self-nominations for the election for the psychology board need to be postmarked or delivered to LPA Executive Director, Ms. Gail Lowe by November 5<sup>th</sup>.

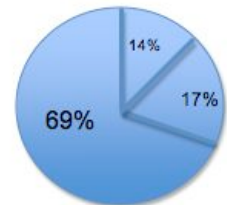
## LPA Council Rejects Resolution

On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, in a continuing controversy over consequences of Act 251, the executive council of LPA voted down a resolution that asked the association to support the independent regulation of psychology.

The vote was 2 yes, 6 no, and 1 abstain. The resolution was offered through council member Dr. Bryan Gros and presented by Dr. Susan Dardard. It read "Whereas, An important object of the association is that LPA shall support and advance psychology as a profession; now, therefore be it Resolved, That LPA shall support the autonomous practice and regulation of the profession of psychology." **Con't pg 5**

## Petition Results for "Self-Regulation"

Count of 155 LPA Members



- 107 "Yes" -69%
- 26 "No" or Likely No -17%
- 22 "Abstain" -14%

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## LPA Members Support Principle, Self-Regulation

Dr. Susan Dardard, a Louisiana psychologist who provides media services for the psychology community, telephoned a portion of members of the state association during August, September and October 2010. She asked if they would

**Con't pg 3**



Louisiana Tech psychology professors presented "Human Subjects Research Dilemmas" for the Scientific Program held recently in Baton Rouge. L to R: Dr. Mary Livingston, Dr. Tillman Sheets, John Buckner, Dr. Janelle Silvers, Dr. Jerome Tobacyk, and Dr. Alice Carter.

# Editorial Page

## “Wisdom and Knowledge, as well as Virtue”

by Julie Nelson

Section II of Chapter 5 of the Massachusetts’ constitution was written by John Adams and goes like this:

“Wisdom and knowledge, as well as virtue, diffused generally among the body of the people being necessary for the preservation of their rights and liberties; and as these depend on spreading the opportunities and advantages of education in various parts of the country, and among the different orders of the people, it shall be the duty of legislators and magistrates in all future periods of this commonwealth to cherish the interests of literature and the sciences...” “...the promotion of agriculture, arts, sciences, commerce, trades, manufactures, and a natural history of the country; to countenance and inculcate the principles of humanity and general benevolence, public and private charity, industry and frugality, honesty and punctuality in their dealings, sincerity, good humor, and all social affections, and generous sentiments among the people.”

Historian David McCullough wrote in his Pulitzer winning book *John Adams*, “It was, in all, a declaration of Adams’ faith in education as the bulwark of the good society...” And, “As time would prove, he had written one of the greatest, enduring documents of the American Revolution.” The Massachusetts’ constitution is the oldest functioning written constitution in the world.

Education is the bulwark of our society. A thirty percent reduction to Louisiana’s colleges and universities is too much. Ask your legislator for more creative solutions.

## The Psychology Times

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We welcome ideas for news, features, Letters to the Editor, photos, and other material related to psychological community of Louisiana. Editorials and commentary reflect the opinions of this newspaper. Columns and Letters to the Editor express the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of *The Psychology Times*.

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**Happy Thanksgiving to Our Readers!**

*(And to you too Sam.)*

**The Psychology Times**





Dr. Rita Culross (center) and Dr. Tony Young (right) recently attended a meeting of the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards, an organization that supports boards and board members across the country. Here they meet with the LSBEP and Executive Director Ms. Jaime Monic (left).

## Bd Members Attend “Future” Conference

Three members from the Louisiana State Board of Examiners traveled to Savannah, Georgia to attend “Back to the Future: 50 Years of Psychology Regulation,” the annual meeting of the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) in October. Drs. Joe Comaty, Rita Culross and Tony Young attended for the state board.

The event included educational presentations and workshops aimed at bringing board members up-to-date with current regulatory topics and events affecting their work on the board of examiners.

The list of presentations included a review of the ASPPB model licensing act and a presentation describing the ASPPB examination program.

Authors reviewed the results of the recent study of job characteristics of practicing psychologists, called a practice analysis. Louisiana’s Dr. Greg Gormanous contributed to this effort last year.

Dr. Rita Culross noted, “Issues that generated a lot of discussion at the conference were telepsychology, continuing professional development, and the current challenges for new members of our profession.”

Dr. Tony Young also mentioned continuing development and the ongoing demonstration of competence, or “Continuing Professional Development.” (See this issue, page one.) He noted that interacting with other board members

## Self Regulation...

be willing to sign a petition supporting a resolution that would allow the psychology board to regulate all aspects of the practice of psychology.

In an interview with the *Times*, she explained that she collected this information as an independent media project to “take the pulse of the members on a critical matter,” and planned to present her findings to the LPA executive council at their October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

According to results of the phone survey, 69% of those counted, or 107 of 155, agreed to support a resolution on the independent regulation of psychology. According to Dardard, 22 or 14% of those contacted abstained. Two medical psychologists voted against such a resolution, or “no.”

Due to time limitations, Dardard decided to count unpolled medical psychologists who are current LPA members as likely “no” votes.

These findings are the result of a “convenience” sample of available members.

Note: Dr. Dardard is a media consultant and occasional columnist for the *Psychology Times*.

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from around the country was “pleasant and interesting.”

Presentations included “Continuing Professional Development: Looking to the Future,” “Telepsychology: Panel Introduction, Topic Background & ASPPB Activity,” and “Telepsychology Practice: Regulation Process and Pitfalls.”

“Attending ASPPB in Savannah gave me a wonderful opportunity to be oriented to service as a board member,” Dr. Culross noted. “It was great also to see the strong presence the LA Board has had in ASPPB over the years. Greg Gormanous and Tommy Stigall have both served as Past Presidents of ASPPB, and Greg continues to participate as an Individual Member.”

All handouts from the presentations can be downloaded from the ASPPB website at [http://www.asppb.net/i4a/pages/index.cfm?p\\_ageid=3565](http://www.asppb.net/i4a/pages/index.cfm?p_ageid=3565) (follow ‘go to past meetings’).

### Cuts...

In response to recent criticisms about the cuts to higher education, Governor Jindal asked agencies to focus on leadership and solutions.

Colleges are expected to face greater challenges in the 2011-12 fiscal year, with projections of \$290 million in cuts. This comes after significant reductions since 2008.

John Lombardi, LSU System President, was quoted in a *Times Picayune* article to say that the cuts have already prompted some top faculty members to leave. An undisclosed source from one prestigious psychology department told *Psychology Times* that professors are being regularly recruited by other universities around the country.

### MP “Rules” to Be Published in November

According to minutes of the state medical board, the rules for Act 251 will be published in the November issue of the *Louisiana Register*.

The publication will be a “Notice of Intent” meaning that the board is giving notice to the public that it intends to adopt the rules and place them into administrative law. The public will have an opportunity to review the rules, make comments, and under certain conditions, attend a public hearing.

The October agenda for the medical board noted, “The Board decided to undertake a rule making effort pursuant to Act 251 of the 2009 session of the Louisiana Legislature which, among other matters, transfers medical psychologists to the Board.” They considered the draft in August, and approved publication of the *Notice of Intent* in the *Louisiana Register*.” The *Notice* should appear in the November edition of the *Louisiana Register*, found at <http://doa.louisiana.gov/osr/reg/register.htm>

### Psychology, Medical Bds Develop “Memorandum”

The psychology and medical boards have been working on a “Memorandum of Understanding,” an agreement to facilitate how the two agencies address the dual regulatory duties over the practice of psychology in Louisiana.

The psychology board’s minutes of March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010, noted, “Collaborating with the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners: After much consideration and consultation with Attorney Lunceford, Dr. Courtney moved to accept the modifications proposed by Attorney Lunceford for the “Memorandum of Understanding” in order to facilitate cooperation on all matters pertaining to the shared regulatory role over the practice of psychology.”

The Medical Psychology Advisory Committee’s minutes of May 3, 2010 noted, “The Committee reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (“LSBME”) and the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychology (“LSBEP”) to establish a cooperative agreement between both Boards regarding the regulation of the practice of psychology as it pertains to medical psychologists who maintain dual licenses with both Boards. The LSBEP agreed with the Memorandum of Understanding, and it was the consensus of the Committee to present it to the LSBME for consideration.”

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, the psychology board again discussed this document.

The *Times* requested a copy of this document but has not received it as yet.

### Behavioral Health Working Group To Meet Nov 17<sup>th</sup>

A team of psychologists and counselors is working to develop a collaborative approach to legislative concerns. Their next meeting is scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00, according to sources.



A view of the capital from outside Bienville Building where the Behavioral Health Working Group met. The next meeting will be November 17<sup>th</sup>.



### Resolution...

The idea to pass a resolution, and original wording was posted on the LPA listserv in August by Dr. Alicia Pellegrin, written by several psychologists and in particular Dr. Tom Hannie, past president of LPA. The wording in the August resolution was stronger than that presented to the council on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The August version stated that the medical board should have authority over prescriptive privileges of medical psychologists and the psychology board should regulate the practice of psychology.

Discussions started in August prompted Dardard to conduct a phone survey to “take the pulse” of psychologists. She contacted a “convenience” sample of members and found a majority of those contacted would be in favor of such a resolution. (See story page 1).

Dardard also told the *Times* that she sought a compromise resolution. The proposal submitted to the EC on October 22 had been modified from the stronger language, through her efforts to bring those with differing views together, including individual meetings with EC members.

At the EC meeting, those speaking in favor of the resolution suggested that it could be a compromise “in principle” and help to resolve internal disputes in the association. It was also noted that the resolution bolsters the mission statement of LPA.

Those speaking against said that it would obligate LPA to go in front of the legislature with internal disputes. Others stated that passing the resolution would alienate medical psychologists. One member said he was concerned that it was the work of a special interest group.

The EC’s down vote prompted debate on the listserv. Dr. Alicia



Luncheon for faculty presenters and graduate students at the Scientific Program was sponsored by Sound Psychology, Inc., and *The Psychology Times*.

Pellegrin wrote, “I must admit to astonishment that this most benign of resolutions would be controversial in any way,” and likened the no vote to falling “down the rabbit hole.”

Dr. Robert Storer posted his concerns saying, “...the prescribing psychologists that I know have stated that they see this statement as a ‘slap’ against them.”

LPA President Dr. Kelly Ray, medical psychologist and LAMP member, wrote, “...the proposed resolution was not presented to make a public statement that LPA supports psychology, but rather, to build the foundation to take an offensive position against 251, against the medical psychologists, and against the medical board. This is what your EC voted down.”

Dr. Susan Dardard, who presented the resolution, objected to this conclusion, writing that Ray’s interpretation was wrong, writing, “You got my words exactly backwards.”

Dr. Carolyn Weyand, psychologist and psychoanalyst, and columnist for the *Times*, suggested that the “disappointing vote” of the EC was based on “assuming knowledge of a hidden agenda” and was an “inaccurate reading-between-the lines.”

Some members of the state association have been in conflict since the passage of Act 251 in June of 2009, a law that repealed the 2004 prescriptive rights of psychologists, and transferred the regulation of medical psychologists and their practice of psychology to the state medical board. Act 251 was negotiated by LAMP (Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychology) and the state medical board and passed in a non-disclosed lobbying effort. At that time, the LPA governing body included many LAMP members in key decision-making roles, who did not alert LPA members to the bill.

**Guidelines...**

presented ideas about new licensing requirements for maintaining competency.

Authors noted that *continuing professional development* is different from *continuing professional education*. "Participation in continuing education activities is one way that psychologists maintain and enhance their knowledge and skills; however, it is not the only way, nor is it necessarily the most effective way."

Board members Dr. Rita Culross and Dr. Tony Young indicated to the *Times* that this topic might be of interest to psychologists. Dr. Young said, "The group is working on a variety of issues, the most important or immediately relevant to most of us is the emphasis on the ongoing demonstration of competence, or Continuing Professional Development."

This is a growing trend in many professions that acknowledges that educational activities may not always lead to genuine competence. Self-assessment of competence is not always accurate, and approaches to continuing education assume that the psychologist can accurately rate his or her own abilities and deficits, the authors explained.

Studies have found that people overestimate their abilities and this is particularly true for those falling in lower quartiles. Another concern that emerged was "...the common educational practice of massed training (a one day workshop, or two or three successive days), while appearing to promote the rapid acquisition of skill and self-confidence, does not necessarily promote the retention of skill."

ASPPB authors suggested 40 credits of "Continuing Professional Development" (CPD) every two years. "The concept of credits replaces the concept of hours, as many of the recommended activities do not have an hourly component."

One aid to this process is for psychologists to identify their areas of practice. They gave the following classifications:

1. **Clinical Psychology**
2. **Counseling Psychology**
3. **School Psychology**
4. **Forensic Psychology**
5. **Cognitive & Behavior Psychology**
6. **Clinical Health Psychology**
7. **Correctional**



Dr. Raphael Salcedo (left), from the New Orleans area, and Dr. John Simoneaux, from the Pineville area, attended the recent Ethics workshop hosted by LPA in Baton Rouge.

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#### **8. Academic (teaching psychology)**

#### **9. Industrial/Organizational**

#### **10. Clinical Neuropsychology**

#### **11. Rehabilitation Psychology**

#### **12. Psychoanalysis Psychology**

#### **13. Research**

#### **14. Other (specify)**

The task team laid out the variety of activities that would count toward "CPD" credits, which included traditional types of CEs, such as workshops and classes, but described a new "Professional" type as:

- "1. Peer consultation (May include case consultation groups, journal clubs, regional research groups; mentoring; shadowing a colleague)
2. Practice outcome monitoring (assessing patient/client outcomes via questionnaire)
3. Professional activities (serving on psychological association boards or committees or board member of regulatory body)
4. Conference/convention "

Along with other resources, the draft document on this topic is available at:

<http://www.asppb.net/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=3572>.

The *Times* appreciates Dr. Tony Young's help in pointing out this source material.



## ULM's Social Science Lab Promotes Community, Careers, & Ec Development

On the campus of the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM), psychology professor Dr. Joseph (Joe) McGahan and political science professor Dr. John Sutherlin have cofounded a research and training laboratory named Social Science Research Laboratory (SSRL). Together they have designed an interdisciplinary team that promotes community and economic development, while teaching students career enhancing research skills.

"Years ago, my primary goal was to help my students get into competitive doctoral programs," said Dr. Joe McGahan to the *Times*. "Although we had some success, I also became increasingly aware that many psych majors ended up working in retail jobs where they appeared less than thrilled."

Joe had worked in marketing research and realized that this area was going through a paradigm shift. He noticed that psychology and social sciences were "augmenting—perhaps replacing—economics." He found that he frequently encouraged his students to consider careers in marketing research and R&D. And so to facilitate this he created the SSRL in June 2007.

The lab brings together a diverse group of talent from ULM faculty for interdisciplinary research. Professors from psychology and political science, and also from fields as diverse as educational technology and criminal justice, blend their knowledge and expertise. These "research fellows" work with undergraduate and graduate students in applied research and service-learning projects to benefit the community's economic conditions.



Dr. Joe McGahan (co-founder of ULM's Social Science Research Lab) at Scientific Program in Baton Rouge.

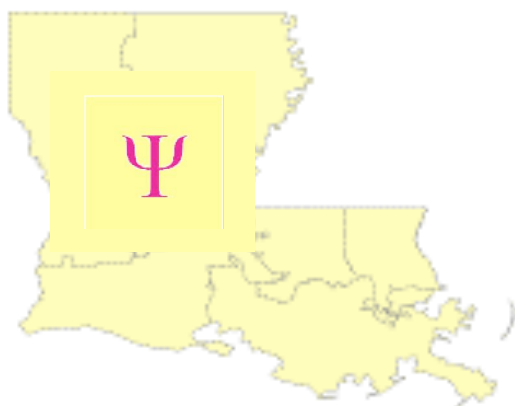
Projects at SSRL involve just about any aspect of the overall mission, which is to promote economic development in Louisiana.



Dr. John Sutherlin

Co-founder Dr. John Sutherlin told the *Times* that one of his favorite projects is *Stay Brady Stay*, a film project about Louisiana's loss of intellectual capital. "The 26-minute documentary film," he said, "has been shown in PBS markets across the state and at

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## Dr. Desselle Presents on “Prolonged Exposure Tx”

Dr. Sherry Desselle, licensed counseling psychologist and owner of Baton Rouge Center for Anxiety Treatment, presented a workshop on “Prolonged Exposure Therapy for PTSD,” sponsored by Capital Area Human Services District. The workshop took place on October 13<sup>th</sup> at the Baton Rouge Police Academy.

Dr. Desselle is a specialist in the treatment of anxiety said to the *Times*, “Trauma treatment was a highly requested topic to the professional development committee, so they sought me out for this workshop.” The audience consisted of approximately 140 psychologists, psychiatrists and social workers from local communities. She noted that participants’ feedback was very positive, “They enjoyed the training for its practicality and for my enthusiasm for the subject,” she said.

The three-hour workshop covered major concepts and practical applications regarding a type of therapy called “Prolonged Exposure Therapy” or PE. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, PE is one of the therapies that work effectively with many individuals who experience trauma-related thoughts, feelings, and situations that they avoid. Components of the therapy include education, breathing retraining, in vivo exposure, and talking over traumatic memories or “imaginal exposure.” According to the Department, PE has been demonstrated to be one of the most effective treatments for PTSD, and requires only eight to 15 sessions for many clients.



*Photo courtesy of Dr. Desselle*

Dr. Sherry Desselle speaks to a group of 140 psychologists, psychiatrists and social workers on “Prolonged Exposure Therapy” for PTSD, in Baton Rouge, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Desselle is a licensed psychologist, assisting those with anxiety.

“To me,” Sherry explained, “providing treatment to folks living with PTSD is a privilege. Their symptoms can disrupt their lives so dramatically. Treatment can make a remarkable difference in a surprisingly short period of time. It is an amazing process to witness. It’s really a testament to the resilience of the human spirit.”

Before opening her practice and the center, Sherry had worked as the Trauma Treatment Specialist for Capital Area Human Services District for almost five years. Currently, at Baton Rouge Center for Anxiety Treatment, she helps those with anxiety disorders and also mood disorders, which she noted, “are highly comorbid with anxiety problems.” And she said, “I focus on providing evidence-based practice, which for anxiety and depression can mean specific cognitive behavioral treatments for specific problems, sometimes combined with medication.” She added that, “These are very active treatments. My patients usually have homework assignments to complete between sessions.”

Sherry has a history of rock-climbing adventures. These days she enjoys throwing dinner parties for her friends, traveling with her partner, studying new applications in her field, and dog training, which she applies to her “adorable 65 pound rescue dog named Jackie,” Sherry said. “She’s the best dog in the world, by the way.”



Dr. Sherry Desselle graduated from Texas Tech University with an internship at the University of Texas at Austin. (She noted, “Part of my heart is still in Texas.”)

Her office is located at 7424 Picardy Ave., Baton Rouge, and phone is (225) 588-6348.

For more information about her services visit her website at <http://batonrougeanxiety.com>



# Close-up

## Dr. Marc Zimmermann

"I have always found human behavior to be fascinating," said Dr. Marc Zimmerman to the *Times*, explaining his generalist, comprehensive perspective, and his tendency to add one new credential after another as a regular matter of business. "I always see courses and say to myself, 'I need to know that.'" Consequently, he continues to add new areas of knowledge to his more than ample list of credentials.

Marc is licensed in Louisiana by the psychology board, and in Louisiana by the medical board as a medical psychologist. He is a Diplomat with the American Academy of Pain Management. He is a Diplomat with the American Academy of Psychologists Treating Addiction. He is also a Diplomat with the American Board of Forensic Examiners and a Diplomat with the American Board of Forensic Medicine. He is board certified with the American Board of Medical Psychology.

Marc holds the Diplomat in Forensic Neuropsychology and also the Diplomat in Forensic Psychology from the American Board of Psychological Specialties.

Additionally Marc serves on the board of the American College of Forensic Psychology and on the board of the American Academy of Psychologists Treating Addiction.

What motivates him appears to be his genuine interest in human behavior. "I most enjoy determining why people do what they do," he said. "I like to help them understand their motivations, both conscious and subconscious. This is particularly true in the forensic arena where there are more confounding variables."

Marc has been in private practice for thirty years and forensic work has been a continuing focus of his. He is qualified as an expert witness in the District Courts of Texas, New Jersey, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida and Louisiana. He is also qualified in the Middle and Eastern Louisiana Federal Courts of Louisiana and the Northern Federal District Court of Georgia and in multiple occasions in multiple jurisdictions.

His classical training began with his undergraduate degree in psychology and minor in sociology from North Texas State University. "I was not concerned," he said, "that my professors kept telling me that with a bachelors in psychology I would be fully trained to sweep a psychologist's office." So, he explained, "After I graduated, I saved enough money to get my masters and went back to school." Following the masters in counseling psychology and working for a short while he discovered something else about himself. "I introspected and decided that I did not have the temperament to work for someone else. So, I went back to school and got my Ph.D."

Marc received his doctorate from Texas A&M at Commerce, and three masters degrees, one in counseling psychology, one in psychology, and more recently one in clinical psychopharmacology from the California School of Professional Psychology.

Finding out early that he was best suited to work independently, Marc has



Dr. Marc Zimmermann (center) discusses issues at the bylaws revision earlier this year.

focused in clinical, medical, business and forensic psychology in his private practice. His emphasis is often in evaluations and psychotherapy, and applied applications in clinical and consulting.

"I like to help people change the behaviors that they decide are uncomfortable or counter productive," he said, supporting his clinical expertise with competency in pain management, clinical hypnosis, and staying up with science through his membership in Association for Psychological Science.

In his consulting work, he connects his knowledge of the individual with his training and interest in social, community and business psychology. "One of my major professors was from LSU and he was trained in IO," he explained. Marc has worked with organizations helping assess and deal with problem employees, fitness for duty, critical incident stress debriefing, and also providing supervisor training.

He has consulted with Abbeville Police Department, Acadia Parish

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### Close-Up...

Sheriff's Department, Addis Police Department, and the Baton Rouge City Parish. He has worked with the Baton Rouge City Constable's Office, Brusly Police Department, Vermilion Parish Sheriff's Department and the Zachary Police Department. He has consulted to Dow, Exxon, Rubicon, Lion, as well as the City Parish of Baton Rouge, and others.

Marc has been a consultant to the Office of Youth Development, Brown and Root, Gulf States Utilities, River Bend Nuclear Facility, and Baton Rouge General Medical Center's Chemical Dependency Unit. He has also helped the East Baton Rouge District Attorney Pretrial Intervention and Juvenile Diversion programs, East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney Stop Rape Crisis Center, the Louisiana Regional Pain Rehabilitation Group, Office of Human Development, and the Baton Rouge General Pain Unit, among others.

Marc developed his broad, generalist style early in his career. "I was doomed to consider the social environment when dealing with individuals," he said. "Because of my job in a community mental health center in Texas I was able to put these principals into practice." He continued this work as Chief Psychologist at the Baton Rouge Mental Health Center and before at the Deep East Texas Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services as Director of outpatient services.

When the *Times* asked Marc if there have been any frustrations he said, "My frustrations are that I never feel that I know enough and constantly strive to get better—thus, all of the Board certifications. This is not bad in and of itself, but graduate school creates somewhat of an inferiority complex. It is difficult to overcome this."

His advice to younger psychologists? "I have consistently given the same advice for 30 years. Decide what you want to do in psychology and put forth a reasonable amount of effort and you will accomplish your goals."

He is a member of APA, APS, American Society of Clinical Hypnosis, Association of Medical Psychologists, American College of Forensic Psychology, and Louisiana Psychological Association, recently helping with bylaws revision. "And," he remembered, "I was the founder and first president of the local association BRASP." (Baton Rouge Area Society of Psychologists.)

Among his other civic contributions is a

heartwarming involvement in "Greyhound Pets of America," Louisiana and Mississippi chapters. Marc explained that these groups "...receive dogs that are being 'retired' from the track. They used to be killed," he said. The group takes the greyhounds, sees to their general health and tests them to make sure they are "other pet friendly." Marc explained, "The dogs then are often put in a foster home until they can find a permanent home." Marc and his wife have worked to foster and assist in this effort, rescuing many of these beautiful dogs from being destroyed. Marc explained, "I get much more from the greyhounds than I ever gave to them."

Dr. Marc Zimmerman is a man who seems to speak out only rarely and when he does, in few words. But once you've heard what he has to say, you'll very likely make it a point to stop and listen carefully from then on.



Sleeping Dogs: Greyhounds, rescued by Dr. Marc Zimmermann, sacked out in the family's living room.

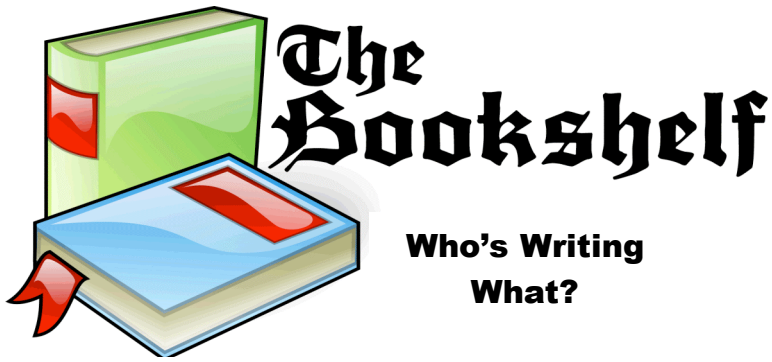


Left: "Eowyn," the first of all the racing greyhounds rescued by Marc and his wife.

Eowyn was named after a character from *Lord of the Rings*.

She lived out her life with their family.





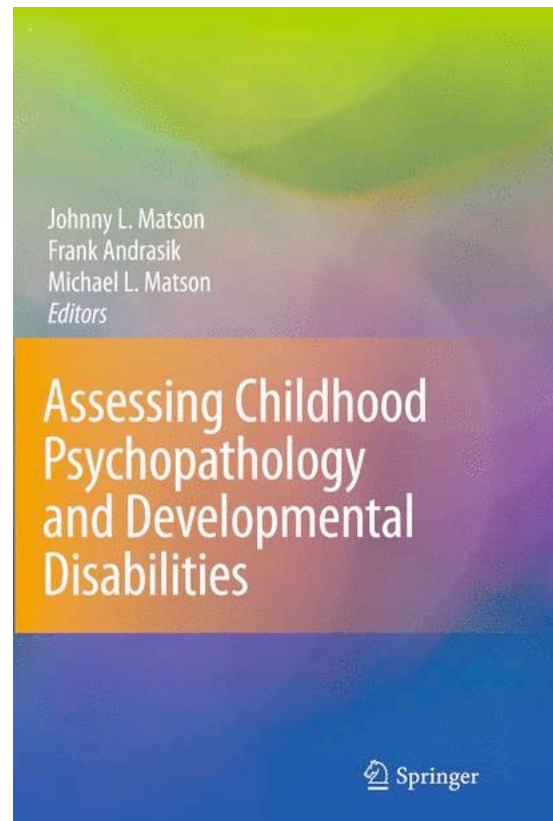
## ***Assessing Childhood Psychopathology and Developmental Disabilities***

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## ***Treating Childhood Psychopathology and Developmental Disabilities***

Johnny L. Matson  
Frank Andrasik  
Michael L. Matson  
*Editors*

Springer



*Assessing Childhood Psychopathology and Developmental Disabilities* and *Treating Childhood Psychopathology and Developmental Disabilities* are companion texts edited by LSU Professor and Distinguished Research Master, Dr. Johnny Matson. His co-editors are Dr. Frank Andrasik who is now Chair at the Department of Psychology at U. of Memphis, and son Michael Matson, previously at LSU and now finishing his MSW from Tulane.

In these companion volumes, LSU's world-class scientist and author continues his dazzling contribution to the areas of child and adolescent psychology by combining knowledge of experts from all over the US, from the UK, Israel, Africa and as far away as New Zealand.

An expert in mental retardation, autism, and severe emotional disorders in children and adolescents, Johnny Matson has produced 600+ publications including 37 books. He is Editor-in-Chief for *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders* (Oxford England), Editor-in-Chief for *Research in Developmental Disabilities* (Oxford, England), and Associate Editor for *Journal of Mental Health Research in Intellectual Disabilities* (London). Through the years he has served on 80 editorial boards including as Editor-in-Chief for *Applied Research in Mental Retardation* and the *Official Journal of the American Association for University Affiliated Programs*. Among his many contributions, Johnny Matson has been a visiting professor to universities in Sweden, Canada and India, consultant to the Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, and Missouri Departments of Mental Health, and consultant to ABC's 20/20 and CBS's Eye to Eye.

Published by Springer, *Assessing* and *Treating* are companion texts that meet the needs of today's pediatric psychologist by ensuring that his or her work is consistent with and supported by scientific findings. The books provide evidence-based concepts and methods for those diagnosing and treating children, supported conclusions with the latest data and newest trends. Authors include an array of important related topics and concerns regarding the rapidly changing and expanding field of clinical child, developmental, and school psychology.

"The rapid expansion of literature related to the assessment and treatment of child psychopathology..." is one of the main reasons for the books, Johnny Matson told the *Times*. "These comprehensive volumes," he noted, "summarize the scores of published literature on evidence-based methods."

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**Bookshelf...**

Readers will find a comprehensive review of current scientific findings, predigested and arranged for ease of understanding by the authors. Throughout the two volumes, chapters begin with a clear statement about the importance of the topic, flowing smoothly to key issues, subtopics, and a wealth of research findings. The authors have worked to summarize the problems for the reader, giving meaningful conclusions supported by current evidence. Controversies are clearly described and conclusions explained, and where needed the reader is referred to additional resources.

Johnny explained to the *Times* that the texts are “important to ensure that clinicians are using the most effective methods when working with toddlers, children and adolescents,” providing needed guidance in a field that is changing as quickly as any other.

Psychologists who want to support their decisions scientifically, ethically and legally will find the information enormously valuable.

The writing is smooth and easy to absorb, with surprising consistency throughout considering the depth and breath of the contributors. The ‘get to the point’ presentation makes the narrative interesting and comfortable to use as a reference. The reader can move quickly between important topics to review information captured from the dozens of specialized journals that have emerged in this constantly expanding field.

This efficiency may have been another goal. “Writing is rewarding in the sense that it assists in allowing for the review of empirically supported evidence and the concise delivery of this information to professionals in the field,” Johnny explained. He has accomplished this with these two excellent volumes.

### ***Assessing Childhood Psychopathology and Developmental Disabilities***

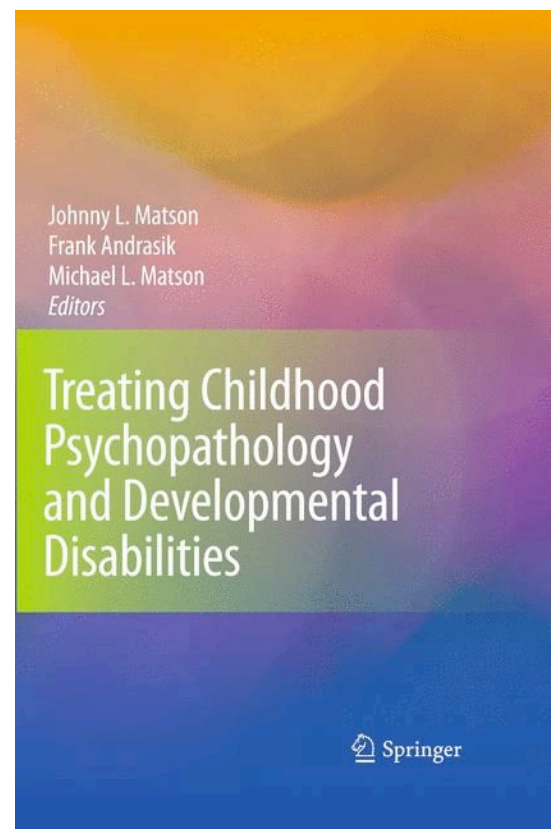
*Assessing* is divided into five sections. “History, Overview and Trends in Child and Adolescent Psychological Assessment,” opens the introduction. A powerful first chapter gives an overview of state-of-

the art assessment of children and a review and integration of how ethical and legal/forensic issues intertwine in today’s world. Chapter 2 covers “Diagnostic Classification Systems” with a critique of the medical model and list of disadvantages of the DSM-IV. The chapter provides a theoretical perspective that is applicable for all areas of clinical psychology. Completing the introductory section is a review of structured and unstructured interviewing methods and also practical points regarding report writing.

Part II, “Assessment of Specific Problems,” begins with a chapter on intelligence testing, followed by a chapter on rating scale systems for assessing psychopathology with detailed reviews of the ASEBA and the BASC-2.

LSU’s Dr. Drew Gouvier, Audrey Baumeister, and Kola Ijaola author the chapter on “Neuropsychological Disorders of Children.” Drew is professor in the clinical area at LSU with research interests in neuropsychological assessment, treatment, and forensic issues. He and his coauthors cover an array of issues regarding speech, language, ADHD, LD, ASD and acquired neuropsychological disorders.

Part III covers the assessment of specific psychopathologies including chapters on assessment of conduct problems, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, mood disorders, and bipolar disorders.





### **Bookshelf...**

Part IV includes three chapters covering the assessment of developmental disabilities beginning with a chapter on “Academic Assessment” by LSU psychology professor Dr. George Noell and Dr. Kristin Ganle of LSU’s Department of Educational Theory, Policy, and Practice. George is professor in the school psychology program at LSU, previously director, and currently on loan to the Louisiana Department of Education where he is developing a teacher evaluation initiative for the state. Kristin Gansle is associate professor at LSU’s Department of Educational Theory, Policy, and Practice. Her research includes curriculum-based measurement for assessing written language skills.

Part IV also includes a chapter on “Autism Spectrum Disorders and Comorbid Psychopathology” authored by Jessica Boisjoli and Johnny Matson of LSU. Covering core features of the condition, rating scales, interviews are reviewed, along with measures for differential diagnosis, and a section on comorbid conditions.

The final section of Assessment describes the behavioral medicine topics of childhood and adolescent eating disorders, the assessment of pain, and pediatric feeding disorders.

### ***Treating Childhood Psychopathology and Developmental Disabilities***

The companion volume closely tracts the first in structure, style and content. Part I begins with a review of “History of Treatment in Children with Developmental Disabilities and Psychopathology” by LSU’s Jonathan Wilkins and Johnny Matson, which takes the reader through advancements in behavioral and pharmacological treatments, and the empirical support.

The introductory chapters include “Applied Behavior Analysis and the Treatment of Childhood Psychopathology and Developmental Disabilities,” “Cognitive Behavior Therapy,” and “Parent-training Interventions.”

Part II, “Childhood Psychopathology and Developmental Disabilities,” begins with a chapter on conduct disorders, followed by a chapter on the treatment of ADHD.

Chapter 7, “PTSD, Anxiety, and Phobia,” is authored by Dr. Thompson E. Davis III from LSU. Thompson, an assistant professor, focuses much of his research on anxiety disorders in children and adolescents and is the director of the Psychological Services for Youth Clinic at LSU.

The section continues with “Treatment Strategies for Depression in Youth,” and chapters on treating bipolar disorders with medication, the treatment of autism spectrum disorders, and the treatment of self-injurious behavior. Completing Part II is “Communication, Language, and Literacy Learning in Children with Developmental Disabilities.”

“Behavioral Medicine,” Part III, includes chapters on eating disorders and on the treatment of pediatric feeding disorders, completes the text.

The *Times* asked Johnny how it was to consult with this group of experts. “Working with contributors is great,” he said, “in the sense that it provides additional information in regard to their research.” But he added, “The hardest part of working with contributors is to ensure that you are meeting designated deadlines, especially when many contributors are involved.”

What are the challenges? “Obviously, one of the biggest problems with writing such comprehensive books,” Johnny noted, “is the new empirical support prior to the publishing of the book. However,” he said, “this holds true for all books.”

One other aspect that Dr. Johnny Matson has enjoyed in his writing is helping the field find it’s direction, saying to *Times*, “... writing reviews of published work assists in determining directions for future research.”

These excellent works are available at Springer (<http://www.springer.com>) and at online booksellers everywhere.



*Photo by Julie Worley*

LSU Professor and Distinguished Research Master, Dr. Johnny Matson. Dr. Matson has 600+ publications and 37 books and consults on the national and international level in areas of child and adolescent psychology.

### Monroe's SSRL...

film festivals. It is forcing public officials to deal with out-migration in ways it never had before."

The film was the primary result of a grant obtained by Joe and John, "Economic growth and cultural development as a function of an R & D corridor on Louisiana's northern frontier." The grant, from the University of Louisiana System, was an attempt to build on LA Tech's research park initiative. "For me," Joe said, "a corridor represents universities working with each other so that the universities win, and more importantly, so does northern Louisiana and, therefore, our state also wins."

For 2010 the cofounders have focused on the impact of literacy in Northern Louisiana, and building community partners. "For the past year," said Joe McGahan, "we've been cultivating a relationship with the West Monroe Community Center, where we are particularly interested in AmeriCorps." The lab's developing projects include: "An international psycho-educational approach to conflict, conflict mediation and conflict resolution," and "Renewable energy project with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources."

"We—graduate and undergraduate students—are working on a Macarthur foundation grant obtained by Dr. Jana Sutton (Marriage & Family) that deals with justice reform—it is a very big project," Joe noted.

While benefiting the community, the lab provides students with skills-sets that enhance their career contributions and opportunities. This results from the many services provided by the lab, including marketing reports, reliability and validity studies, surveys, focus groups, and controlled experiments.

"In the three plus years since the inception of the SSRL," Joe noted, "we have worked on numerous health science and law related projects. So I encourage my students to consider dual majors, minors, even just coursework that would prepare them to work in these fields."

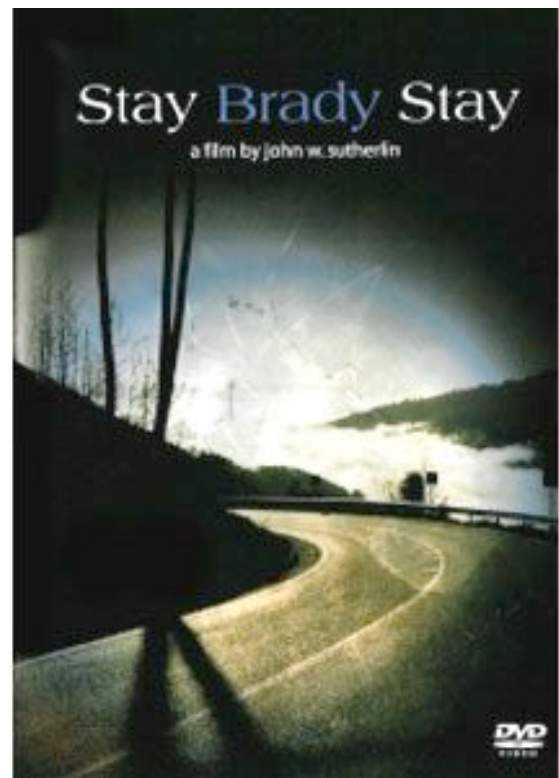
"Moreover," he continued, "given the current interest in evidence-based programs, I encourage students to master measurement, statistics, and research design so that they could market themselves as research consultants for organizations that are pursuing grant related funding opportunities."

"If they learn to think of themselves as researchers, they can bring that skill-set wherever they go, even if —just— to a psychiatric institution."

John Sutherlin believes that the skills gained by his students at SSRL are very important also. "For the political science and sociology students, they could follow the same path for research or work with political campaigns in conducting research, reviewing proposed legislation or in analyzing polling data."

The broad focus of the SSRL sometimes opens a new career path for the student. "Anti-litter project created the first litter ordinances and public awareness campaign for West Monroe..." John Sutherlin explained. "But this one included a student worker who changed majors and got a masters in environmental policy because of this project."

The SSRL can be found on the Psychology Department's home page at University of Louisiana Monroe at: <http://www.ulm.edu/ssrl/>



*Stay Brady Stay*, a film project of Dr. John Sutherlin from the SSRL, is a documentary that highlights Louisiana's loss of intellectual capital. It has been shown in PBS markets around the state.



# Scientific Program – October 23, 2010

Faculty and students from psychology departments across the state gathered at the Baton Rouge Marriott Hotel recently for a fall scientific conference.

Participants came from Ruston (LA Tech), Monroe (ULM), Nicholls State (Thibodaux), Lafayette (ULL), Monroe (ULM), New Orleans (Tulane), and Baton Rouge (LSU and Southern) for the program.

Drs. Theresa Wozencraft and Emily Sandoz, ULL, began the day with their "Convention Success Training Student Workshop," which was filled with important advice and practical tips on how to navigate meetings, give talks, prepare posters, and make the most out of being part of a professional meeting.

Drs. Julia Buckner, LSU, and Joseph McGahan, ULM, then presented a fascinating "Laboratory Research Applications Symposium," which included student presenters Jessica Phillips and Matthew Van, also from ULM. They discussed how their research applies to the outside world, illustrating the path of research from psychology lab to the clinic and to the community.

A "Human Subjects Research Dilemmas Panel Discussion" followed in the afternoon. Dr. Mary Livingston, LA Tech, brought her colleagues, Drs. Alice Carter, Tilman Sheets (Dept. Chair), Janelle Silvers, Jerome Tobacyk, and

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Top (L to R): Dr. Julia Buckner (LSU), Jessica Phillips (UL-Monroe), Matthew Van (UL-Monroe) and Dr. Joseph McGahan (UL-Monroe) speak on taking science from the lab to clinic to community. Middle: (L) Dr. Theresa Wozencraft (UL-Lafayette) shares information about SWPA. (R) Dr. Tillman Sheets (Chair, LA Tech) discusses human subjects research. Below: (L) Dr. Emily Sandoz (UL-Lafayette) provides tips for making presentations. Dr. Jerome Tobacyk (LA Tech) helps the audience understand issues of cultural diversity in their research.







graduate student John Buckner, together to offer comprehensive guidance on how to develop solid research proposals that follow the rules of human research and protect human subjects.

The day concluded with a “Teaching Difficult Topics Round Table,” chaired by Dr. Marva Lewis (Tulane), with Dr. Emily Sandoz (ULL) as co-chair. Faculty and students pulled their chairs together in one large circle for a candid and powerful discussion of their experiences as teachers and learners in the classroom.

Each session began with drawings for a Shell gas card and a Radio Shack technical gadget for the students, and included plenty of Halloween candy for everyone in attendance.

The group gathered in the hotel restaurant for a lively luncheon, where they spent time getting to know each other while enjoying a meal provided by *The Psychology Times* and Sound Psychology, Inc.

Dr. Susan Dardard developed the fall scientific program, which was held in cooperation with LPA, through Sound Psychology, Inc., a non-profit, 501(c)(3), educational corporation that she founded and has led for the last two decades.

Above: The late afternoon session at the Scientific Program engages participants in a round table discussion about teaching difficult subjects, facilitated by Dr. Marva Lewis (Tulane.). Below: Program developer Dr. Susan Dardard hands out Halloween treats between sessions.



## The Psychology Times

The *Psychology Times* is provided as a community service for those in the practice and science of psychology in Louisiana and related individuals and groups. The *Times* offers information, entertainment, and networking for the Louisiana psychological community.

None of the content is intended as advice for anyone.