

**Legislative News**

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

The “Behavior Analysts Licensure and Regulation Study Commission,” a group recently created by a Senate Resolution, is scheduled to meet this Friday, July 6. Ms. Tasha Bergeron, MSPH, RN, at the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) is coordinating the first meeting, with the help of Senator J.P. Morrell’s office. Sen. Morrell authored the resolution.

The Commission is to study the issues for regulation of behavior analysts and report to the Senate.

The Study Commission was initially formed by Senate Resolution 110, authored by Senator Morrell, who emerged as a leading opponent of the LSBEP effort to develop regulations for Behavior Analysts under the state psychology board.

Two other resolutions amended SR 110, SR 142 and SR 159, approved on June 4. Changes included adding and additional seven members to the original ten, and changing the time period allowed for the work’s efforts.

Another change from the initial version is to have the Chair and Vice Chair to be parents of a child receiving applied behavior analysis. SR 159 notes that the appointee of the president of the Senate shall be the chairman of the commission, and the appointee of the chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare shall be the vice-chairman of the commission.

The composition of the commission now stands

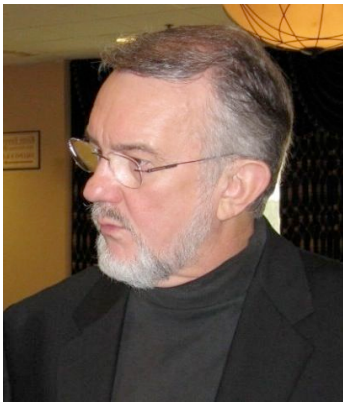
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## School Psychology Internship Program Threatened

Community Support  
Rallied in Time

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

In late June, Director Dr. Alan Coulter received an “official cancellation” of the program, with interns for



LSPA Photo

Dr. Alan Coulter

2012-2015 scheduled to arrive in a matter of weeks. This was according to memos sent to a number of community members by Dr. Coulter and others.

LAS\*PIC, of the LSU Health Sciences Center, Human Development Center, is one of only eleven APA accredited school psychology programs in the US.

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“HOLA” visited the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychology at their June meeting. The Goldendoodle pet of Dr. John Courtney needed a place to crash and the board adjusted. As research predicts, the *Times* observed HOLA to have a positive influence on all attending.

## Psychology & Cyberspace

By J. Nelson, & N. Jordan

Thirty years ago Walt Disney’s *Tron* brought the idea of experiencing life inside a virtual world to the public’s imagination. *Tron* would go on to become a cult sensation for science fiction and computer game enthusiasts, drawing on the psychological appeal of an exciting, malleable world waiting for us at our fingertips—at our computer keyboards to be exact.

Today the idea isn’t strange at all. Dr. Rick Stevens, associate professor of psychology at the U. of Louisiana of Monroe, has used the technology of the “virtual world” to help him with his research, to get his students involved, and just to “liven up classes a bit,” he told the *Times*.

“Virtual reality,” he said, “is a process in which the cues



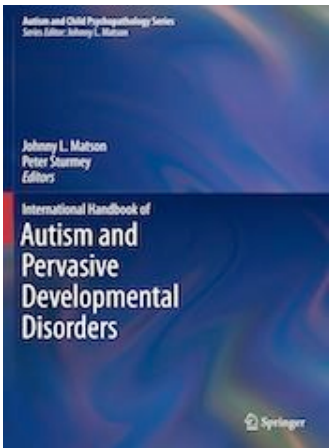
Disney’s *Tron*, 1982.

that we use to generate our mental model of the world are used to produce a shared visual environment.”

“It’s a concept used to create games, but when people refer to virtual worlds they usually refer to environments set up with no game aspects,” Stevens explained. There are no rules, points, or competition like in computer games. The virtual world is used to simulate face-to-face

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# Editorial Page

## Freedom is Not Enough

I was sitting in the audience of the psychology board's recent public meeting, waiting for my chance to ask brilliant, courageous questions when a group of applied behavioral analysts marched in, scowling, with storm clouds hanging over their heads. They sat down in one long row and glared. I immediately liked them.

Forgetting my plans to become a famous journalist I watched as the behavior analysts confronted the board members about the proposed legislation to place them under psychology.

As in almost any group conflict, it was difficult to get at the underlying issues. Right off the bat some of the board members became defensive and started talking down to the behavior analysts, causing the discussion to fly afoul, because we know this is an easy way to irritate people.

After a time, some of the audience began to interject questions and a little more listening occurred. Then one of the group, a parent client he told us, sat up straight and said to the room that the problem was not that the analysts didn't want to be regulated, but that they didn't want to be regulated by psychology. And that in short, they didn't trust the psychology board.

Heads nodded and the rest of the audience could hear the hum of agreement in the analysts. Here it was, the harbinger of death, the writing on the wall, the bite of the vampire. Trust.

Without trust there is only one way to resolve a conflict: pure, unadulterated power. The power can be overt or secret, but it is win-lose power. This sort of conflict style absorbs tremendous resources and creates poor outcomes, because it causes greater errors in judgment and problem-solving.

If the LSBEP's bill was to go forward, it was going to be a shotgun wedding. The bride was not having any of it. But somehow, the board's effort continued, those in charge having missed Falstaff's memo. So now

there is a huge, 17 person commission, sans facilitator, similar to the working group in 2010, that is going to solve the problems in the psychology community for us.

Hundreds of laws are passed in a win-lose process every year. Thursday's Supreme Court ruling was win-lose, a huge and complex issue falling on the vote of a single individual. No top manager, worth his salt, would ever allow his team to arrive at a major decision in such a way. He'd understand that a 5-4 split is full of error and cries out for more of a consensus where the facts are able to convince individuals of the truth, or as close to it as we human beings are able to come.

In their article "Solving Social Problems Like a Psychologist," Stanford's Walton and Dweck write that psychology has a "long history of informing important social problems," but that "we've lost our way in recent years."

Attention to psychological processes and a rigorous methodology are our strengths they say, and we can "identify the processes that underlie a social problem with greater precision and causal understanding than perhaps is possible in other disciplines."

You wouldn't know it by watching us. Does it embarrass anyone else that we keep being sent to the play therapy room to learn how to get along?

As far as laws, even sausage shouldn't be made this way.

Psychologists have the knowledge to help ourselves and others do better. We know about premature decisions, insufficient information, fuzzy problem definitions, lack of creativity, distortions, and so on. We understand the impact of trust on group problem-solving. We know our research paints a dismal view of human social reasoning, but we understand this and have tools to help.

When John Adams wrote the Massachusetts' state constitution he put in a warning. "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; ..."

He knew that freedom was a necessary but not sufficient condition. We must also have and apply knowledge, wisdom and virtue, if we are to support the principles of liberty and help to ensure the positive outcomes of our free society.

Freedom without wisdom, knowledge, and virtue ... simply isn't enough.

We can do better.

## 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.

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*To all our readers*  
**Happy July 4<sup>th</sup>!**



**The Psychology Times**



Behavior Analyst Commission, Cont'd

- at 17 invited members. According to the texts of the resolutions these are:
- 1) Secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, or designee;
  - 2) State Superintendent of Education, or designee;
  - 3) Executive Director of the LSBEP, or designee;
  - 4) Executive Director of the Louisiana Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners, or designee;
  - 5) Executive Director of the Louisiana Behavior analysis Association, or designee;
  - 6) Executive Director of the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, or designee;
  - 7) Dean of the College of Education, Nicholls State University, or designee;
  - 8) the President of the Louisiana Psychological Association, or designee;
  - 9) Chair of the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners, or designee; and
  - 10) Executive Director of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, or designee.
- The next seven were added:
- 11) A representative of the Developmental Disability Council;
  - 12) the parent or guardian of a child who currently receives or has received applied behavior analysis (ABA) services

- appointed by the president of the Louisiana Senate;
- 13) the parent or guardian of a child who currently receives or has received ABA services appointed by the chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare;
  - 14) Paul M Hebert Law Center's full-time health law professor who has direct experience in the field of behavior analysis, or his designee;
  - 15) the head of the Psychology Department at McNeese University, or his designee;
  - 16) the director of the Autism Center at Children's Hospital, or his designee; and
  - 17) the director of the St. Mary's Residential Training School, or his designee.
- According to the latest resolution, the first meeting is to occur by June 30 and the report is due by February 1, 2013.

The *Times* spoke with Ms. Cathy Wells at the Senate Judiciary office who indicated that DHH has sent letters to those named inviting them to the July 6 meeting but she did not believe the group had been finalized, because letters went out only on June 28, 2012.

Another group was requested by a Legislative Resolution and met in 2010 and 2011, the Behavioral Health Professionals Working Group" (BHPWG). The BHPWG reported they made progress in clarifying standards for mental health professionals, and also in building better collaboration, but were not able to achieve the main goal of the group.



Members of the "Behavioral Health Professional Working Group," in 2010, a group composed of psychologists, counselors, and advisory members from social work and medicine was formed at the suggestion of a legislative resolution. The group met in 2010 and 2011. The final report to the Senate noted that the group had made progress but were not able to meet the goals set out for them by the Resolution. (Lto R) Drs. Joe Comaty, Darla Burnett, Jessica Brown, and Jacqueline Shellington.

Legislative News  
More on 2012 Session

Act 208 Expands Autism Coverage

House Bill 771 was authored by over 60 representatives. Signed by the governor to become Act 208 it mandates coverage of the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders, and raises the age for coverage. It also eliminates the limitations on lifetime benefits. According to the legislative digest, the new law raised the age of mandated coverage so that it applies now to individuals less than 21, compared to the old law that applied to individuals less than 17. And the new law removes the lifetime maximum benefit which was \$144,000. The new law also deletes an exclusion for companies with 50 or fewer employees. The new law retains the other aspects of the law but changes the implementation date to January 1, 2014.

Act 321 Allows Taxpayers to Give Refunds to Odyssey, Center of Excellence for Autism

Act 321 provides the mechanism so that citizens can donate any portion of any refund "due them to the Odyssey Foundation for the Arts, LLC for purposes of the Center of Excellence for Autism Spectrum Disorder." This is effective for the tax year 2012.

Medical Records  
Fine Set In Act 756

The legislative digest for Act 756 notes, "Prior law provided procedures for obtaining medical records. Provided a graduated cost scale per page of medical records requested and a separate cost for digital format. New law requires written notice of a violation of prior law to be provided to the provider of medical records via the contact information provided by the health care provider or its agent, or if no contact information is provided, to the custodian of medical records of the health care provider. Further assesses a civil penalty of \$500 per violation plus attorney fees and costs at the court's discretion if the provider fails to comply within 15 days. Effective August 1, 2012."

Offender Communications  
(HB 215) Act 245

The legislative digest notes "Prior law provided that a person who has been charged with a crime of violence shall be prohibited from communicating with a victim of the offense for which the person has been convicted or for which the disposition of the case is pending.

"New law amends prior law to provide that the offender charged with a crime of violence shall be prohibited from communicating with a victim of the offense for which he is charged.

"New law amends prior law and provides that a victim and offender who has been charged with a crime of violence may only communicate if the victim consents to the communication through the local prosecuting agency, and the communication is made through the counsel of the offender, counsel's staff or representative, or the offender if he is representing himself at trial.

New law provides that a person who has been sentenced for a crime of violence shall be prohibited from communicating with a victim of the offense unless the victim initiates the communication through DPS&C, and it is agreed that the victim and the offender participate in a formally defined restorative justice program administered through the department.

Effective August 1, 2012."



# Legislative News, Cont’d

## Act 268 Strengthens Child Abuse Reporting

(HB 577) Act No. 268

According to the legislative digest, this new law provides for the following:

“(1) Amends prior law to provide that a mandatory reporter shall be fined not more than \$500, imprisoned for not more than six months, or both, for the knowing and willful failure to report the abuse or neglect of a child.

(2) Provides that a mandatory reporter who knowingly and willfully fails to report the sexual abuse of a child, or the abuse or neglect of a child which results in serious bodily injury, neurological impairment, or death of a child, shall be fined not more than \$3,000, imprisoned for not more than three years, or both. New law defines "serious bodily injury".

(3) Provides that any person who is 18 years of age or older and who witnesses the sexual abuse of a child and knowingly or willfully fails to report the abuse to law enforcement or DCFS shall be fined not more than \$10,000, imprisoned for not more than five years, or both. New law defines "sexual abuse".

(4) Removes the provision which requires an individual in the list of "mandatory reporters" to be "performing their occupational duties" in order to be considered a "mandatory reporter".

(5) Expands the definition of "teaching or child care provider" to include any person who assists in the teaching, training, and supervision of a child, bus drivers, coaches, professors, technical or vocational instructors, technical or vocational school staff members, college or university administrators, college or university staff members, or any person who provides teaching or child care services in a voluntary capacity.

(6) Adds "organizational or youth activity provider" to the list of "mandatory reporters".

Prior law required reports of child abuse or neglect to be made to the local child protection unit of DCFS.

New law amends prior law and requires the reporting of child abuse or neglect to be made to DCFS through the designated state child protection reporting hotline telephone number.

(15) "Mandatory reporter" is any of the following individuals performing their occupational duties:

\*\*\* (d) "Teaching or child care provider" is any person who provides or assists in the teaching, training, and supervision of a child, including any public or private teacher, teacher's aide, instructional aide, school principal, school staff member, bus driver, coach, professor, technical or vocational instructor, technical or vocational school staff member, college or university administrator, college or university staff member, social worker, probation officer, foster home parent, group home or other child care institutional staff member, personnel of residential home facilities, a licensed or unlicensed day care provider, or any individual who provides such services to a child in a voluntary or professional capacity.”

This Act became effective when the governor signed it.



Fotolia photo

## Act 861 Defines Bullying Program

Act 861 “Provides relative to the discipline of students in public elementary and secondary schools regarding bullying. Extends applicability of discipline responsibility to school buses and school-sponsored activities and functions.”

“Provides for the student code of conduct to specifically address the behavior constituting bullying, the effect the behavior has on others, including bystanders, and the disciplinary and criminal consequences, and the definition of bullying.

Provides for a program through which each school governing authority shall provide at least four hours of training for all school employees, including bus drivers, with respect to bullying each year which specifically addresses:

(1) How to recognize the behaviors defined as bullying. (2) How to identify students at each grade level in the employee's school who are most likely to become victims of bullying, while not excluding any student from protection from bullying. (3) How to use appropriate intervention and remediation techniques and procedures. (4) The procedures by which incidents of bullying are to be reported to school officials. (5) Information on suicide prevention.

Also defines bullying and addresses reporting.

## Act 373: No Smoking in DHH Psychiatric Hospitals, and Provide Help for Smokers

The legislative digest states that this new law “Prohibits smoking in psychiatric facilities of the Dept. of Health and Hospitals (DHH). Present law prohibits smoking, with certain exceptions, in enclosed areas of all licensed hospitals. Present law provides that the following entities shall establish rules and policies to reasonably accommodate inpatients and inmates who smoke: (1) The governing board of a psychiatric hospital. (2) DPS&C. (3) DHH.” The “Proposed law deletes DHH from the listing of entities required to accommodate inpatients who smoke; provides that governing boards of psychiatric hospitals which are required to accommodate inpatients who

smoke shall be those of private facilities; and otherwise retains present law.

“Proposed law requires DHH to establish procedures for treatment of smokers with mental illness in its psychiatric hospitals and forensic facilities which are smoke free. Requires DHH to implement such procedures for current patients and for new patients at the time of admission. Proposed law provides that in carrying out the provisions of proposed law relative to treatment of smokers in psychiatric hospitals and forensic facilities which are smoke free, DHH shall: (1) Screen the patient for smoking cessation needs. (2) Seek the consent of the patient to participate in education and treatment regarding smoking

cessation. (3) Train psychiatric hospital staff of the department in smoking cessation best practices and monitoring of the patient's treatment plan, symptoms, and medication adjustments. Psychiatric hospital staff so trained may include tobacco cessation in the patient's treatment plan after a review of the patient's diagnosis and medication history. (4) Provide patients in department psychiatric hospitals and forensic facilities with access to smoking cessation assistance, including but not limited to counseling, nicotine replacement therapy, and oral medications,” among other directions regarding smoking cessation.



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

## Forensic Psychologists Form Task Force To Study Issues

Forensic psychologists who work with state referred clients have formed a task force to study their concerns as the state continues restructuring and reducing its services due to overall budget problems.

In a presentation to the Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA) Executive Committee on June 9, 2012, Dr. Jesse Lambert, a forensic psychologist from Gonzales, Louisiana, outlined the situation for the committee members. The committee authorized the task force and also Dr. Lambert to lead the group.

Dr. Lambert told the committee that psychologists have for years provided the complex forensic evaluations sometimes needed by the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS), and other agencies, but with the recent restructuring and streamlining, forensic matters are being funneled through mental health gatekeepers.

Lambert explained to the *Times* that he attended a recent informal meeting organized by Judge Kathleen Richey of the East Baton Rouge Parish Juvenile Court. He said that representatives from the Department of Health and Hospitals, Magellan, DCFS, the Department of Juvenile Services, Office of Juvenile Justice, and others, attended the meeting.

Dr. Lambert noted that when he asked for clarification, the representative from Magellan said, “We do authorize psychological testing, but not everyone needs an IQ test.”

Then Lambert was told to speak with the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS), he said, and their representative told him the same thing in the same words.

As he explained to the LPA Executive Committee, Lambert was told that when psychologists’ services are needed by DCFS, the referral will be after approval from a licensed counselor or social worker.

At the LPA meeting, Dr. Lambert said that he had talked with a number of representatives and reminded them that evaluations in forensic matters are very different from an evaluation regarding mental health, such as one regarding termination of parental rights.

“The issue is not that psychological testing is required for diagnosis on these cases,” Lambert told the *Times*. “In a

forensic assessment, diagnosis is not necessarily relevant unless it exerts a functional impact on the issue at bar. What is relevant,” he explained, “is that tests germane to parenting assessment, in the case of parenting evaluations, are necessary to assess the functional impact of given traits, behaviors, etc., on the issue at bar. These cases are robust with impression management.”

He noted “... testing can identify data which can depict a pattern of behavior and traits that are not directly accessible during a clinical interview and which can be utilized to support a conclusion beyond, ‘Well Your Honor, based on my interview with the client this is my opinion.’”

Lambert was told by state officials that evaluations would be ordered on a strictly limited basis. And when he contacted DCFS, “They said that they have decided to have Licensed Clinical Social Workers and Licensed Professional Counselors perform the front-line assessments.”

Dr. Tom Hannie, a retired clinical and forensic psychologist, explained to the *Times*, “LPCs and BCSWs are not competent to make the decision as to whether or not a psychological evaluation is needed in a forensic situation without much

# School Psychology Internships Threatened, Cont’d

The Department of Education’s move prompted Dr. Coulter to seek support from colleagues around the state, including a plea to members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to address the issue.

Dr. Coulter sent a message to Catherine Pozniak, Executive Director of BESE and emphasized that in April he had been told the 2012-2015 contract for the program had been approved, signed, and sent to processing.

Mr. James Garvey, 1<sup>st</sup> BESE District, from Metairie, and Secretary-Treasurer of BESE, contacted officials at the Department of Education and asked about the cancellation, according to a copy of his message obtained by the *Times*.

In the message, Garvey said that he had been contacted by LAS\*PIC alumni and psychology colleagues regarding the cancellation, all of them asking for a reconsideration.

Dr. Coulter had sent the request to colleagues reminding them that school psychologists are professional service providers and in critical shortage throughout the United States, especially in Louisiana. He wrote, “LAS\*PIC recruits and trains, in partnership with Louisiana schools, school psychology interns during their internship year. To date, we have recruited more than 190 school psychologists to Louisiana. More than 50% of those recruited have stayed at least two years and about 1/3 of all those recruited are still working in Louisiana schools in 2011-12. This year there are eight school psychology interns, six of whom will stay in Louisiana next year as fully trained Ph.D. school psychologists.”

Dr. Alicia Pellegrin, Louisiana Psychological Association Legislative Chair and Secretary,

told the *Times*. “We were quite concerned about what appeared to be an end around on the part of the administration to cut this program *after* the contract had been signed and interns had committed. By the time we marshaled our forces, the program was reinstated, thanks, we believe, to the huge outcry on the part of many. This will be on LPA’s radar for next year and we will follow closely what happens. This program is too important to be left to chance.”

Dr. George Hebert, LAS\*PIC Coordinator said, “Our internship was on the brink of losing state funding and Alan invited action to BESE from the profession and LPA stepped up to the plate.” But, he explained, “This last minute save does not ensure the future of the program.”

additional training and/or experience. This decision should be made by judge or attorney,” he said. “Or perhaps by a psychologist who can determine if the question the judge or attorney have at bar can be better answered by the psychologist with or without evaluation.”

“Forensic evaluations are not paid by health care insurance and do not fall under HIPAA. They simply aren’t part of health care,” Hannie said.

In a related issue, the *Times* reported in April that Medicaid psychologists had contacted the DHH Medicaid Director about cuts to psychological assessments. A source told the *Times* that with the change to Magellan fees had been cut by 25 percent for therapy and by 42 percent for evaluations.



Forensic psychologist Dr. Jesse Lambert (R) speaks to the LPA Executive Committee regarding psychological evaluations. Dr. Paula Zeanah, incoming Director (L) and Ex. Director Gail Lowe listen to the review.



# Dr. Courtney’s Suit Goes Forward But Without Angie’s List

Negative Comments Included General Criticism of Medical Psychologists, PsyD

In March, 2012, Dr. John Courtney, a member of the psychology board, filed a lawsuit for libel against Angie’s List and Dr. Bartholomew Vereb, a psychiatrist.

In early June Dr. Courtney forwarded a copy of the complaint to the *Times* and invited the publisher to speak with his attorney, Nakisha Ervin-Knott. In a recent phone conversation Ms. Ervin-Knott said that the part of the suit against Angie’s List had been dismissed, even though the judge deliberated for a considerable time, she explained.

She noted that Angie’s List was considered protected under the Common Decency Act that was created for blogs, she explained. Section 230 of the Act states that websites will not be treated as the publisher of comments posted by third parties if the online site is “passive.”

“We are very disappointed that Angie’s List can hide under this,” Ervin-Knott said, explaining that Angie’s List advertises that they verify data and check to ensure that comments are not coming from competitors. Ms. Erin-Knott said, “We understand that the judge’s hands were tied, but we are disappointed. Angie’s List says ‘we check’ and ‘we verify information,’ ‘we vet information.’” She explained that they did not view Angie’s List as passive and this was why they took this direction.

Both attorney Ervin-Knott and Dr. Courtney indicated to the *Times* that the suit would be going forward regarding Dr. Vereb’s comments.

Dr. Courtney explained to the *Times* that he had never seen the man [Vereb] or his family. In the legal complaint, the attorney wrote, “Dr. Courtney, contrary to Dr. Vereb’s comments, had never met nor treated Dr. Vereb or anyone in Dr. Vereb’s family.”

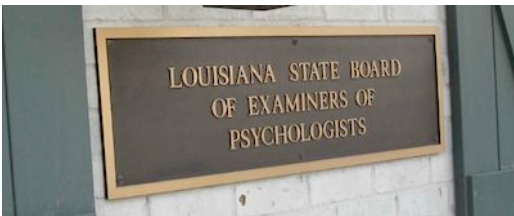
Also in the complaint, Dr. Vereb’s comments on Angie’s List were described. “I was referred to this joker by my child’s school. From what I understood, this is “mental health professional.” Courtney is NOT a doctor, nor is he a Ph.D. Is some para-professional, not much of anything, who has gained, through legislative shenanigans, the ability to prescribe psychotropic medications. There is no indication that he has any idea

of what the side effects may be ... and he is not licensed to treat those side effects in any case. He is, in sum, a quack.”

Dr. Vereb also is reported to have posted, “This is not a physician. He is not qualified. He is a quack.” And, “These people are not doctors. They have no medical training whatsoever. They misrepresent themselves.” And, “They are, quite frankly, dangerous. They have no qualifications whatsoever.”

Angie’s List did not immediately remove the comments after Courtney alerted them to the problem, the claim noted. Instead, they required that Courtney join their “business group” in order to get the author’s identification. Then it took until February 8, 2012 until Angie’s List deleted Vereb’s comments.

In the cause of action, Dr. Vereb is alleged to have intentionally and maliciously, posted false and defamatory comments ...” and that “Dr. Vereb’s comments are defamatory since they have injured the Plaintiff’s personal and professional reputations, and have caused personal humiliation, ...” and “ ... harmed Plaintiff’s standing in the medical community.”



FROM THE MINUTES:  
*A potpourri of things from the Board: May 2012*

**Legislative Coordinator:** Dr. Courtney and Ms. Parker brought the Board up to date on all legislative matters. The Board discussed Senator Morrell’s resolution. The Board also carefully reviewed and discussed the legal advice issued by Lloyd Lunceford, Esquire, regarding the practice of behavior analysis. The Board agreed to request an attorney general opinion regarding the practice of behavior analysis.

**Liaison to Professional Organizations and Boards:** The Board discussed following the recommendation of ASPPB and changing the rules to only accept APA accredited doctoral programs and/or APA accredited internships. The Board also agreed that if this change is made, there would be a grandfathering phase of approximately 2-3 years.

**Long Range Planning Meeting:** Dr. Matthews moved to create a rule change to incorporate the criminal child abuse statutes which require psychologists be mandatory reporters in Title 46. Dr. Matthews moved that this matter be added to the Long Range Planning agenda. The motion was unanimously approved.

## New CE Guidelines Being Reviewed

Executive Director of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, Ms. Kelly Parker, noted to the *Times* that the board continues with their goal of updating the continuing education guidelines and a draft of the new program is being reviewed by state officials now. However, any actual changes are many months away at this time, she explained.

Proposed changes will track the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) proposals on “competence and licensure” from a task force on “Maintenance of Competence and Licensure.”

ASPPB authors noted that 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.

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.” Additionally a larger variety of development activities will be allowed, such as peer consultation, practice outcome monitoring, and professional activities.



“Hola,” a Goldendoodle owned by Dr. Courtney gives Executive Director Kelly Parker a “high five.”



## National News Briefs

## NAPPP Sponsors Petition To Push For ICD-10-CM Codes in Mental Health

### Notes Problems with DSM For Psychologists In Healthcare Reform

The National Alliance of Professional Psychology Providers (NAPPP) is sponsoring a petition and asking psychologists to help push for a change from the DSM to the World Health Organization ICD-10 codes for the diagnosis of mental disorders.

The NAPPP leadership said in a letter to members that the ICD-10 presents worldwide standards, and will ensure that doctoral healthcare providers will use the same diagnostic system. NAPPP leaders wrote, "Use of ICD-10 will also eliminate the political controversies that encumber frequent revisions to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM)."

The NAPPP leadership also said, "Failure to use ICD-10-CM by psychologists would marginalize their services in the health care reform movement." They also said that using the DSM-IV psychiatric labels have had a negative impact on the practice of psychology.

The "Rationale for the Adoption of ICD-10-CM Criteria for the Diagnosis of Mental Disorders" and the petition is available on the NAPPP website at [www.nappp.org/ICD.html](http://www.nappp.org/ICD.html).

## VA To Hire 1,600 Mental Health Professionals

According to a news announcement from the American Psychological Association, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is planning on hiring approximately 1,600 new mental health professionals.

The article notes that psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, and nurses will be added to its workforce.

"APA member Antonette Zeiss, PhD, the chief consultant for the VA Office of Mental Health Services, described the initiative as an 'unparalleled effort' by the VA to expand its mental health workforce rapidly," reported the APA Spotlight news article.

The VA is moving quickly and, according to the report, will select the majority of new professionals by the end of 2012.

## Judge Dismisses Suit Against APA

On May 30, 2012, a U.S. District Judge granted a motion to dismiss a lawsuit against APA brought by a group of members who said they had been misled into paying the "Special Assessment" as if mandatory. Disgruntled members had discovered that the assessment must be voluntary because it was used for political action. In his decision, the Judge agreed that a reasonable person would view the assessment to be required, but he noted that the plaintiffs would need to amend their action.

However, he wrote, since the suit was filed in DC, and DC consumer protection laws would be unfavorable to the plaintiffs, he ruled to dismiss the action.



Dr. Zimmermann discusses issues at a psychology board meeting last fall. His appointment in 2011 was confirmed by the LA Senate in June.

## Dr. Marc Zimmermann Confirmed

Dr. Marc Zimmermann, who has been serving on the psychology board since his appointment last July by Governor Jindal, was confirmed by the Senate in June, 2012.

Dr. Zimmermann is a resident of Baton Rouge and is owner of Zimmermann Psychology Clinic. He had said that one of his goals for his service would be to "help improve the board's efficiency and also its effectiveness at staying clearly within its mandates." He also expressed his concern with psychologists having to deal with bogus complaints.

During the 2010 election Dr. Zimmermann also noted, "The board is dealing with great turmoil in the profession. An even and temperate attitude will be needed to transverse this period."

## Medical Psychologists In Allied Practitioner Health Program

Act 431 places medical psychologists in the allied practitioner health program, assessing fees for the program's operation.

"In addition to all other assessments attendant to the issuance, renewal, or reinstatement of a license, permit, certificate, or registration issued by the board pursuant to this Part," and lists the following:

"The board shall charge and collect an annual assessment of twenty-five dollars from each medical psychologist, physician assistant, and podiatrist to be utilized for the identification, monitoring, assistance, and procurement of treatment of medical psychologists, physician assistants, and podiatrists suffering from substance abuse, chemical dependency, psychiatric conditions, or physical deficiencies which may interfere with their ability to practice their profession with reasonable skill and safety."



## The Specialty for the Coming Integrated Care Models in Primary Care Centers and Hospitals

Medical Psychologists are post doctorate trained and licensed psychologists with training in psychopharmacology, behavioral medicine, and health psychology. A medical psychologist is more than a psychopharmacologist and clinical psychologist and they are prepared for the mainstream healthcare system.

They have passed a national oral and written examination and have completed a preceptorship.

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Psychology & Cyberspace, Cont'd

interactions. “It’s surprising how real the interaction seems after you become familiar with the interface,” he said.

Dr. Stevens has always been intrigued by the idea of virtual reality, he told the *Times*. The “virtual world” has grown in popularity in recent years. It provides a digital setting where people assume a character, called avatars, to interact with others, experiment, or learn a new task with the help of a creative, novel cyberspace setting, he said.

One of the most popular sites on the web is Second Life. People assume an avatar identity and interact with others in this digitally created environment, he explained.

“It’s also an interesting creative outlet,” said Stevens. “You can be creative in a Super Legos sort of way, building things. Some people are quite artistic in their creations. It’s interesting to just be a tourist in Second Life, the biggest, most developed virtual world.”

Some of the areas in Second Life are beautifully crafted and very appealing, worth

touring as a visitor he explained. “The Mayan temple complex of Chicken Itza, the Cotton Club and the 1920’s area of Harlem, a lunar landing site, and Foul Whisperings – a Macbeth site ... these are very nice tourist areas that people have put a lot of time into.”

Dr. Stevens, whose research interests includes human cognition, has used the virtual setting to conduct some of his psychological experiments.

“I’ve been using virtual reality programs to conduct memory research.” He hopes that his work can uncover some ways to use this virtual technology to produce better online classes.

“It could possibly point to ways to produce better ebooks, too,” he noted. A recent study examined how ebooks lose contextual cues that are present in real books, Stevens explained. This makes it harder to learn material from ebooks. “Virtual reality gives you a lot of control over cues and there may be ways to make computer presentations easier to recall rather than harder.”

Dr. Stevens also has used



The virtual world setting created by Dr. Rick Stevens. This setting exists in Second Life and resembles the U. of Louisiana Monroe Library. Dr. Stevens’ avatar is the small figure in front.

the technology in his graduate classes, having students develop a class presentation in virtual space. “I have them do a presentation or two,” he explained. “It is partly to familiarize them with the process and some are less nervous to present that way.” His students become familiar with the virtual setting in the fall, and when he has the same group of students for research methods, he has them create virtual experiments.

"The cyber space idea, portraying web addresses and computing processes as physical objects

arranged in and moving around in a physical space, is a way to generate a mental model of some fairly abstract and complex computing processes,” he said.

Dr. Stevens hopes that in some ways this work can help develop cost-effective technologies for education. “It’s handy, kind of fun, and because of years of budget cuts we have no lab equipment or rooms. It’s a relatively cheap replacement. There is a learning curve and it would be hard to work with large classes this way, but it works well for the smaller grad classes.”

Dr. Stevens pointed out that psychological applications in this technology are growing. Virtual worlds are now being developed to treat phobias and there are studies using virtual worlds to present stimuli in physiological measures such as MRIs and PETs. There are two journals, he noted, that address the topics: *Cyberpsychology and Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*.

The University of New Orleans worked at creating six or seven “islands” or discrete teaching areas, to produce classes on virtual world interaction. “However, they had limited success at

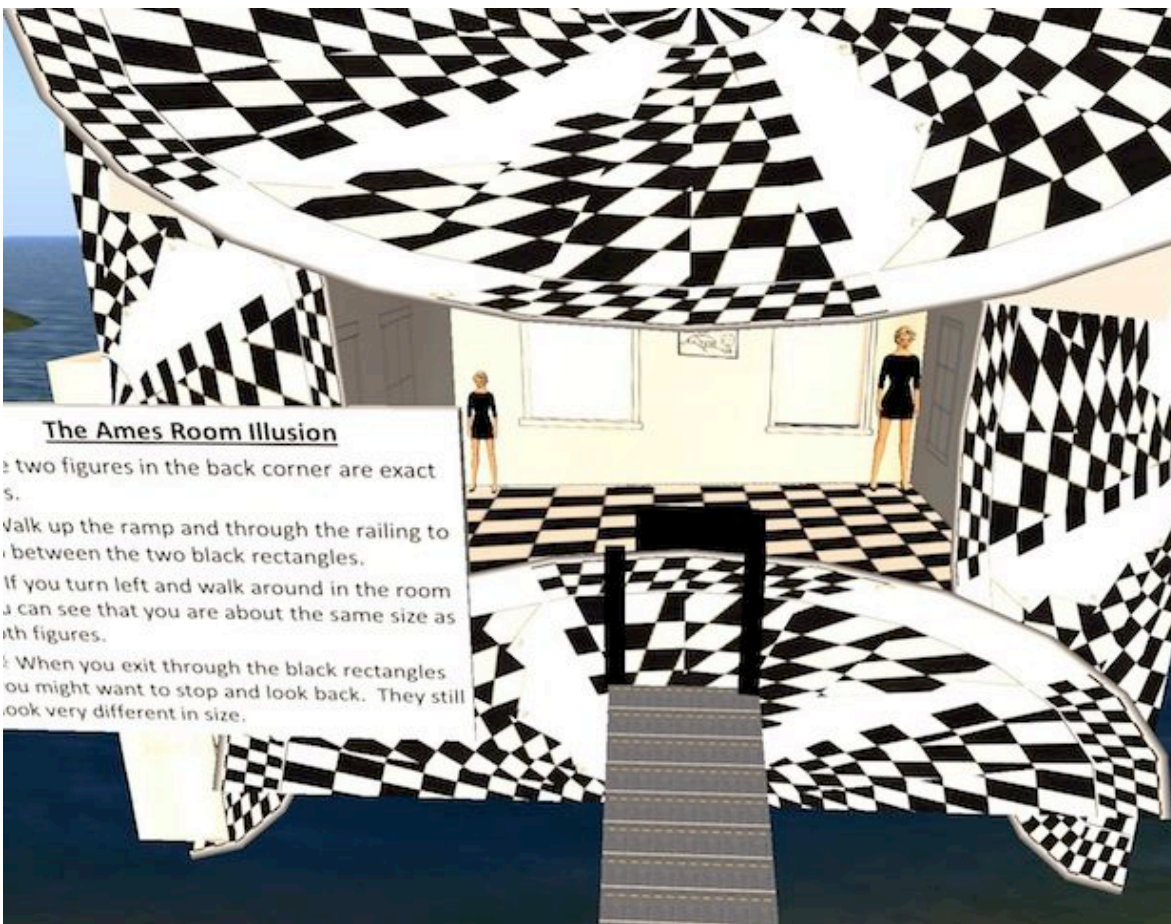
getting people to use them for teaching,” he noted.

Dr. Stevens is currently working on ideas with Dr. William Barnett, chair of Computer Information Systems at ULM. “He and I have been talking about doing a study to compare face to face, virtual world, and video setups like Google Plus’s video hangout or Go To Meeting in tasks requiring collaboration. We are just in the planning stages.”

"Virtual worlds have been slow to catch on," Stevens said. "I think it is partly the cartoonish aspect ...." And, “Non-gamers are sometimes put off at having to learn new skills to make use of virtual worlds as tools.”

However, he explained, the power of virtual world technology will likely continue due to the financial benefit of distance learning and collaboration. A new project just began in Atlanta, he noted, where 3800 students in 35 schools will get a virtual world for each class. And, “Big, international tech companies run their own private setups to collaborate on projects,” he said.

“So, in general, it is still ‘early adopter’ territory, but I think that as the software matures it will catch on,” Dr. Stevens said to the *Times*.



Dr. Rick Stevens created this version of the Ames Room Illusion for his work with virtual settings. It exists in OSGrid. “It works and you can walk around in it,” he told the *Times*.  
(Images courtesy Dr. Stevens.)



# N.O. Neuropsychologist Offers More Help In High Stakes Testing

“A-Test” Can Provide Cost-Effective Estimate of Malingering

New Orleans clinical neuro-psychologist Dr. Michael Chafetz has published another work in a series of research studies mapping out statistical reasoning for psychologists who work in high-stakes testing situations.

In this recent study he shows how “A-Test” scores can be used to judge poor effort, a situation consistent with malingering. The “A-Test” is a straightforward measure described in *The Mental Status Examination in Neurology*, by neuropsychologist Dr. F. William Black and neurologist Dr. Richard Strub, both previously at Tulane Medical School.

Chafetz’ latest study was published in the May issue of *Applied Neuropsychology*. He points out that using the approach requires very little extra cost or time and gives those in high-stakes assessments a way to double check their conclusions.

Poor effort or malingering is most common in situations where compensation is at stake. Researchers have found rates of malingering of 18 percent, 30 percent, 54 percent, to 64 percent, depending on the group and setting for an evaluation.

In “Compensation and Malingering in Traumatic Brain Injury: A Dose-Response Relationship?” a 2006 article in *The Clinical Neuropsychologist*, U. of New Orleans researchers Drs. Kevin Bianchini, Kelly Curtis, and Kevin Greve, found that the amount of the incentive was related to malingering scores.

They divided 332 patients into three groups: no incentive, limited incentive provided by State law,

and high incentive as provided by Federal law. The researchers found that cases handled under Federal workers laws showed considerably higher rates of diagnosable malingering than those cases under State law. They concluded that monetary compensation is a major motive for exaggeration.

In “To Work or Not To Work: Motivation (Not Low IQ) Determines Symptom Validity Test Findings” (*Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*), Dr. Chafetz and colleagues Drs. Erica Prentkowski and Aparna Rao, compared a group of individuals seeking disability compensation to two other groups.

The second group included those trying to find a job through job rehabilitation services. The third group was composed of people seeking to regain custody with their children. Those in all three groups also had low IQs.

In comparing these three groups, the researchers found major differences between those seeking compensation and those striving to regain custody of their children or looking for a job, on measures of effort.

Those in the group seeking compensation show high rates of failure on tests of effort, suggesting that these tests have usefulness in pinpointing those who are exaggerating their problems. This is often a difficult determination when psychologists must decide if a person with a low IQ is truly disabled.

The complexity and seriousness of the issues have not escaped researchers. An error in classifying a person can have lasting and unfair consequences, Chafetz and others have noted.

The context is further complicated because emotional and mental problems are some of the more subjective of all illnesses, and the most difficult to separate from exaggeration, lacking concrete physical evidence.

To protect against this, Dr. Chafetz uses two statistics he refers to as “specificity” and “sensitivity.” Specificity in this context means how well a test rejects a non-malingerer, and sensitivity means how well a test can point out one with truly poor effort, Dr. Chafetz explained.

To protect against labeling an individual as malingering when he or she is truly disabled, specificity should be set high, says Dr. Chafetz, while still identifying many of those who are motivated by compensation only.



Photo Erica Prentkowski

Dr. Michael Chafetz (R) looks over some of his work with colleague Dr. Art Rosenkrantz at offices in N.O.

## New Community College To Be Created By Act 760

According to the legislative digest this new law “creates the Central La. Technical Community College as a multi-campus, public institution of postsecondary education under the supervision and management of the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges (LCTCS Bd. of Supervisors), subject to the appropriate approval of and oversight by the Bd. of Regents. Specifies that the creation is effective July 1, 2012, or at the appropriate time thereafter as determined by formal action taken by the LCTCS board.”

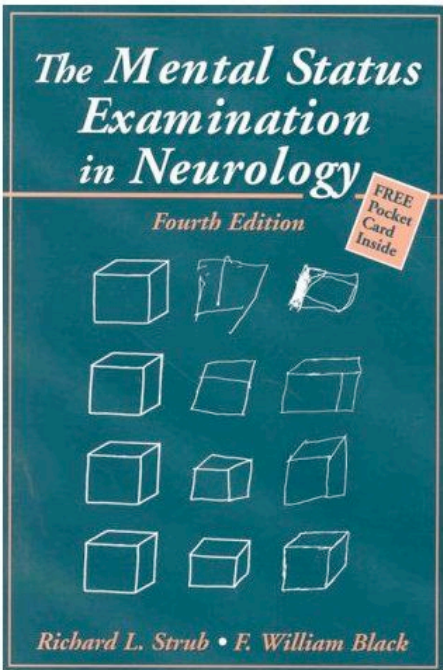
The law “Provides that the Central La. Technical Community College:

- (1) Shall provide a comprehensive educational program which may include career and technical education and training, workforce development training, adult basic education, continuing education, general education, associate degree programs, college transfer degree programs, and other educational programs and opportunities.
- (2) May grant certificates, diplomas, associate degrees, and associate transfer degrees as authorized by the LCTCS Bd. of Supervisors and the appropriate regional accrediting body as recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Education.
- (3) Shall provide educational programs and services through the Alexandria, Avoyelles, Huey P. Long, Lamar Salter, Oakdale, and Shelby M. Jackson campuses of the La. Technical College, and any other postsecondary campus or institution which may become a part of the Central La. Technical Community College or its primary service delivery area.

## Targeted School Obesity Program Defined By Act 288

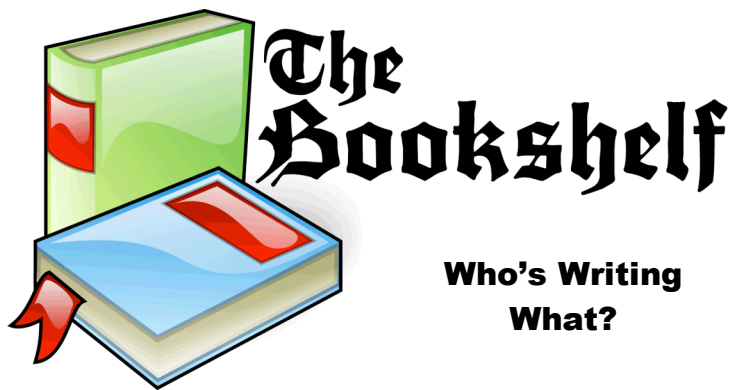
Act 288 instructs the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish a targeted school health program for the purpose of reducing childhood obesity. “The program shall be established for the purpose of reducing childhood obesity and shall bring together school administrators, teachers, other school employees, students, families, and community members to assess health needs, set priorities, and plan, implement, and evaluate school health activities directed toward this purpose.”

The program elements include counseling, psychological, and social services, health, nutrition, family and community involvement, according to the Act.



Dr. F. William Black’s book, coauthored with Dr. R. Strub, is currently in its fourth edition.





## *International Handbook of Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders*

*Johnny L. Matson  
and Peter Sturmey  
Editors*

*Springer, 2011*

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

Thousands of new research articles and papers appear yearly about etiology, assessment, and treatment of autism and related disorders, making it nearly impossible for the conscientious clinician to stay current or the research scientist to cover all bases in this explosion of information.

"The field of ASD is moving rapidly and so an effort that provides a broad overview ... is the major contribution to the field," Dr. Matson told the *Times* about the *Handbook*.

"... while there have been other handbooks on this highly visible topic most have largely been from a medical perspective," he said. "Given that most of the research and clinical advances to date have been on psychological assessment and treatment we thought a book taking that approach filled a big gap in the literature."

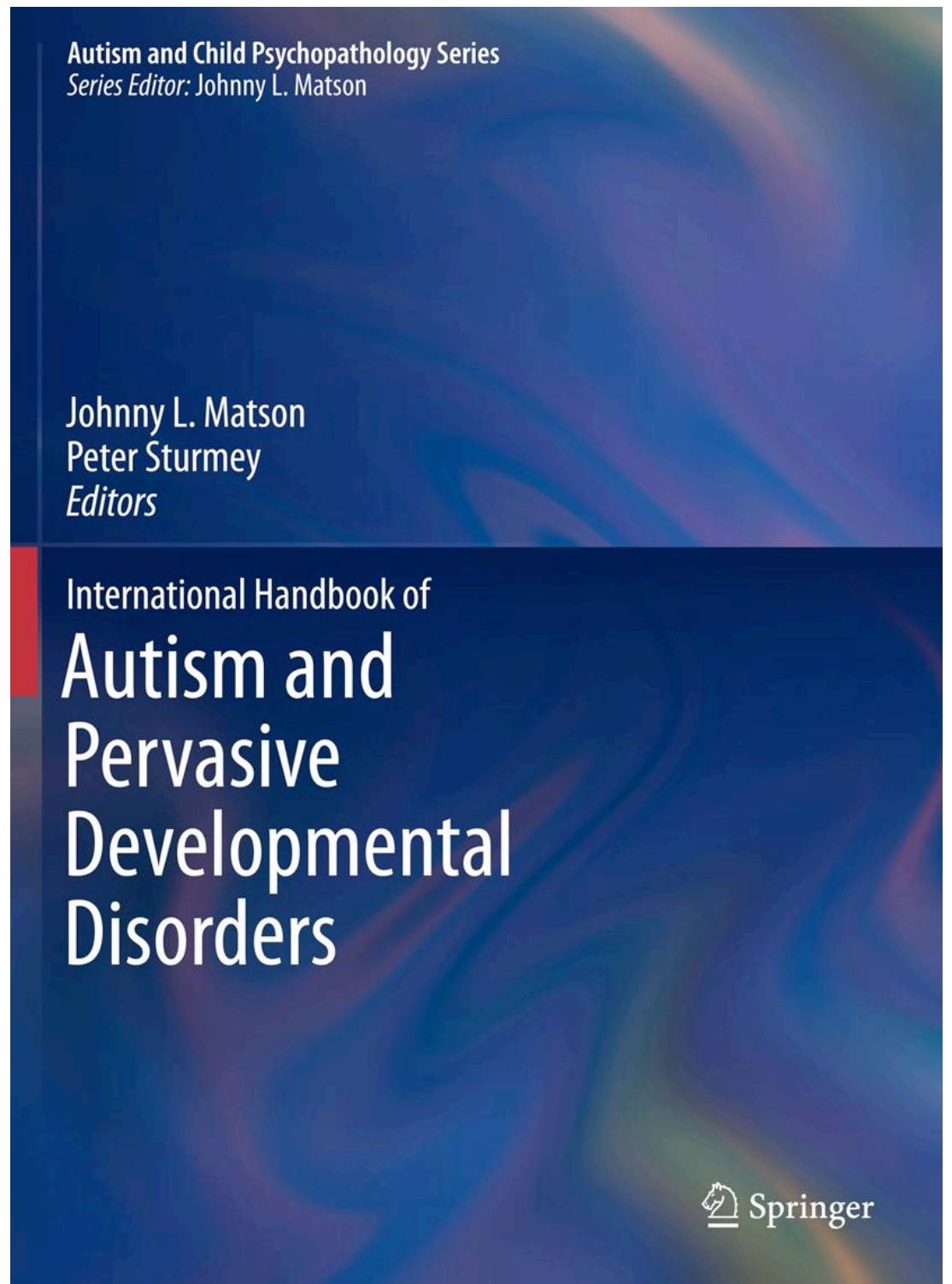
The *International Handbook* meets this goal easily, providing expert analysis of current findings and a comprehensive, up-to-date review of the growing volume of information that readers will appreciate.

As is his style, Matson and his contributors provide clear, solid information in applied psychological science, thoroughly gathered, reviewed, and synthesized. He and his editors and authors lay the information before the reader in digestible subtopics with clear theoretical connections.

Psychologists, psychiatrists, researchers, behavior analysts, educators – will all find this work indispensable, whether they diagnose, treat, or research new questions in this demanding and sometimes confusing area of science and practice.

For those who like books, the *International Handbook* is a treasure chest. Matson draws on his decades of expertise and connections in the national and global scientific community. He brings together a who's who of experts and 80 contributors from across the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, and others including Norway, Ireland, Israel, Sweden, Italy, Japan and New Zealand.

Contributors are not only multicultural but come from a variety of disciplines. Psychology, psychiatry,



psychobiology, neurobiology, behavior analysis, occupational therapy, and nursing are included among the experts.

The writing is straightforward and clear, even considering the heavy lifting that comes with a comprehensive coverage of this topic, through 33 chapters and with over 500 pages. There is very little waffling even with highly complex issues. Ongoing clarifications or controversies are presented clearly.

A wealth of references is included, but not so many as to weight down the reasoning of the narrative or to become meaningless. Chapters are surprisingly consistent in style and tone, given the variety of authors. The *Handbook* can serve as a reference book for those well versed in the subject of autism, or as a thorough training text for those who are filling gaps in their information base.

The *International Handbook* is divided into three sections, beginning with the overview, history, and background. Part II is "Nosology and Etiology," and serves as the preparatory and theoretical section, and gives an emphasis to applied research, critical background concepts, and theoretical subjects.

Part III includes the science and practice of assessment and 15 chapters on treatment, even though part three is named assessment.

**Cont next pg**

*"... while there have been other handbooks on this highly visible topic, most have largely been from a medical perspective. Given that most of the research and clinical advances to date have been on psychological assessment and treatment we thought a book taking that approach filled a big gap in the literature."*

*Dr. Johnny Matson*



Bookshelf, cont’d

Included is “Prevalence and the Controversy” where authors review the methodology and challenges in estimating prevalence. They explain the differences between prevalence and incidence, and discuss controversies surrounding the different ways of judging the changing rates of autism, an insightful look at variations in rates, and the impact of public awareness.

Also in the first section is a chapter addressing the overlap of “Autism Spectrum Disorders and Intellectual Disability.”

Part II opens with “The Genetics of Autism.” The chapter fulfills the promise to “... make the fast-paced, expanding field of the genetics of autism accessible to those practicing who help children ...” The authors accomplish this well by providing an overview of genetics, and blending with research on autism.

The section also includes, “Behavioural, Biopsychosocial, and Cognitive Models of Autism Spectrum Disorders,” a review of the models linking biology and behavior in explaining autism, including “Theory of Mind Hypothesis,” “Executive Dysfunction Hypothesis,” and “Weak Central Coherence Hypothesis.”

Dr. Dennis Dixon, a PhD from the LSU program, now the director at the Center from Autism Related Disorders in Tarzana, California, opens Part III with “Early Detection of Autism Spectrum Disorders.” Dixon and coauthors note that early detection is essential for treatment and review assessment tools needed for this important goal.

LSU authors Julie Worley and Johnny Matson review the major assessment tools and their psychometric properties in “Diagnostic Instruments for Core Features of ASD,” Chapter 13. They provide a detailed list and review 29 instruments including limitations and uses.

Chapters in a variety of treatment topics include understanding moderators of treatment outcomes, fad therapies, physically active living, and self-injurious behavior.

The book concludes with, “Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder,” LSU doctoral candidates Sara Mahan and Alison Kozlowski walk the readers through the less common topic of adults with ASD, explaining challenges and issues in quality of life and independence.

Editors Matson and Sturmey acknowledged LSU’s Julie Worley and Alison Kozlowski for assistance in manuscript preparation, both who were also contributors.

“This book has 33 chapters since it was a handbook. As a result there was a lot more coordination needed due to length,” Dr. Matson explained to the *Times*. “Also, the book is international in authorship and allowed us to work with colleagues from around the globe. It was a very interesting and enjoyable task and will hopefully prove to be an aid to professionals in the field.”

Dr. Johnny Matson is an expert in mental retardation, autism, and severe emotional disorders in children and adolescents. He has produced 600+ publications including 37 books. Among many duties, he is Editor-in-Chief for *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders* (Oxford England), Editor-in-Chief for *Research in Developmental Disabilities* (Oxford, England), and series editor for Springer’s Autism and Child Psychopathology Series, of which the *International Handbook of Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders* is a part.

His career has been dedicated to improving the lives of children.



Photo by A. Dooley

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## Regional Meetings News

The Crescent City Area Psychological Society (CCAPS) will meet Friday, July 20. The group will gather for happy hour at 6 pm and have dinner at 7 pm. The speaker will be Gail Gillespie, presenting on computer security. For information email Dr. Carolyn Weyand, [carolynweyand@gmail.com](mailto:carolynweyand@gmail.com).

The Monroe Area Society of Psychologist met June 27 at 11:00 am at the Atrium/Brandy House in Monroe. The group will be meeting again in the fall, possibly in October, reported Dr. Lou'uan Gollop-Brown, from the Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Department at LaTech. She noted that the group plans to have quarterly meetings.

## LSUHSC's Dr. Larzelere Explains Primary Care Psychology

Dr. Michele Larzelere, of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, Department of Family Medicine, explained the evolving role of the primary care psychologist to participants at a February 2012, online conference for LPA.



*Courtesy photo*

Dr. Larzelere pointed to terms used across the country for this role, and some level of confusion that accompanies in this changing perspective. Names to describe this role include "integrated primary care," "behavioral medicine," "mental health integration," "medical psychology," and "collaborative primary care."

She explained that the typical job duties of the primary care psychologist would often include interventions for mental health conditions but also behavioral medicine. A primary care psychologist would also often teach brief interventions to primary care staff as well as be an advocate for prevention and wellness in both mental and physical areas. When used effectively, the psychologist will help with "high-utilizing" patients, work with those patients with chronic illnesses, identify those requiring more specialized mental health services, and screen for medical services such as surgical or pain medicine use.

She also spoke to the group about the psychologist need to draw on organizational skills in team-building, communication methods, psychosocial education for staff and physicians, and keeping colleagues focused on evidence-base, among others.

In a review of the important reasons to integrate psychologists into primary care, Dr. Larzelere pointed to research that 60 percent of medical visits "have a strong psychological or psychosocial component," "that behavioral and mental health impact physical health and vice versa," and that "people are dying of behaviorally influenced diseases." She said the research suggests that a "... 30 to 60 percent decrease in medical utilization can be achieved with integrated behavioral health," and also this "one-stop shopping for patients prevents the 50 to 90 percent drop-off at point of referral..."

She said that if the mental health/behavioral health component in medical/surgical costs were successfully treated nationwide, the amount saved would exceed the entire current budget for mental health.

Dr. Michele Larzelere is a licensed clinical psychologist who along with her duties is Assistant Professor at the Departments of Family Medicine and Psychiatry at the LSU School of Medicine.

## Loyola Professor Dr. Eskine Studies Relationship of Food To Moral Identity

*(Loyola Press Release)*

Kendall J. Eskine, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology at Loyola University New Orleans, recently had his manuscript, "Wholesome Foods and Wholesome Morals? Organic Foods Reduce Pro-social Behavior and Harshen Moral Judgments," accepted for publication by Social Psychological and Personality Science, a peer-reviewed journal in social and personality psychology.

Eskine's research is the first to demonstrate that exposure to organic foods can influence moral thinking and doing. "Food is a central component of daily life. Going beyond nutrition, food connects people to their heritage and environment; people celebrate with food, plan their days around it and even organize romantic encounters along various confectionery delights," Eskine said.

After viewing a few organic foods, comfort foods or control foods, participants who were exposed to organic foods volunteered significantly less time to help a needy stranger, and they judged moral transgressions significantly harsher than those who viewed non-organic foods. These results suggest that exposure to organic foods may lead people to affirm their moral identities, which reduces their desire to be altruistic.

## Dr. Tramontana Presents At American Society of Clinical Hypnosis in NC

Dr. Tramontana presented a CEU workshop at the annual meeting of the American Society for Clinical Hypnosis (ASCH) in Charlotte, NC, in March, 2012.



*Courtesy photo*

The workshop was titled "Hypnosis and Self-hypnosis Training to Enhance Peak Performance in Sports and in Life." Mitch Smith, LCSW, a long time ASCH faculty member in the area of sports hypnosis was co-presenter.

The goal of that Advanced Workshop was to train a small group of therapists already using sports hypnosis to employ new scripts and strategies, and a much larger group of therapists using hypnosis for clinical issues, important for interested in expanding their practice to working with athletes.

Dr. Tramontana is currently the Vice President of the New Orleans Society of Clinical Hypnosis and secures presenters for the quarterly dinner meetings. Tramontana explained to the *Times* that Dr. Joel Marcus from Oschner Hospital will be presenting in the next few months to the group on the topic of his use of hypnosis for easing the pain and decreasing eating problems with cancer patients.

The group will also be hosting a presentation by Thay Dao Quang, a Buddhist Monk from the Tam Boa Temple in Baton Rouge, Dr. Tramontana told the *Times*.

Dr. Tramontana currently serves as Director in the state psychological association.



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# PT Interviews

## New LPA Pres

### Dr. Bryan Gros

(Editor's note: Dr. Bryan Gros takes over the presidency this month for the Louisiana Psychological Association. He agreed to an interview and here is what he told us about what he sees ahead.)

**PT:** What are some of your main plans and objectives for the presidential year?

**BG:** An overall, *broad* strategic vision is one of my main objectives. We could benefit from better defining, or better understanding, who we are, where we are, who we want to be, and where we want to be in the future.

I think that that's a very broad strategic plan obviously, and we're not going to be attaining that in one year. I'd like to set the table for the next few years, with the help of the EC and members. I believe we need a strategic plan. We've actually discussed this in the EC, so that we have a good idea of exactly where we want to go.

Also, and related to that, and the EC has discussed this also, we need to be stronger in promoting psychology to the public.

For just a little bit of the background, I was looking at the mission statement—To support and advance psychology as a science, as a profession, and as a means of promoting health, education, and human welfare. Obviously that includes the public in Louisiana. I think the public sometimes gets the short end of the stick. So, I think we can do a better job of that.

**PT:** What do you see as some of your biggest challenges?

**BG:** I've thought about that. I think my answer now would be much different than it was a few years ago.

One of the biggest goals and perhaps challenges is in membership recruitment and retention.

The loss of members is something happening nationally and I think it is a challenge we can overcome in time, but it relates to the other goals we have.

One of the other issues is communication. One of my primary goals is to encourage more communication between members and the EC. I do not want us [EC] to forget whom we represent.

I'd like more openness and transparency and also more communication with the members whenever possible. We've made some strides here. But I'd like more. I want to know what members think and want.



Dr. Bryan Gros (R) incoming President for the Louisiana Psychological Association, listens to out-going President Dr. Phil Griffin at a recent Executive Committee meeting of the group.

Another challenge is continuing to be more proactive. We are often reactive and in fact I think we do a pretty good job when we are put in that position. But if we can develop a more proactive approach in developing our goals and plans, and then in reaching goals, this will be a very good outcome.

**PT:** Do you have any plans regarding Act 251?

**BG:** The issue of 251 is quite challenging. LPA obviously has a mandate from the members to actively explore bringing back the practice of psychology by prescribing psychologists to the regulation of the psychology board. That's going to take a lot

of strategy. The EC and I will not lose sight of this. I'm not going to lose sight of it. But it is going to require strategy, timing, and developing relationships.

**PT:** What will you be doing to heal the rift, between those who support Act 251 and those who have opposed it?

**BG:** Time and cooler heads can be very helpful. And one of my goals is to make LPA more welcoming and attractive to psychologists who don't practice in traditional clinical settings, such as IO [Industrial-organizational], academic psychologists, consulting psychologists.

We also need to make LPA attractive again to those with prescription privileges. LPA also needs to promote and be welcoming to those people pursuing prescription privileges.

I think we are missing too much in not being attractive to these. And I want LPA again to be attractive to prescribing psychologists.

I'd like to develop more open communication with LAMP [Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists].

I would like for LPA to develop even more viable reasons for any and all psychologists to join and become active.

## New Study Links Sleep and Stroke Risk

In a three-year study of 5,666 adults at the U. of Alabama at Birmingham, researchers have found that stroke risk was four times higher for those with less than six hours of sleep at night, compared to those getting seven or eight hours of rest, independent of body mass index or other known risk factors. The results were reported at the SLEEP 2012 in Boston during June.

In the November 2011 issue of the *Times*, sleep expert Dr. William Waters explained, "The one thing that will reliably destroy sleep is stress."

"No matter what the psychiatrists say, it is all continuous," he said. "If you want to take a point on the continuum and call it a disease you can. But stress—the psychophysiological responses—are aimed at getting you to deal with threat," he said. "And then how likely are you to go to sleep?"

Researchers at Louisiana Tech in Ruston have a program of research attempting to help unravel some of the complex issues in this area with college students. "What we do is look at the impact of sleep quality and sleep durations, and various outcomes," said LaTech psychology professor, Dr. Walter Buboltz. "We look at how it relates to college adjustment, physical health, mental health, food consumption, and attention."

Dr. Denise Sharon has served as President of the Southern Sleep Society and is Director at the Comprehensive Sleep Medicine Center of the Gulf Coast. "Sleep is a 1/3 of our lives," she said. She works to help those with obstructive sleep apnea syndrome, restless legs syndrome, narcolepsy, circadian rhythm disorders, insomnia, and other sleep disorders associated with medical or psychiatric disorders. Dr. Sharon is Associate Professor of Medicine, Sleep Medicine Fellowship Faculty, and Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans. Sleep is a behavior, she said, and it is an important one for health and safety.

Dr. William Waters, long-time expert in the area of sleep would agree. "The whole country is sleep deprived," he explained to the *Times*.



# --WEBPAGES--

(Editor's note: "Webpages" is a feature that highlights the web presence of those in the Louisiana psychology community.)

The first thing that becomes clear when surfing around Dr. David Kidder's website is how engaging and accessible he seems, and how at ease you become while learning about this licensed psychologist from Slidell, Louisiana.

His website tells the visitor exactly what Dr. Kidder does and how he approaches his work with clients, what he has to offer and what types of services he provides. This openness includes his credentials, pictures of his office, directions, and a section on "About Dr. Kidder."

Dr. David Kidder received his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Tennessee. He has worked in a variety of settings including a community mental health center, a public psychiatric hospital, a college counseling center, adult and child residential treatment centers, and has been in private practice in Slidell for the past 22 years. He is a member of the American Psychological Association. [...] He is an active member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church. He is married and has two adult children. Dr. Kidder enjoys playing tennis, canoeing, hiking in the mountains, acting, and program development.

The left main menu is easy to keep in mind, and lists topics such as ADHD, Anxiety/Worry, Increasing Happiness, and Stress Management.

On his landing page we are treated to a nice photo, and also the cover of his relaxation video, "Eastern Mountain's Relaxation." (He did earn his PhD from U. of Tennessee!)

The site is also direct and open in style when it comes to describing Dr. Kidders' services. Potential clients



Dr. David Kidder

and visitors will get details and straight talk about what is offered.

Welcome! Dr. Kidder is a counseling psychologist who provides a wide range of psychological services including individual, and family counseling with adults, teenagers, and children. He has been practicing for 26 years, 21 of which have been in the

Home
Clinical Psychological Services
About Dr. Kidder
Member's Area
ADHD
Anxiety /Worry
Increasing Happiness
Parenting Education
Stress Management
Articles on mental health issues
Resources & Links
Disclaimer & Copyright
Site Map

Slidell and New Orleans area. Dr. Kidder sees many adults for treatment of depression, anxiety, post traumatic stress disorder, and relationship problems. He uses cognitive-behavioral, and client-centered approaches in counseling. He utilizes Prolonged Exposure Therapy and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing when appropriate in the treatment of reactions to trauma. He uses a variety of approaches in the treatment of anxiety disorders: relaxation training, thought re-training, emotional re-processing, exposure therapy, systematic desensitization, and behavior modification. Dr. Kidder uses a structured, behavioral, skills-oriented approach to marital

therapy. Family therapy, play therapy, and parent consultation for behavior management are provided in the treatment of children. Psychological testing is available for a number of concerns: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, gifted evaluation, and learning disability evaluation among others. Prior to hurricane Katrina he provided consulting services to Bethlehem Children's Treatment Center, a residential program for troubled children and youth in Eastern New Orleans.

The second thing you notice is how Dr. Kidder's website is a university in and of itself. The title on the top notes, "Self-help Encyclopedia."

And it is certainly that. It seems that almost anything a potential counseling client needs to know or understand is right there.

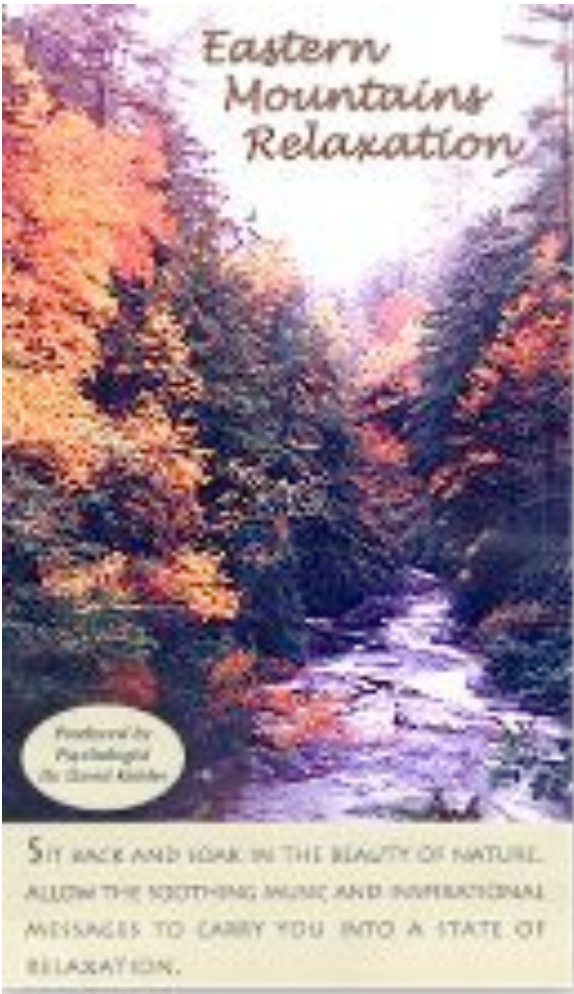
Dr. Kidder has authored helpful articles for clients and visitors, and offers them on the home page under his topics "Stress Management," "Parenting Matters," and "General Mental Health Information." He uses a wealth of links and resources, including the National Resource Center on ADHD Library, CHADD website, and the ADD Warehouse.

### STRESS MANAGEMENT

- [Introduction to Stress Management](#)
- [Body Scanning Relaxation Skill](#)
- [Cue Controlled Relaxation Skill](#)
- [Deep Breathing Relaxation Skill](#)
- [Mindfulness Meditation](#)
- [Progressive Muscle Relaxation](#)
- [Relaxing Imagery](#)
- [The Relaxation Response](#)
- [Resources on Stress Management](#)
- [Thought Stopping to Decrease Worry](#)
- [Coping with Insomnia](#)

### PARENTING MATTERS

- [Getting Your Child to Obey](#)
  - [Effective Use of Time Out](#)
  - [Managing Temper Tantrums](#)
  - [Anger Management](#)
  - [School Interventions for ADHD](#)
  - [Sibling Rivalry](#)
  - [Memos From Your Child](#)
  - [Memos From Your Teenager](#)
  - [A Message from Your Pediatrician](#)
- This link takes you to information and provided by the American Academy o ADHD, Autism, Learning Disabilities, development.



It seems clear that Dr. David Kidder enjoys teaching, educating, and sharing information and his site portrays this asset very nicely. We learn that he has provided many educational programs for the community including Parenting Matters: A Support Group, a bimonthly Boy Talk (changes in puberty), and a six part television series on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder which he produced for the St. Tammany Government Access Channel.

In the "Members Areas" he uses the technology of the web to allow potential clients to download forms, those for patient agreement, parent initial contact letter, children's rating scales, and others. This is wonderfully thoughtful since clients not only can take the time to fully understand what they might be signing, but it saves a great deal of their time at the office.

The website communicates not only information and facts, but the theme that comes across in the subtext is loud and clear. Here is a psychologist who enjoys assisting others, who is open, genuine and qualified to help.

Visit at DrKidder.com.

# DrKidder.com

## Psychological Services

[Counseling](#)[Testing/Evaluation](#)[Parenting Education](#)[Stress Management](#)



# Up-Coming Events

## 2012 APA Annual Convention In Orlando Florida, August 2 - 5

### Keynotes by Brownell, Wing

The American Psychological Association will hold its annual convention in Orlando, Florida, August 2 through 5. Convention topics will include, "Eating and exercise, the lively mind, interdisciplinary science, hurting and healing, fairness and justice, inter-professional practice and more. Dozens of sessions will focus on the latest "how-to" strategies, emerging subfields, using new technology and issues of special interest to early career psychologists and students," according to program officials.

APA President Suzanne Bennett Johnson, PhD, will deliver the presidential address on "increasing psychology's role in health research and health care."

Kelly D. Brownell, PhD and Rena Wing, PhD are scheduled to be honored for their achievements with the APA Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contribution to Psychology.

Brownell and Wing will give keynote addresses at the opening session. They are scheduled to speak about obesity in the country.

APA will offer continuing education opportunities for licensed psychologists and professionals from more than 80 half- and full- day training session, and more than 250 education sessions on topics including ethics, autism, clinical disorders, and health psychology.

According to coordinators, the "convention will feature a large exhibition of psychological products, publishers, testing and measurement materials, as well as practice management resources and tools. Attendees can also receive a free upper body massage, have coffee with authors and visit the Technology Exhibit (sponsored by Hewlett- Packard and Pearson) featuring the latest technological tools and techniques for psychologists." An evening at Disney's Epcot is on Friday, Aug. 3.



*Photo courtesy Dr. Nemeth*

Dr. Darlyne Nemeth (R) with then APA President Mebla Vasquez at a 2011 APA meeting of delegates. Dr. Nemeth will be attending the August APA Annual Convention and presenting her ongoing work about people along the Gulf and their experiences with environmental trauma.

## Nemeth, Ray, Whittington Present at APA Convention On Aspects of Trauma

Dr. Darlyne Nemeth will chair a symposium, "Addressing the Emotional Sequelae of Hazardous Environmental Trauma," at the coming APA Convention in Orlando. Dr. Nemeth is from Baton Rouge.

Dr. Nemeth will outline the six stages of recovery: Shock, Survival, Assessment of Basic Needs, Awareness of Loss, Susceptibility to Spin and Fraud, and Resolution.

Presenting with Nemeth will be Dr. Kelly Ray of Baton Rouge, who will discuss the need for psychotherapeutic intervention for the environmentally traumatized. Topics include "Active

**Cont next pg**



*Photo courtesy Dr. Simoneaux*

Dr. John Simoneaux (center) with son Steven (left) and son Byron (right) are frequent musical contributors to "Summer Symposium," a three-day conference presented by PTR, Dr. Simoneaux's Training firm.

## PTR's Summer Symposium July 25-27 in Lafayette

Professional Training Resources will host the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Mental Health Summer Symposium on July 25 to 27, 2010, in Lafayette at the West Pinhook Road Hilton.

This year the training includes "Hoarding" by John Simoneaux, PhD and "Intellectual Disability: Aspects of the Law that Every Mental Health Professional Should Know," by Mike Chafetz, PhD, ABPP.

Luke Elliott, PhD will present "ADHD Across the Lifespan," and John Strain, LPC, will present, "Calming the Storm: Crisis Intervention from Theory to Practice." Attorney William "Chuck" Credo, will provide a workshop on, "Louisiana Mental Health Law: Insanity and Incompetence." And John Simoneaux will provide the seminar, "Ethics and Boundary Violations."

More information at

<http://professionaltrainingresourcesinc.com>



## APA Presentation, cont’d

Listening and Understanding, Empathy, Restoring Emotional Balance, Rebuilding Problem Solving Skills, Inviting Resolution, and Encouraging Action.”

Dr. Judy Kuriansky, a colleague who has been involved in Louisiana issues since Katrina, will describe her “Global Kids Connect” project involving children in Haiti, Japan, and New York. Kuriansky a media psychologist and will also address how psychologists can use the media to help sooth fears and to promote resilience and recovery.

Ms. Lauren Whittington, also a colleague, will describe the six characteristics that people often adopt at times of environmental crisis/change: Robust vs. Psychoid Leaders, Dependent Followers, Paranoid Individuals, Religious Fundamentalists, Corporate Sociopaths, and General Population.

## LPA Offers July On-Line Webinars In Sleep Disorders, Developments in Dementia

Louisiana Psychological Assn will present two Webinars in July. The On-Line Academy of the Louisiana State Psychological Association has scheduled two training presentations in its Lunch and Learn Webinar continuing education series for July.

“Current Issues in Sleep Medicine” will be presented by Dr. Denise Sharon on July 20, from 12 noon to 2 pm.

“Recent Developments in Dementia Research and Diagnosis,” will be presented by Dr. John Fanning, on July 28, from 11 am to 1 pm.

Continuing education chair, Dr. John Fanning invites anyone interested in participating to contact him through the LPA office at [www.louisianapsychologist.org/](http://www.louisianapsychologist.org/) or call 225.766.0185.



Fotolia photo

The Psychology Times

## CLASSIFIED ADS



Psychology Practice looking for professionals interested in joining our practice in **Metairie**. Two fully furnished offices in beautiful atrium building available 3 days per week. Rental includes telephone, fax, wireless internet, basic office supplies and receptionist. Contact Lynn at 504-455-0109.

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Professional Shared Office Space for Rent: **Baton Rouge and Kenner** professional office space for rent by the hour, day, week, or month. Group room available upon request. No sublease required for part-time use. Utilities included. Support staff, services, and supplies available upon request and prior arrangements. Affordable rates. Please call 225-769-2533 for details.

### The Psychology Times

The *Psychology Times* is provided as a community service for those in the practice, teaching, 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.

### Happy July

Bereaved Parents Awareness Month  
Bioterrorism Ed and Awareness Month  
Cell Phone Courtesy Month  
International Zine Month  
National Black Family Month  
National Blueberries Month  
National Grilling Month  
National Horseradish Month  
National Hot Dog Month  
National Ice Cream Month  
National Independent Retailers Month  
National Recreation and Parks Month  
Social Wellness Month

2 Made In The USA Day  
3 Stay Out of the Sun Day  
4 Independence Day  
8-14 National Farriers Week  
Sports Cliche Week  
9 International Town Criers Day  
13 Embrace Your Geekness Day  
15-21 Captive Nations Week  
15 National Ice Cream Day  
16 National Get Out of the Doghouse Day  
20 Moon Day  
22 Parents' Day Rat Catchers Day  
24 Cousins Day  
National Drive-Thru Day  
26 National Chili Dog Day

## Human Development Center Offers Employment Core Training Certificate

LSUHSC-Human Development Center (HDC) in collaboration with Louisiana APSE will provide statewide Employment Specialist Core Training in August and also September of 2012. The 40-hour training incorporates APSE’s CORE Supported Employment competencies.

APSE is a national organization with a focus on integrated employment and career advancement opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

The course includes 8 hours of online instruction and resource information and 20 hours (three days) of classroom instruction. One additional half day (4 hours) of small group activity in which participants will complete case study examples is also included.

The August training will be in New Orleans, at the LSUHSC Human Development Center at 1900 Gravier Street.

The September training will take place in Baton Rouge, at UpLIFTD on 1979 Beaumont Drive.

The “Supported Employment Competency-Based Training with Portfolio” includes training on topics including Marketing and Job Development, Community-Based & Situational Assessments, Job Site Training, Funding, Natural Supports & Coworker Supports, Compensatory Strategies, Social Security Work Incentives, Self-employment and Customized employment, Ethics, and Professional Development, Resources, Information, & Networking.