

No Conflict of Interest As Far As We're Concerned, Says State Ethics Board

In a brief review of facts and a short comment by Dr. Rita Culross, members of the Louisiana Board of Ethics found nothing in their Code that applied to the questions posed to them by the state psychology board regarding Dr. Constance Patterson's qualifications to serve.

During the short discussion, the investigating attorney said, "She has no conflict of interest," referring to Patterson and her previous work as a consultant to the psychology board, and the applicable law under the Ethics Administration.

The investigator's comment occurred in the context of the discussion about the sort of conflict described by

the psychology board, and that this was not the type of conflict the Ethics Board decided on, so no conflict of interest was noted.

After their review of the facts and brief discussion among the Ethics Board members, they offered Dr. Culross an opportunity to comment. She said, "The difficulty that we have is that there is some [unclear] by the individual about whether there is an ethical violation, whether they can participate ..."

"But the other issue under our rules we can't take any disciplinary action unless there are four of the five board members voting in the affirmative on it. And

Psychology Board Refuses to Disclose Its Legal Rationale

At the regular meeting of the state psychology board last Friday, June 27, Dr. Tom Hannie asked the members to explain the basis for a comment they made during a presentation to the La. Psychological Association in June. At the presentation, the Chair, Dr. Rita Culross, told attendees and presented a slide, that, "Contrary to recent rumors, disciplinary panels can only be made up of Board members – the Governor CANNOT appoint a replacement."

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Dr. Matthews Named 2014 Distinguished La Psychologist

The Louisiana Psychological Association has named clinical neuropsychologist, Dr. Lee H. Matthews, Distinguished Psychologist for 2014. Dr. Matthews resides in Kenner, Louisiana, and is husband to Dr. Janet Matthews.

Matthew is licensed in both clinical and clinical



Dr. Lee Matthews

neuropsychologist and he holds the Diplomate in Clinical Psychology

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Psychology board chair, Dr. Rita Culross (front) and Ethics board member, Jean Ingrassia from Gonzales, listen to issues at the recent meeting of Ethics Board.

Psychology Times Grabs 11 Awards at La Press Assn

The *Psychology Times* took home 11 awards from the 134th Annual Louisiana Press Association Convention held jointly with the Mississippi Press Association in Biloxi on June 20-21.

The *Times* swept its division in Best Investigative Reporting, winning first, second, and third places, and earning the special Gibbs Adams Award.

The Gibbs Adams Award is given to the investigative reporter for the 1st place entry in the

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(Photo by Traci Oliver)

Dr. Judy Kuriansky (Center), New York clinical psychologist and representative to the UN on mental health issues, leads Chelsie Songy (L) and Emily Cefalu in an assertiveness activity.

Psychologist Dr. Judy Kuriansky: How to Help Children Around the World Cope With Disaster, Trauma

Clinical psychologist, United Nations representative and author/lecturer, Dr. Judy Kuriansky led participants through some of the experiential exercises she has used in her global efforts when she addressed a group of Louisiana psychologists last month in Metairie.

Kuriansky, a New York clinician, popular television and radio personality and trauma expert who has worked with children and adults all over the world, presented highlights of what she has learned in a keynote speech and training workshop at the Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA) convention on June 20. She guided participants in practicing a variety of activities she has developed, typically used with youngsters, to help reduce stress and build resilience after experiencing trauma and natural disasters.

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Editorial Page

No Need to Be Confused About the Drama

The recent actions of the state psychology board (see front page stories) should concern anyone licensed under them.

They claim they “have no vested interest” in the election and the appointment, but their determination to make a mountain out of a mole-hill about Dr. Conni Patterson says the opposite. And so does the chit-chat I witnessed between the chair and Dr. Comaty at the Ethics Board meeting. Does the term “boundaries” mean anything?

The board has taken up complaints about Dr. Patterson’s qualifications, made by Dr. Comaty, her political competitor, and who wrote to Boards & Commissions that Patterson has some sort of “direct conflict of interest,” with what is extremely thin logic.

They’ve honed in on the issue of recusals, for the first time in history. Now the issue is to be that Patterson will be an “obstacle” to the “integrity” of the board, because she will have to recuse herself. Recusal is what one does to *avoid* an ethical problem.

The board holds an emergency meeting and crafts a letter that looks more like they are throwing anything up against the wall to see what sticks. They run it up the flagpole all the way to the Ethics Board. The Ethics board members, while being respectful, basically dismissed it as nonsense. That was the body language. It looked like they were thinking, “What?”

The psychology board also continues to ignore their own statistics and a fair estimate that Patterson might recuse herself one, maybe two times. Only six percent of complaints even reach a board vote of this type. Other chairs and boards have been able to get their jobs done, but now, for some reason, the situation is dire.

Last month the board made a public statement contradicting Dr. Tom Hannie (not a good move on their part) and the *Times*, to the

psychologists at the state convention. Hannie went over to the board meeting Friday and asked them to explain the contradiction, showing them the laws that backed him up.

They refused to explain anything. They claimed they couldn’t say anything because of attorney-client privilege. They aren’t attorneys! They aren’t covered by attorney-client privilege. The rationale, or substance of their decisions is supposed to be public. But magically, it is now private and protected. Of course, they also refuse to be interviewed by the *Times*. Does the term “transparency” mean anything?

So, here we are with a board that is defensive, keeping secrets, and doing whatever it wants to do without being accountable. Sounds familiar.

LAMP has maintained three or more positions, a majority vote, on the psychology board since Act 251 despite the fact that MPs represent only about 5 percent of psychologists. They do this in order to protect their interests. Why is the board fighting so hard to disqualify Patterson? If she is appointed LAMP will lose its majority on the board, for the first time since Act 251 was passed.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Dr. Nelson,

In the most recent issue of *The Psychology Times* (Vol. 5, No. 10), there is an article with the headline, "Marriage and Family Therapists Practice Expansion Bill at Governor's." The article discusses the passing SB 121 which clarifies the LMFT scope of practice. To say that SB 121 expands the LMFT scope of practice is misleading at best.

Current law defines "Marriage and family therapy" as the "professional application of psychotherapeutic and family systems theories and techniques in the assessment and treatment of individuals, couples and families." Any reasonable person reading this definition would conclude that to practice (i.e., assess and treat) in today's healthcare system would include rendering a diagnosis which is required by third party payers in order to receive reimbursement for services rendered. Additionally, I would not know how an LMFT could apply psychotherapeutic theories and techniques without that being the performance of psychotherapy. Language in the current law is based upon the philosophical beliefs of MFTs and the differences those trained in MFT have with other mental health professions regarding diagnosis. Opponents of SB 121 sought only to restrict the practice of LMFTs due to these philosophical differences and believing their model of treatment is only way of treatment.

The article goes on to outline the additional educational requirements and continuing education hours that will be required in order for MFTs to become licensed in Louisiana and maintain that license. I think it is important to note that LMFTs have always been required to have coursework in diagnosis, including training in the use of the DSM and ICD classification systems. Furthermore, the MFT national exam required for licensure assesses the MFT's ability to assess the various dimensions of the client system, forming and reformulating hypotheses, and diagnose the client system in order to guide therapeutic activities.

The article ends with the language contained within SB 121 which is similar to that of the current LPC practice law requiring consultation and collaboration with a practitioner licensed by, or holding a permit granted by the LA Board of Medical Examiners (i.e. physicians and medical psychologists), or an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse licensed by the LA State Board of Nursing who is certified as a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. It is important to note here that consultation and collaboration, for the purposes of LA law and LPC Board rules, should not be construed as supervision. The LPC is considered to be an independent practitioner and is consulting and collaborating with medical practitioners in accordance with industry best practices. The same is true for LMFTs.

Respectfully,

Mark R. Reynaud, MA, LPC-S, LMFT-S
Baton Rouge

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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<http://thepsychologytimes.com/>

Times Grabs 11 Press Awards continued

Best Investigative Reporting category. The award is given in memory of long-time *State Times-Morning Advocate* investigative reporter Gibbs Adams.

The *Times* won the first place for “Did SSA Try and Kill the Messenger?” the second place for “Will the Real LAMP Please Stand Up,” and third place for “New LSBEP Member Now Listed as MP.”

Other first place and Gibbs Adams Award winners in their divisions were the *Times-Picayune*, *The Advertiser* (Lafayette), *The Daily Review* (Morgan City), *CityBusiness* (New Orleans), the *Homer Guardian-Journal*, the *Plaquemines Gazette*, and *Central City News*.

The *Psychology Times* also won first place Division C in the prestigious Community Service Award, an honor that goes to the three publications that

demonstrate a significant service to readers. The *Times* entry was for the reporting, support, and facilitation of the multidisciplinary violence prevention group, Louisiana Coalition for Violence Prevention. The *Monroe News-Star* and the *Plaquemines Gazette* won in Divisions A and B respectively.

For the third year in a row the *Times* cartoonist, Jake Nelson-Dooley won both first place and second in Division C for Best Editorial Cartoon. Judges awarded the first place to the cartoon, “We’ll fix it later,” on depicting the challenging conditions for providers in the Affordable Care Act health reform. His second place cartoon, also characterizing ACA and the absence of behavioral health, accompanied a multi-part series about the new healthcare law.

The *Times* news staff took home a number of news coverage awards. The *Times* earned a second place and third place in Best Continuing Coverage of a Single News Event, a third place in Best News

Coverage. Mike Dooley earned a third place for Best News Photo, for a candid shot of Dr. Robert Maria at a public meeting. The *Times* also won a second place for Best Overall Website.

Seventy-four newspapers, publications, and college/university newspapers submitted 3,289 entries for the contests in the Better Newspaper and Publication competition, explained the association’s press release. Winning Newspaper of The Year honors in their respective divisions were *The Advocate* (Baton Rouge), *The Courier* (Houma), the *Daily Comet* (Thibodaux), the *Tri-Parish Times & BusinessNews* (Houma), the *West Side Journal* (Port Allen), and the *Southwest Daily News*.

This year there was a tie in Freedom of Information Award, noted the Press Association. *The Advocate* of Baton Rouge

filed a lawsuit against the LSU Board of Supervisors that ultimately forced the board to make public the applications it had received for the LSU president’s post. The *Central City News* also won, when its efforts resulted in a judge ordering CH2MHill, the company the City Council hired to run the city’s administration, to release city documents

The coveted “Freedom of Information” award originally came from an idea that Gordon Nelson, long-time member of the Press Association and publisher of the *Coushatta Citizen*, and Bob Holeman, current *Psychology Times* journalism consultant, presented to the Louisiana Press Association in the 1980s. The late Gordon and Lynn Nelson owned and operated the *Coushatta Citizen*, and were parents of the *Psychology Times* publisher, Julie Nelson. The paper won the first Freedom of Information (FOI) award more than three decades ago.

The Psychology Times

Winner of 11 Louisiana Press Association Awards

- *Best Investigative Reporting, 1st Place*
(Winner of the Gibbs Adams Award)
- *Best Investigative Reporting, 2nd Place*
- *Best Investigative Reporting, 3rd Place*
- *Community Service, 1st Place, Division C*
- *Best Editorial Cartoon, 1st Place, Division C*
- *Best Editorial Cartoon, 2nd Place, Division C*
- *Best Continuing Coverage of a Single News Event, 2nd Place*
- *Best Continuing Coverage of a Single News Event, 3rd Place*
- *Best News Photo, 3rd Place*
- *Best News Coverage, 3rd Place*
- *Best Website, 2nd Place*

*Thanks to all
our readers,
correspondents,
advertisers,
staff and
supporters!*



(Selfie by Dr. Banai.)

State Ethics Board Says No Conflict of Interest

continued

unfortunately there are cases in which one board member already must recuse themselves,” she said, “because they’ve worked with the individual, they were a trainer of the individual, etc. So we foresee that we could be put in a position where we don’t have four board members who can vote.”

Chair M. Blake Monroe, the Ethics Board Chair from Lafayette, said he understood the issue about people on a board recusing themselves. “We sometimes have to deal with that same problem on our board,” he said. But, he explained that those issues do not involve the Ethics Board.

He said, “These questions you’re asking don’t involve us.”

“Why did you bring this to us?” Vice Chair Julie Blewer of Shreveport asked Culross, who commented about concerns regarding having enough members to vote on disciplinary issues if Patterson recused herself.

In their draft opinion, the Ethics Board outlined the two areas of their laws which could apply, R.S. 42:1112A, which prohibits a public servant from participating in a transaction involving his government entity in which he has a substantial economic interest. The board did not find this to apply to Patterson.

Also, the Ethics Board’s draft opinion cites La R.S. 42:1120.4. This section of the law provides an exception for appointed members of a board or commission to recuse themselves from voting and debate, on matters that violate section 1112 of the Code.

The psychology licensing law directs the board to follow the La. Administrative Procedures Act, which allows for recusals.

The meeting took place on June 20 at the State Ethics Administration in Baton Rouge. Also attending was Dr. Joe Comaty. Comaty is a candidate for the current position on the board, coming in with 77 votes to Patterson’s 116 in the recent election. Patterson did not attend the Ethics meeting.

Dr. John Fanning, then president of the Louisiana Psychological Association also attended, but did not comment. It was not necessary because Patterson did not have a conflict of interest, he told the *Times*.

The complaint that Patterson has a conflict of interest appears to have first originated in a letter that Dr. Joe Comaty sent to the Louisiana Boards and Commissions in January, 2014. In this letter, Comaty said that Patterson had a direct conflict of interest. He also listed other complaints about the security of ballots, voting, and some concerns about political liaisons and statements. He restated his views again in another letter to Boards and Commissions on April 28.

Executive Director Kelly Parker obtained the January letter and forwarded it to Dr. Culross. During the first part of the year, the board was concerned about election security, writing to the state psychological association, who conducted the election, about their concerns. Then in May, they called an emergency meeting and voted to request an advisory opinion from the state Ethics Board.

The psychology board has said a number of times that they have no interest in the outcome of the election. In a June 30 communication to licensed psychologists, Parker wrote, “[...] Please note, the Board has no vested interest in the outcome of the election. However, we



Above: Dr. Rita Culross waiting to comment about the psychology board’s Request for Advisory Opinion regarding Dr. Conni Patterson’s suitability to serve on the board.



Dr. Joe Comaty and Dr. Culross wait for meeting to begin. Dr. Comaty, a candidate hoping to serve on the board, first brought concerns about Patterson. The board says they have no interest in the outcome of the election.

want to ensure that the integrity of our Board is not compromised. [...]”

The *Times* asked several past board Chairs about recusal problems. Dr. Janet Matthews said, “We operated with four members for much of one year when I was on the Board due to a resignation. We never had a situation where we had insufficient members to make a decision due to recusal so I don’t know what would have happened in that case. I know we asked about a one year person (or slightly less than a year) and were told that would not happen.”

Past Chair, Dr. Roy Allen, said about his five-year tenure, “During my time on the board, complaint investigations ended by a vote for either dismissal, minor remedial measures, or

rarely, a consent decree. We did not have a disciplinary hearing while I was on the board. If there was any occasion when a board member recused for the vote on a disciplinary matter, I don’t recall it. The board functioned for one stretch of eight months with four members and we did not have a problem resolving any issues.”

Based on the board’s statics, about six percent of complaints eventually rise to the level of a disciplinary affirmation, with 94 percent being dismissed or handled in some other manner. Disciplinary actions to remove or suspend a license require at least four affirmative votes.

Dr. Culross and Executive Director Ms. Parker had declined requests to be interviewed by the *Times*.

State and National News

Psych Board Refuses to Explain, continued

The *Times* had interviewed Hannie for a news and analysis article last month and quoted him to say that appointing a substitute was “A piece of cake.”

On Friday Dr. Hannie asked the board members to reconcile their statement, with sections of the law that appear to contradict their public statement made to the psychologists in their June presentation.

He described to the members portions of the law that indicate that the governor makes temporary appointments when needed, and asked for an explanation. However, Hannie said that all they would tell him was that they could not disclose to him the reason for the statement, or why their statements appear to run counter to the law.

After the Friday meeting the *Times* asked Dr. Hannie what had happened. He said, “I asked them basically, why that statement was put up on the board. I would like an explanation of why they said that.”

He asked them to explain and they said, “ ‘Well, we can’t do that and we’ve checked several times, over time, four or five times, and we can’t do that.’ ”

The *Times* asked if the board members explained why?

“Attorney-client privilege,” Hannie noted. “That’s what they said. I asked them if they could show me where in the law it says that, and they said, ‘No. Because of attorney-client privilege.’ No matter how I asked them or what I asked them, eventually it got back to that,” Hannie said.

“I asked them to show me where in the law, that the governor can’t appoint someone, and they said they can’t give that information, because of attorney-client privilege.”

“At some point, Phil [Dr. Phil Griffin] said it had to be four regular board members. But that doesn’t explain why you can’t appoint somebody,” Hannie said.

Dr. Hannie also told the *Times* that he asked them what happened now if two members had to recuse themselves. “They said they would be in trouble, and they have it on their list to look into that the situation.”

The *Times* had interviewed Dr. Hannie for a news and analysis article last month and quoted him in the article regarding the ease of replacing a person who had recused themselves, if needed. The news article outlined the issues that have surfaced and the involvement of the psychology board in regarding the recent election. The psychology board submitted a request to the Board of Ethics, voicing issues that



Dr. Tom Hannie (above) asked the psychology board to explain a statement they made at a recent presentation, but they said it was protected under attorney-client privilege.

reflected part of a series of complaints by the second-place candidate, Dr. Joe Comaty, including matters of recusals.

According to R.S. 37: 2359, the licensing law for psychology, and the section on disciplinary actions, “Proceedings for disciplinary action or for the denial or withholding of a license under the authority of this Section shall be conducted in compliance with the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq.”

According to the Procedure Act, the section on recusals (R.S. 49:960B) notes, “Upon the disqualification of a member of an agency, the governor immediately shall appoint a member pro tem to sit in place of the disqualified member in that proceeding.

New White House Report Slams VA

“A corrosive culture has led to personnel problems across the Department that are seriously impacting morale and by extension, the timeliness of health care,” a new White House report released Friday said. The report was written by Rob Nabors, the president’s deputy chief of staff.

“The problems inherent within an agency with an extensive field structure are exacerbated by poor management and communication structures, distrust between some VA employees and management, a history of retaliation toward employees raising issues, and a lack of accountability across all grade levels,” wrote the author.

He also wrote, “There is a tendency to transfer problems rather than solve problems,” the report found. “This is in part due to the difficulty of hiring and firing in the federal government.”

The VA is the largest employer of psychologists in the country.

Attorney-client privilege typically binds the attorney, not the client, the *Times* legal consultant explained. Public meetings and open records laws direct all decisions to be available to the public, other than those that fall under specific exceptions. In this case, it is not clear what the exception would be. Dr.Culross and Ms.Parker declined to be interviewed by the *Times*.



Dr. Rita Culross spoke at Louisiana Psychological Association. She said the governor could not appoint a replacement. Sections of the law say that he can. However the board later refused to explain the rationale behind their views and statement.

State and National News



Jessica Daniel, PhD



Antonio Puente, PhD

(courtesy photos)

Candidates for APA President Visit Louisiana Assn In June

Two candidates for president of the American Psychological Association attended the state psychological association convention last month. Both briefly addressed the group and spent time meeting Louisiana psychologists.

Dr. Jessica Daniels is an associate professor of psychology in the department of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. She is the director of training in psychology and associate director of the Leadership Education in Adolescent Health Training Program.

If elected, Daniels will help focus on integrated psychological science and practice in multidisciplinary and multi-professional activities, and building common ground with other health professions and psychological science, she noted in regard to her candidacy.

Dr. Antonio Puente has been a clinical psychologist at a teaching psychiatric hospital and a professor of neuroanatomy at a medical school before he became a professor of psychology at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. He has authored and edited eight books, 78 book chapters and 102 journal articles in English, Spanish and Russian. He noted that his research focus has largely been on the interface between culture and clinical neuropsychology. He has been the only psychologist to serve on the 17 member CPT editorial panel.

Puente stated his view that in this time of significant healthcare change, “psychology is in the best position to lead, and that with integration, advocacy and vision, psychology can demonstrate its true contribution and value.

Both complete statements can be found at:

<http://www.apa.org/monitor/2014/05/candidates.aspx>

Jury In Lafayette U.S. District Court Awards \$9 Billion in Drug Case

The U.S. District Court in Lafayette ordered pharmaceutical firms Takeda and Eli Lilly to pay total of \$9 billion in punitive damages based on conclusions that the firms may have covered up the cancer risks of the diabetes drug Actos.

U.S. District Judge Rebecca Doherty heard the case. The jury awarded \$6 billion against Takeda and \$3 billion against Eli Lilly. In addition, Allen was awarded \$1.475 million in compensatory damages.

Kenneth D. Greisman, senior vice president and general counsel of Takeda Pharmaceuticals U.S.A. Inc., said the verdict would be appealed, according to several reports.

Behavior Analyst Board Publishes Two New Rules Notices, Comments Due Noon July 10

The Behavior Analyst Board has published two proposed Rules in this months Louisiana Register. One has to do with license renewals. The other has to do with supervision of assistant behavioral analysts.

Both sets of notices have a deadline for comments from the public by noon on July 10. Interested persons may submit written comments to Kelly Parker, Executive Director, 8706 Jefferson Highway, Suite B, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.

In the first notice, the proposed rules note, “A licensed behavior analyst shall renew their current license every year by December 31 beginning in December 2014. The renewal period shall open in October and will close December 31 annually. The licensed behavior analyst must submit the required renewal forms, renewal fee and proof of fulfillment of all continuing education requirements as approved by the board.”

“A state certified assistant behavior analyst shall renew their current license every year by December 31 beginning in December 2014. The renewal period shall open in October and will close December 31 annually. The state certified assistant behavior analyst must submit the required renewal forms, renewal fee and proof of fulfillment of all continuing education requirements as approved by the board.

“A licensed behavior analyst shall renew the registration of all registered line

technicians under their supervision every year by December 31 beginning December 2014. The renewal period shall open in October and will close December 31 annually. The licensed behavior analyst in conjunction with the registered line technicians must complete the proper renewal forms accompanied with the renewal fee as determined by the board.

“The board may grant requests for renewal extensions or exemptions on a case-by-case basis,” notes the rule.

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Self-nominations due on 15th
Advisory Committee for Specialists in School Psychology Planned

According to a notice from the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, the board will create an Advisory Committee for the new Licensed Specialist in School Psychology. The credential was created by the passage of Act 136 which was signed by Governor Jindal.

The board is accepting self-nominations for the committee now, and the deadline for these nominations is July 15.



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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www.amphome.org

State and National News

Dr. Antonio Puente
Member of CPT Panel Says
Everything—Everything—
In Healthcare Will Change

Dr. Antonio Puente presented his views about the sweeping changes coming to healthcare, speaking at the Louisiana Psychological Association Annual Convention last month.

He told the *Times* that the current changes in motion in the health care industry would be the most significant we have ever seen. “It is the end of the world as we know it.” But, “I feel fine,” he said, characterizing his confidence that those in healthcare professions with weather the changes.

In his presentation, Dr. Puente pointed out that the likely winners in the payment changes would be those which chronic diseases, care transition groups, team and interdisciplinary care, and population management. The Tsunai of change will include shifts to comprehensive care, uniformity, and integrative care, with focus on performance. Documentation and transparency will also be a focus.

New paradigms will include boutique services, prevention, integrative & multi-disciplinary. There will be performance based reimbursement and a shift from federal to state.

Dr. Puente, who is running for president of the American Psychological Association, has a unique perspective for a psychologist. He is one of a small, select group who compose the CPT (Current Procedural Terminology) Editorial Panel. Only 17 people serve, nationwide, and the large majority are physicians. He is the only psychologist.

The *Times* asked Dr. Puente about the changes ahead, and he said, “I believe that these are the largest changes that health care has experienced in the last half a century, and without a doubt, the most significant changes that all of us will experience in our lifetimes.”



Dr. Antonio Puente presenting at LPA.



(L to R) Dr. Janet Matthews, Dr. Tony Puente, Dr. John Fanning, and Dr. Darlyne Nemeth gather after Dr. Puente’s presentation about healthcare changes. Puente serves on the CPT Editorial Panel.

What does he think those in the psychological and behavioral fields should do? “Integrate. And educate,” he said. “Both themselves as well as those people who are theoretically reimbursing them. Because they may not know what we can do, to both decrease costs and increase healthcare efficiency,” he said.

Puente presented “The Changing Face of Healthcare in America: What it Means to Professional Psychology,” at the recent convention of the Louisiana Psychological Association.

Dr. Puente is the first and only psychologist ever to serve on the CPT committee, a key working group that helps define how healthcare services are structured through the codes and definitions and ultimately who can get paid for what.

CPT is copyrighted by the American Medical Association (AMA) and was developed by Surgeons and Physicians in 1966 and now encompasses more than 8,000 codes. The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) owns CPT system, and is licensed to AMA, he explained.

For 15 years, Puente was the APA representative to CPT program and was the person responsible for the added the words, “Qualified Healthcare Professional,” to healthcare terms. For reasons that were very complicated and that he doesn’t fully understand, he ended up on the select, 17-person team, CPT Editorial Panel.

Of the 17 voting members, 11 are appointed by the Board of the American Medical Association, one from each of Blue Cross Blue Shield, CMS, American Hospital Association, and HIAA. Also included is one physician’s assistant and one psychologist.

He’s the only psychologist in that group, the only psychologist that’s ever been on the panel, and only the third non-physician that has ever been on the panel, Puente explained.

Puente maintains Medicare will be the Benchmark for commercial carriers, workers compensation, forensic applications, industrial, sports, and other applications. He explained to the group that Medicare will come to set the standard for all health care.

But, Puente told the attendees that the fight to be included is no longer at the national level. While Medicare is the foundation, local coverage will direct the regional policies and they are more restrictive than national.

Dr. Comaty Sends
Additional Complaints to
Boards & Commissions

In a public records request the *Times* has obtained a communication to Boards and Commissions from Dr. Joseph Comaty, to Madison Hentze, Assistant Director, which Hentze then forwarded to Director Barker Dirmann. Dr. Comaty is a hopeful to the upcoming board appointment.

In this latest communication, dated April 28, Dr. Comaty restates his complaints regarding the process of the election and about the other candidate. He wrote that “... one of the candidates for the seat was determined to have a direct conflict of interest...”

And, he wrote that if she were appointed she would have to recuse herself, because she has involvement “...in many pending disciplinary cases...”

Dr. Comaty also lists a number of complaints, similar to those in earlier communications, regarding his views about integrity of the voting and vote counting in the recent election. He says that there were an unusually high number of votes, and that this was “curious.” He said that there was no way to be sure that votes were not pre-counted, and ballots removed or inserted.

Other records released included the psychology board’s Request for Advisory Opinion from the Ethics, forwarded by Ms. Parker.

Corrections &
Clarifications

Mr. Reynaud pointed out that the headline should have been “clarify” not expand, in our June story about the new LFMT law. See Letter to Editor this issue. We thank Mr. Reynaud for his feedback.

A reader wrote us that the word “dispense” in our article about RxP in Illinois was inaccurate. We changed it in later editions to “prescribe” and thank our reader for the feedback.

Kuranisky, How to Help Children Around the World Cope, continued

The activities are part of her toolbox of techniques said Kuriansky, and ones she has used with children in a variety of cultural settings, including after earthquakes in Haiti and China and the tsunami in Japan, and for children living in the traumatic environment of severe poverty in Africa. Kuriansky showed videos about her work and led the LPA workshop participants in role-play and physical expression.

Along with training fellow psychologists, Kuriansky is also actively promoting the goals of mental health and well-being across the globe, she told the *Times*. “One of the most satisfying, exciting and challenging projects in my 40-year-long career,” she explained, “is to be advocating about mental health and well-being at the United Nations at this time when the governments of the world are deciding about the new global agenda for the next 15 years, from 2015 to 2030.”

"Many UN mission representatives I have spoken with realized for the first time the importance of including mental health and wellbeing in the efforts to eradicate poverty, end disease, and achieve gender equality," she said. "It was so significant that 17 countries around the world spoke out at the United Nations negotiations sessions about the importance of mental health and well-being, which had never happened before."

Kuriansky spoke to the *Times* about the growing numbers of countries beginning to

understand the value of mental health. Her initiative has led to a “Friends of Mental Health and Wellbeing” group convened by the Ambassador of Palau, she explained. Meetings have been attended by countries representing every part of the world, including Greece and Cyprus, Vietnam and the Philippines, Jordan and Qatar, Trinidad and Tobago, the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica, Afghanistan and African countries like Angola, Benin and Burkina Faso.

In her recent LPA workshop, attended by psychologists from all over the state of Louisiana, Kuriansky covered theory and

“One of the most satisfying, exciting and challenging projects ... is to be advocating about mental health and well-being at the United Nations at this time when the governments of the world are deciding about the new global agenda...”

Dr. Judy Kuriansky

techniques that therapists can apply with children and adults in different types of crisis, such as natural disasters and living in dire circumstances.

Reminding the group about the connections between the



Dr. Judy Kuriansky (L) with Dr. Kim VanGeffen at the recent conference. Kuriansky is involved in helping countries understand the need for mental health and well-being. (Photo courtesy Traci Oliver)

physical body and emotional stress, Kuriansky described concepts of coping and resilience, and how she integrates psychological principles for stress reduction with engagement in arts, drawing, music, body movement, role-playing and other gold standard methods as well as creative new techniques she developed over many years and in many countries.

While simple, the activities have a solid theoretical foundation, she explained, and can be applied widely in various settings and with diverse populations, with profound psychological impact. The activities included self-introductions with an adjective, meant to build self-esteem; a tug-of-war revealing assertiveness; a 3-part affirmation to encourage feeling safe; and drawing a bridge between a trauma and a happy scene to facilitate post-traumatic healing.

Kuriansky's strong belief is that psychosocial methods and approaches must be part of the agenda for all countries to achieve what is now being called “sustainable development” on social, economic and environmental levels.

Her work is reflected in the book she co-edited with Louisiana neuropsychologist Dr. Darlyne Nemeth, *Living in an Environmentally Traumatized World: Healing Ourselves and Our Planet*, and also in their upcoming two-volume set on *Ecopsychology: the Intersection of Psychology and Environmental Protection*.

“... psychosocial methods and approaches must be part of the agenda for all countries to achieve what is now being called ‘sustainable development’ on social, economic and environmental levels.”

Dr. Judy Kuriansky

Kuriansky has also worked closely with Nemeth, to develop and conduct Anniversary Wellness Workshops after Hurricane Katrina.

“The most important part of what I’m doing is making sure that psychology, mental health, and well-being is on the global agenda,” Kuriansky explained, “which means that it gets written into the goals that the governments of the world are setting right now about what they will do to achieve the best situation for all people in the world.”

“Those goals have never specifically included mental health and well-being from a psychosocial point of view,” she told the *Times*.

Since the age of 8, Kuriansky has declared her wish to “make the world better,” her mother reminds her. It’s a dream advanced by her role as a United Nations representative for the International Association of Applied Psychology and the

Cont’d next pg



Dr. Darlyne Nemeth (L) and Dr. Judy Kuriansky at a recent convention where Kuriansky spoke about her global efforts to bring mental to the agendas of countries, worldwide.

Kuranisky, How to Help Children Around the World Cope, continued

World Council of Psychotherapy, and as Chair of the Psychology Coalition at the UN. She is also a board member and Director of Psychosocial Programs for U.S. Doctors for Africa and a trustee of the New York City peace museum.

Kuriansky has also forged a varied career in psychology, as a pioneer of sex therapy and also of radio call-in advice shows. An award-winning journalist, she has hosted a variety of talk shows and specials and has been a feature reporter and contributor on television (e.g., CBS-TV, WABC-TV News and CNN) and a columnist for print media worldwide (e.g., from the *New York Daily News* to the *Singapore Straits Times* and *China Trends Health Magazine*), covering issues in mental health, lifestyles, and psychological aspects of economic and political trends.

As a professor at Columbia University Teachers College and Beijing Health Sciences Center who has lectured around the world, Kuriansky finds common ground between the communication required for successful interpersonal as well as international relationships. This is evident in the subject matter of her many books, ranging from *The Complete Idiot's Guide to A Healthy Relationship* to *Beyond Bullets and Bombs: Grassroots peace building between Israelis and Palestinians*.

Kuriansky is passionate about her on-going efforts to bring simple, psychologically sound techniques to countries where mental health is needed but where the need goes unrecognized, and also to combat any stigma that accompanies it. She notes the importance for so many people worldwide, struggling to recover emotionally from trauma and

natural disasters, and to survive—and thrive—while facing difficult social, financial, and environmental conditions.

"It is not just about ending poverty," she said, "which is the #1 goal countries are taking on, as well as eradicating diseases like HIV-AIDS, protecting the oceans, insuring peace and achieving gender equality, but also about promoting mental health and wellbeing which is interwoven into all these important goals."

“These goals for a sustainable world are all only achievable when you take into account the psychology of people’s emotions and motivations, ...”

Dr. Judy Kuriansky

"These goals for a sustainable world are all only achievable when you take into account the psychology of people’s emotions and motivations," Kuriansky said. "That’s the message I have been bringing into awareness at the United Nations. I’m hopeful that the nations of the world will now pay deserved attention to the mental health and wellbeing of people. Psychologists have an important role to play in making this a far better world."

Tulane’s Behavioral And Genetics Lab Finds Family Violence Leaves Genetic Imprint on the Children

*Keith Brannon
Tulane Public Relations*

A new Tulane study finds that the more fractured families are by domestic violence or trauma, the more likely that children will bear the scars down to their DNA. Researchers discovered that children in homes affected by domestic violence, suicide or the incarceration of a family member have significantly shorter telomeres, which is a cellular marker of aging, than those in stable households. The findings are published online in the latest issue of the journal *Pediatrics*.

Telomeres are the caps at the end of chromosomes that keep them from shrinking when cells replicate. Shorter telomeres are linked to higher risks for heart disease, obesity, cognitive decline, diabetes, mental illness and poor health outcomes in adulthood. Researchers took genetic samples from 80 children ages 5 to 15 in New Orleans and interviewed parents about their home environments and exposures to adverse life events.

"Family-level stressors, such as witnessing a family member get hurt, created an environment that affected the DNA within the cells of the children," said lead author Dr. Stacy Drury.

The study found that gender moderated the impact of family instability. Traumatic family events were more detrimental to young girls as they were more likely to have shortened telomeres. There was also a surprising protective effect for boys: mothers who had achieved a higher level of education had a positive association with telomere length, but only in boys under 10.

Ultimately, the study suggests that the home environment is an important intervention target to reduce the biological impacts of adversity in the lives of young children, Drury said.

Dr. Drury is the Director at Tulane’s Behavioral and Neurodevelopmental Genetics Laboratory

Dr. Melissa Middleton, licensed clinical psychologist, who has specialized training in infant and early childhood mental health is a member of the lab.

Dr. Kate Humphreys, post-doctoral fellow in early childhood and mental health, is also a member of the laboratory team.



Dr. Judy Kuriansky led psychologists from around the state in experiential exercises she uses with children in the US and many other countries. Above are some of the attendees at her workshop for Louisiana Psychological Association convention held last month. (Photo by and courtesy of Traci Oliver)

UNO Professor, Dr. Weems, Finds Tackling Test Anxiety May Be Great Prevention

Source: UNO news

Dr. Carl Weems, Professor at University of New Orleans presented a new study that shows anxiety intervention programs may fit very well into school settings. They do not carry the same type of stigma for young people in comparison to general anxiety programs often do.

The study appears in *Prevention Science*, the official journal of the Society for Prevention Research, published by Springer.

According to UNO news, “Weems says that anxiety problems are among the most common emotional difficulties youths experience, and are often linked to exposure to disasters. If not addressed, these feelings could lead to academic difficulties, the increased risk of developing depressive or anxiety disorders, and substance use problems in adulthood. It is, however, an issue that often falls under the radar in school settings. Therefore Weems and his team turned their attention to teaching students how to handle test anxiety. Nervousness is one way in which anxiety is commonly manifested among school-aged youth.”

Their research was conducted in five public schools in the Gulf South region and six years after Katrina. The intervention, where students were taught behavioral strategies such as relaxation, was conducted as part of the school’s counseling curriculum.

“Overall, the program was associated with decreases in test anxiety, anxiety disorder and depression symptoms, and especially helped the older students to feel more in control. In turn, decreases in test anxiety were linked with changes in symptoms of depression and anxiety, such as posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The results suggest high participant satisfaction with the program.

Weems cautions that school-based test anxiety interventions should not be considered a first-line approach to treating severe anxiety disorders such as PTSD, but could be employed preventatively to teach students how to handle anxious emotions and internalizing problems more generally.”

ULM Dr. Kopera-Frye Looks at Issues for Custodial Grandparents

University of Louisiana Monroe Professor and psychologist, Dr. Karen Kopera-Frye is looking closely at issues involving the increasingly common situation of custodial Grandparents.

Along with colleague Dr. Pamela Higgins Saulsberry, professor of social work, Kopera-Frye presented research at the recent conference of the Educational Leadership Conference of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education. The conference attracts education leaders from around the country to exchange ideas.

The title of their work is, “The Rich and Diverse Meanings of Custodial Grandparenting.”

Source: ULM News.

Stress Solutions

by Susan Andrews, PhD

10 Stress-Free Minutes a Day Keeps the Doctor Away

It is true that most of us cannot *avoid* stress, especially if we want to continue to be an active participant in the world. Stress goes with the territory of juggling a career, a family, and a social life. Most of us understand only too well the dangers of continuing to schedule full days, of adding new projects to an already overlong list, and still trying to find some time for ourselves at the end of the day. We routinely overbook ourselves. Some of us have the grace to promise to do better next week and might even believe that we can make it up later. But, can we? Chronic stress is now linked to so many problems related to illness, chronic health problems, anxiety, loss of memory, and reduced longevity that it would take the rest of this column to simply list all the ways it affects our lives. We know, for example, that the things we think about and dwell on can have a direct effect on how much cortisol, or stress hormone, is produced in our body. Keeping the cortisol down has become a new goal for the health conscious.

Researchers from the University of California, Davis have just published findings from a long-term study, called the Shamatha Project, that studied how meditation influences the brain and mental health. The article published in the journal *Health Psychology* reports that meditation, and particularly mindfulness training, helps lower stress and cortisol levels, which in turn can help you lose excess weight and avoid developing "cortisol belly."

Manage Your Stress...Not the Other Way Around

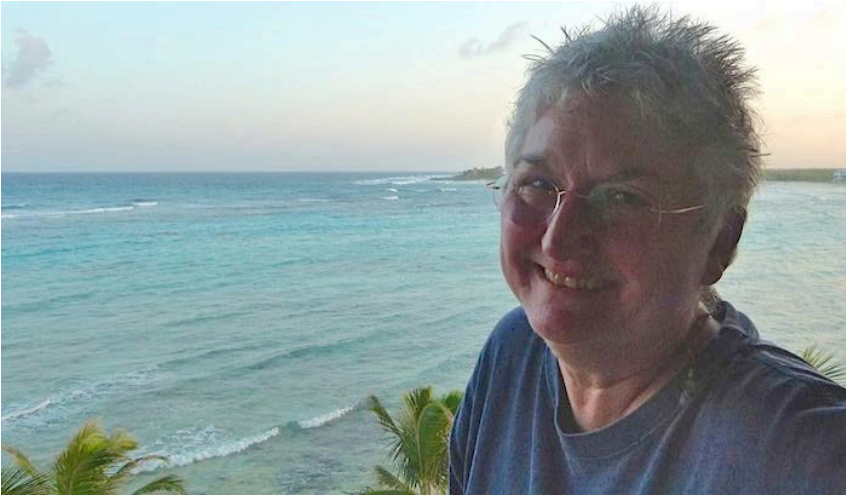
It’s time to draw a line in the sand and start reducing stress and cortisol. What I am proposing is not perfect, but it is a start that you can build on. If you keep waiting until you have the time, or until you can do it “right,” it could be too late. Stop letting your calendar manage you. Don’t “try” to do better. As Yoda says, “Do or Do Not!”

Begin Your 10 Stress-Free Minutes Today

You might think that 10 minutes a day is not much help. But it is. A few minutes goes a long way toward recharging your energy and breaking up your resistance to taking breaks. You can gradually add more mental “down time” and physical relaxation to each day. Get started by making yourself push away from your desk or daily routine for 10 minutes. Take this break with the intention of taking a brief mental holiday; give your mind a rest. Why not begin with 10 minutes of Mindfulness? Or, spend 10 minutes in focused breathing (with longer exhale). Add some music or put your feet up, close your eyes and direct your favorite piece of music. Remind yourself to do this daily by putting the reminder into your smart phone.

And, by the way, those of you who work with stressed-out clients, I have found that many seriously stressed patients are so overwhelmed that they cannot even begin to think about how they can reduce their stress. The above suggestion that they start with just 10 minutes a day has helped many people start adding relief to their day. Once they begin, the time can be gradually increased. Psychology tells us that making a conscious choice with commitment is a powerful tool. *Do as I say AND as I do.*

Watch for more tips and hints in the next 10 Stress-Free Minutes Column. Next, we look at how stress affects diet and weight loss.



Dr. Susan Andrews, Clinical Neuropsychologist, is currently Clinical Assistant Professor, LSU Health Sciences Center, Department of Medicine and Psychiatry, engaged in a Phase III study on HBOT and Persistent PostConcussion Syndrome. In addition to private clinical practice, Dr. Andrews is an award-winning author (*Stress Solutions for Pregnant Moms*, 2013).

Psychology At The Movies

WINNER OF 6
ACADEMY AWARDS
EXCELLENT
BEST PICTURE

Tom
Hanks is
Forrest
Gump



Forrest Gump

by Dr. Alvin Burstein

with J. Nelson

It seems fair to say that *Forest Gump* has achieved the status of an American classic. Fans in an ABC poll voted the film the best of all Best Pictures over the last decades. The film manages to evoke laughter, heartache, and a sense of depth. This remarkable combination results from literary and cinematic devices that deserve our attention.

The story is book-ended by an image of a feather drifting, floating hither and yon as it slowly falls to the ground. It is ultimately picked up by Forest, who inserts it carefully into his childhood copy of *Curious George*, from which his mother early read to him. The emphasis accorded these images urges us to wonder about its meaning, a question to which we will return.

Aristotle taught us the comic protagonist is one that the reader or spectator feels superior to, so we chuckle at his social awkwardness and concrete thinking. But Gump not only has a name that makes us smile, he is intellectually disabled and, at the beginning of his story, crippled and wearing clumsy leg braces. His early classmates—except for Jenny—regard him as a target for bullying, evoking our sympathy.

In a classic comic move, this simple-minded man achieves extraordinary feats as a football and (don't laugh) ping-pong player, and stumbles into remarkable acts of heroism in Viet Nam and financially successful ventures afterward. All in all, a classic Chaplinesque format. The character pulls us along in both delight and pain. "Tom Hanks may be the only actor who could have played the role," said Roger Ebert, "The performance is a breathtaking balancing act between comedy and sadness."

Forest Gump's clearly fantastical history is literally woven into prominent historical events, the kinds that are deeply inscribed in our emotional memories: Gump is shown on in an actual newsreel on the occasion of the admission the first African American into the University of Alabama, he is photo-shopped into a real Medal of Honor award ceremony presided over by Lyndon Johnson, he is on the scene during the Watergate burglary that brought down the Nixon White House, he is photo-shopped into a newsreel of a reception given for an All Stars' football team given by President Kennedy, etc.

This kind of interweaving of fiction and historical accounts has been explored and elaborated by the French philosopher, Paul Ricoeur, in his award-winning trilogy, *Time and Narrative*. Ricoeur sees this interplay between fiction and fact as facilitating fiction's ability to help its audience experience alternative worlds, enriching the reader/viewer's empathic abilities and psychological growth. Using this powerful tool, *Forest Gump* focuses our attention on the existential issue of the tension agency and chance, choosing and being externally controlled, in human affairs.

The story portrays Gump as having an enormous impact on others' lives and of achievements that would ordinarily require and reflect extraordinary motivational focus. But Gump stumbles into them. He has no idea what was involved in volunteering for military duty in Viet Nam, nor, for that matter, what the nature of the conflict was, beyond walking in the jungle.

When his GI buddy, Bubba, proposes that Forest join him in a post-war career in shrimp fishing, Forest matter of factly says, "OK." He sets off on a three year run, without a plan, without meaning to, and ends it on impulse, without knowing why. In short, he cites his mother's mantra that life is like a box of chocolates, "...you never know what you are going to get."

His readiness to accept all that happens to him, close brushes with death; involvement with world-shaking events, and tragic loss is, in its own way charming and appealing.

We are reminded of the Jungian archetype of the "Fool" who in one theoretical incarnation, embraces the serendipity and capriciousness of life by experiencing it on its own terms, accepting what comes without judgment, neither struggling to change it nor wailing to the heavens about it. This is strangely

similar to the modern psychological emphasis on mindfulness. Forrest seems often blissfully free from and immune to social prejudice, competitive malice, or self-loathing. He is not burdened to intervene at every step, nor does he make the mistake so common for those in the American culture of perceiving control where he has none.

Forrest's approach to life's adversity is contrasted by the story lines for Lieutenant Dan, who angrily rejects the losses of his life, and Forrest's beloved Jenny who is driven to escape *her* life.

Lieutenant Dan, who was supposed to die with honor on a field of battle, struggles through his hero's journey after losing both legs and sinking into depression, a showdown with God, and then finally making peace with himself. He builds the shrimp business and makes Forrest a wealthy man investing the proceeds.

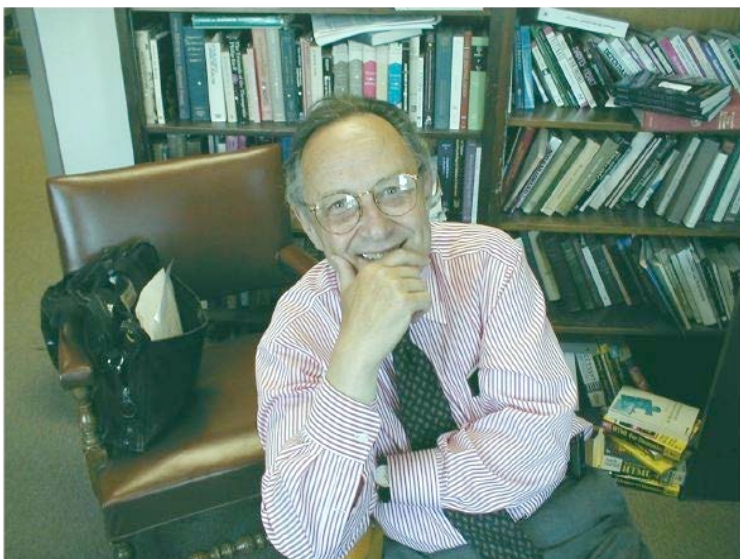
Jenny's drive to escape is highlighted in the scene when, joined by Forest, she is trying to hide from her sexually abusive alcoholic father. "I wish I could be a bird and fly away!" she says. Her life is a series of self-destructive rebellions, in sharp contrast with Forest's unplanned achievements.

Jenny asks Forrest if he was ever afraid in Viet Nam, and it is in this scene that we glimpse the depth of what supports this simple man. "Yes. Well, I I don't know. Sometimes it would stop raining long enough for the stars to come out ... and then it was nice. It was like, just before the sun goes to bed down on the bayou, those million sparkles on the water. Like that mountain lake, it was so clear Jenny. It looked like there were two skies, one on top of the other. And then the desert, when the sun comes up, I couldn't tell where heaven stopped and the earth began, it was so beautiful." Forrest's simple observations connect us with the universal, and we feel it gives some comfort to Jenny, and to us.

The emotional climax of the film is Forest's discovery that Jenny had born his son, who is "normal," and Jenny's decision to, finally, accept Forest's love for her, both of them knowing she is fatally ill. They marry but very quickly we see she is dying.

After Jenny's death, Forrest devotes himself to parenting his son. The film ends with Forest junior boarding the school bus, mirroring the opening of the autobiography that constitutes the movie. As his son climbs onto the bus, Forest says, "I will be waiting for you," and the son introduces himself to the driver in the same words that his father had used decades before.

The film leaves us teetering on the brink of unanswered questions: Will his son's life continue to mirror the father's? To what extent will agency and contingency play roles in the son's life...play in ours? To what extent are we floating feathers or authors of ourselves? To what extent can we choose?



Guest Columnist, Dr.
Alvin Burstein
Professor emeritus,
University of
Tennessee, Knoxville

Dr. Burstein is currently on the faculty of the New Orleans-Birmingham Psychoanalytic Center.

He moderates the Film & Discussion Series for the Center.

See the schedule at:
http://www.nobpc.org/Page_Calendar/filmseries.html

courtesy photo

Dr. Lee Matthews Named 2014 Distinguished Psychologist, continued

from both the American Board of Professional Psychology and also from the American Board of Assessment Psychology.

Matthews is in private practice and co-owner of Psychological Resources in Kenner. He is Adjunct Faculty Associate Professor at the LSU Health Science Center in New Orleans. He consults to Children’s Hospital and South Louisiana Medical Associates at Leonard J. Chabert Medical Center in Houma, Louisiana. And, he is Program Director for the Grief Resource Center of the non-profit Akula Foundation in Jefferson, Louisiana.

Matthews has served on and chaired the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. He is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association (APA) in the Society for General Psychology, Division 1, in Clinical Psychology, Division 12, and Group Psychotherapy, Division 49. He is also a member in the divisions for the Society of Teaching Psychology and the Society of Neuropsychology.

He has authored, co-authored, and presented numerous professional works. Among those co-authored with wife and colleague Dr. Janet Matthews are: Influences of the Greeks and Romans. In T. G. Plante (Ed). *Abnormal psychology across the ages*; Applying for Clinical and Other Applied Positions. In P. J. Giordano, S. F. Davis, & C. A. Licht (Eds). *Your graduate training in psychology: Effective strategies for success*; Preparing for licensure. In S. F. Davis, P. J. Giordano, & C. A. Licht (Eds). *Your career in psychology: Putting your graduate degree to work*; Getting Started and Developing Rapport. In J. R. Matthews & C. E. Walker (Eds.). *Your practicum in psychology: A guide for maximizing knowledge and competence*; Husband/Wife psychologists describe life in post-hurricane Louisiana. In *The National Psychologist*. He has authored Psychological Assessment, in J. R. Matthews & C. E. Walker (Eds.). *Your practicum in psychology: A guide for maximizing knowledge and competence*.

He has additionally authored 18 publications and journal articles and 7 book chapters and over 100 presentations, papers, and workshops for professional conferences.

He has served in numerous professional roles, including

president of the New Orleans Neuropsychological Society, Secretary/Treasure of the Division of General Psychology in APA, Chair of the Historical Committee for Southwestern Psychological Association, president of the Orleans Psychological Society, and National Coordinator for Continuing Education for the Behavioral Medicine Special Interest Group for the Assn for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy.

In accepting the award Dr. Lee Matthews thanked his wife Dr. Janet Matthews, “... who got her PhD and the LPA Distinguished Psychologist award before I did,” he told the audience. “She either saw the potential or took pity on an underachieving college student and said yes to a marriage proposal at a sports car race as undergraduates 49 years ago.”

He said jokingly that the selection committee was struggling with groupthink. “... where you get highly creative, intelligent and independent thinking individuals, put them in a group and get a less than



Dr. Joe Tramontana (L) current President of the Louisiana Psychological Assn presents Dr. Lee Matthews with award for 2014 Distinguished Psychologist.

stellar decision regarding an idea, process or a *person*.”

In expressing his thanks to the group, Matthews quoted Gibran, “Friendship is always a sweet responsibility, never an opportunity,” and the Beatles, “I get by with a little help from my friends.”

Matthews earned his PhD from the University of Mississippi in Oxford, and completed his internship at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City, and his postdoctoral fellowship in neuropsychology at the Nebraska Psychiatric Institute at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska.

Michael Chafetz, PhD, ABPP
is pleased to announce the formation of a new practice:

Algiers Neurobehavioral Resource, LLC

Still featuring evidence-based neuropsychological and psychological evaluations in clinical, disability, and forensic cases.

Announcing that Melissa Dufrene, PsyD will be joining the practice, offering evidence-based therapy services for psychological disorders. Dr. Dufrene trained at one of the two inpatient OCD treatment centers, and will offer focused specific treatments for anxiety-based disorders.

Feel free to call or visit us.

Michael Chafetz, PhD, LLC and
Melissa Dufrene, PsyD
Algiers Neurobehavioral Resource, LLC
3520 General DeGaulle Dr., #3044
New Orleans, LA 70114
work: 504-636-6120
fax: 504-208-3138

Dr. Papesh’s Work Hits the Media Again

LSU cognitive psychology scientist, Dr. Megan Papesh, is again in the media. Papesh is part of a multidisciplinary team from various research settings across the county that is investigating how the brain remembers. The team of researchers from Louisiana State University, U.C. San Diego, Barrow Neurological Institute, and Arizona State University combined their talents to discover how neurons code new memories.

The results were published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and are being highlighted in the science writing of the *Los Angeles Times* and the *New York Times*. “What did you do today? Your brain ‘remembers’ it cell by cell,” was the title featured in the June article for the *LA Times*.

The *LA Times* wrote, “Researchers took a closer look at the data to separate the outliers, using a statistical ‘quantile’ analysis not often used in their field. It showed the data fell in a pattern that the computational experts had predicted: Episodic memory neurons essentially were few and far between.”

In the *New York Times* June article, “Where Personal Memories Take Root,” the author noted that the new study is “lending weight to the theory of neuroscientists who believe that every memory is spread out, or distributed, across many neurons in that part of the brain.”

Dr. Papesh has also authored new research demonstrating that people can’t match photo IDs nearly as well as expected, bringing into question issues of security programs that use photo ID matching to catch false passports and other high- risk situations. This also created a media buzz. (See *Psychology Times*, April 2014.)



Sildell Psychologist Dr. John Boutee’ Dies

Dr. John M. Boutee’ passed away peacefully on May 14, 2014. He was age 60.

Boutee’ was a licensed psychologist practicing in Slidell, Louisiana. He worked with clients suffering from chronic pain and he was a member of the American

Academy of Pain Management. He also received specialized training in biofeedback methods for chronic pain and related disorders. He served those in the Slidell area for over 19 years through his private practice, Medical Psychology Consulting.

Dr. Boutee was the first African-American Department Chair at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. He was an Assistant Professor. Then in 1991 Boutee’ was appointed chair.

Undergraduate Coordinator for the Department of Psychology at Northwestern, Terry Isbell, remembers Dr. Boutee’. “He had the respect and admiration of the entire faculty and administration and was widely loved by his students,” Isbell told the *Times*. “When John chose to leave NSU, it was a real loss to the Department and College.”

Dr. Boutee’ earned his doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana. He completed his internship at Duke University and his post-doctoral work at Harvard. He obtained his masters from Northwestern State University and he graduated from Tulane in 1979 with his undergraduate in psychology.

He has been a member of the Louisiana Psychological Association as well as the American Psychological Association.

Boutee’was raised in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and graduated from Washington High School in 1971, then serving four years in the United States Navy.

He is survived by his mother, Mary Alice, two children, three sisters, and five brothers.

Department of Psychology, Northwestern State University, has an opening for an Assistant/Associate Professor or Full Professor

Position: Assistant/Associate Professor or Full Professor – tenure track: Earned doctorate in Psychology (Preferred Clinical Psychology) **Salary:** \$54,000 to \$57,000

Responsibilities: Responsibilities include teaching courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels, graduate thesis research and paper-in-lieu, advising, university and department service, and research/publication endeavors.

Start Date: January 6, 2014 or until filled

Application: Send vita, transcripts, and 3 letters of recommendation: Northwestern State University Department of Psychology Dr. Susan Thorson-Barnett, Chairperson ATTN: Search Committee 311 Bienvenu Hall Natchitoches, LA 71497

Review of application will begin immediately and will continue until position is filled. Northwestern State.



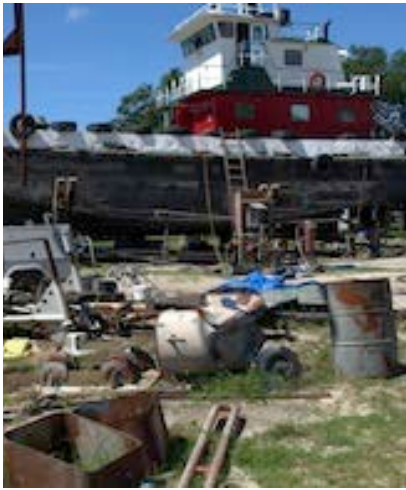
*The Louisiana Bayou Country:
Where the Road Goes All the Way Down to the Sea*

[Editor’s Note: One of our photographers, Dr. Tom Stigall, went down to the sea by way of the bayous recently, and returned with these photos. Photos and text below are Tom’s.]

“All photos were made in south Louisiana (south of Houma) where there are endless bayous and marshes. The landscape of the marshland and beyond, where rain clouds can be seen in the distance was taken in Cocodrie. Similarly, the photo of the elevated red building was taken from the site of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMC) in Cocodrie. The photos of trees were taken along LA Highway 57, a stretch of about 25 miles between Cocodrie and Houma. The photo of the boat was a found still life along the way.

“We also visited an unusual sculpture garden in the area, close to Chauvin... lots of angels and other figures juxtaposed in odd ways.”

“Everything in south Louisiana is somehow connected to water!”



Up-Coming Events

Sign Up Still Open for LSU Reunion Doctoral Psych Classes of 1970s & 1980s

The Louisiana State University Psychology Department Alumni Reunion Brunch is still open for those wishing to sign up, said organizers last week. The get together will honor those in the doctoral classes of the 1970s and 1980s and also the retiring Department Chair and Professor Dr. Robert Mathews. The event is to be held on Saturday, July 26, at The Club at Union Square (LSU Faculty Club), from 10 am to 2 pm.

Interested LSU doctoral classes alumni can visit the Psychology Department website for more information at www.lsu.edu/psychology. Look on the left hand menu for "Reunion 2014."

Louisiana Counseling Association To Hold Annual Conference September 21 to 23 in New Orleans

The La Counseling Assn will hold it annual conference at the InterContinental Hotel, 444 ST Charles Ave., in New Orleans, in September. Pre-conference workshops will begin on September 20 and the convention will proceed on the 21 through 23. For more information go to <http://www.lacounseling.org/lca/Conference.asp>.

July 16, 17, 18 Mental Health Summer Symposium to be Held at Hotel Acadiana, Lafayette

The 12th Annual Mental Health Summer Symposium, sponsored by Professional Training Resources (PTR), will be held July 16–18 in Lafayette, Louisiana at the Hotel Acadiana. Highlights for this year's conference include McNeese's Dr. Dena Matzenbacher, Teri Theaux, LPC, and Dr. Bryon Simoneaux and owner and director, Dr. John Simoneaux. The popular training activity fills up every year, so for information contact PTR at 318-443-0845 or 888-229-8128, or go to their website.

Pennington Biomedical to Host Parkinson's Disease Conference, July 19, in BR

Pennington Biomedical will host the 3rd annual Parkinson's Conference on Saturday, July 19, 2014. The conference will also feature several exhibitors offering information pertinent to patients with Parkinson's disease and their families. Registrants are encouraged to sign up in advance of the event. The conference will be held at Pennington Biomedical Research Center located at 6400 Perkins Road in Baton Rouge in the C.B. Pennington Jr. Building. Preregistration is required. For more information please visit www.pbrc.edu/parkinsons.



“Raising Awareness of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs): Prevention and Intervention”

FASDs are among the most common developmental disabilities, yet they often go unrecognized. This workshop, which is provided free of charge by the FASD Southeast Regional Training Center, aims to improve knowledge and skills for health professionals and others related to FASD prevention, intervention, and care. Health professionals, educators, administrators, human services providers, and others are invited to respond.

Program objectives include:

- Develop knowledge and skills for identifying, intervening, and preventing FASDs in healthcare settings
- Identify cognitive, behavioral and physical characteristics associated with FAS.
- Describe alcohol screening tools and brief intervention strategies to prevent alcohol-exposed pregnancies.
- Understand policy and ethical considerations related to FASDs.

Date: Friday, August 22, 2014

Time: 8:00am - 12:00pm

Location: Ochsner Medical Center – Kenner

Limited space available! Please RSVP to Heather Snell, FASD coordinator by **July 31, 2014**

hsnell@mmc.edu or 615-327-6529

This workshop is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Freedom Summer – 50 Years Later

A Fourth of July Feature

by J. Nelson

I had the honor of meeting W.C. “Dub” Shoemaker at the Press Convention last month. He and others on a panel spoke to attendees at the joint Mississippi–Louisiana Press convention in Biloxi on the topic, “Freedom Summer – 50 years later.”

“Freedom Summer” is the name given to 10 weeks in the summer of 1964, depicted in the movie *Mississippi Burning*. Dub called this the Pearl Harbor of the Civil Rights era. He covered the events as a reporter for the Jackson *Daily News*.

Fifty years ago in Philadelphia, Mississippi, near Meridian and not far from Jackson, three Civil Rights volunteers were murdered by members of the Ku Klux Klan. Two young white men and one African-American man had come from New York to register Blacks to vote. In a planned attack and aided by members of the local sheriff’s office, the men were killed and their bodies hidden.

Dub told the audience he put the Civil Rights era in with the Revolutionary War, Civil War, and Industrial Revolution, as far as significance in our country’s history.

Only after the presentation did it dawn on me the timeline connecting the Freedom Summer and what my family of origin called “The Klan Wars.”

It was not 1964, but February 1961, when my father snuck into the trees

surrounding a Klan organizing event in Red River Parish. The Klan had marched from Shreveport to rally members in a field not too far from Coushatta and the next day my father published his front-page editorial, “Against the Fall of Night.”

The editorial was a bold shot across the bow. He wrote that the Klan was a subversive group, that its members operate “in the shadow of darkness,” that they were capable of murder, and that there was no vacuum in the law for the Klan to fill in the parish. He wrote for them to “... get the Hell out of Red River Parish.”

Letters poured in both supporting and condemning the editorial and him. He lost advertisers. One wrote in his ad, “Please forgive Gordon, he knows not what he did.” And, “... if the Klan does something I don’t like, I hope I have the sense enough not to antagonize them.”

The Citizen received a letter from the National Imperial Wizard of the “Invisible Empire: Original Ku Klux Klan,” who wrote, “... your statements were made only from the fact that you are dominated with the eternal hatred that comes from Communists, the NAACP, and the ADL” And, “No amount of smears, slander, and misrepresentation by all these groups, plus your own little nonsensical epithets, will stop the Klan in her ride for Americanism, Christianity, and the right to be free men.”

A local reader addressed his envelope to “Know All Nelson,” and asked, “Where

do you get the right to tell an organization ‘to get the Hell out of Red River Parish?’ Better make it good.”

Another wrote, “Your big mouth will be the means of your hide winding up in a tan yard and some woman will be toting it around made into a big hand bag.”

But support was just as strong. “It was wonderful and expresses our sentiments exactly. Just wish there were more like you” And another, “It was brilliant and brave....”

The editorial was taken up and reprinted around the state and elsewhere, more letters coming in. “Dear Sir, In main editorial of B. Rouge *State Times* about mid-week I read with Joy of your article & a few quotes therein. To me, yours is first, & B.R. second to come out boldly against K.K.K.”

An editorial in the Lafourche *Comet*, said, “He minced no words in telling subscribers of his dislike for any man who hid under a bedsheet while attempting to subvert the laws of the state and the country,” and the *Comet*’s editorial reprinted in the Opelousas *Daily World*.

Ronnie Hicks, the then assistant director of the La. Press Association wrote, “It is the editor with guts who has made the community newspaper of this country the most powerful voice in



The front door of the *Coushatta Citizen* was eventually shot out. During the 60s the FBI put the Nelson family under guard.

Freedom Summer – 50 Years Later

A Fourth of July Feature

the life of its citizens.” [...] “It made me awfully damn proud to read that editorial...”

He even got a letter from J. Edgar Hoover.

The editorial and later reporting of news, polarized the community and aggravated the Klan. Crosses were burned, including one on our yard. Threatening calls and letters were on-going. The Klan’s night rides continued. My father wrote his brother that the joke on the street was, “Who would be the newspaper’s publisher after Gordon?” The FBI sent two agents down and our family was put under guard. Eventually the *Citizen’s* front door was shot out.

The Klan Wars in Red River parish continued for a while and then just ended, not with a bang, but a sputter. Somewhere along the way the Klan took all their files, flags, and icons south to Natchitoches Parish and set up shop in Campti. Years later my father told me that many of the members resigned after he threatened to put their names in the paper. Most were businessmen and depended on the African-American community’s patronage.

Was it a good thing or a bad thing that my father published that editorial and polarized the community, kicking over the beehive?

After Dub Shoemaker’s presentation last month, I looked at the letters my father received after his 1961 editorial. This time, one in particular stood out.

The editor-publisher of the *Deer Creek Pilot* wrote telling my father the editorial was a “damn good job” and important.

Then he wrote, “Luckily, we do not and have not had any such activity here. For that matter, I know of no place in the state where the Klan is active in any way.”

The *Pilot* is the newspaper in Rolling Fork, Mississippi, and only 125 miles from where the Civil Rights workers were killed three years later.

When the 200 FBI agents sent by J. Edgar Hoover combed through 10 Mississippi counties, searching for those three missing volunteers, they uncovered the bodies of eight other murdered Black men.

The *Coushatta Citizen* won the Community Service award for that work, and a national second place for journalism excellence.

My father was certainly no paragon, he was as flawed as the rest of us, maybe more so. But he understood the nature of secrecy and what it can do, and I think he’d seen some things growing up in Mississippi that impacted him.

It’s just part of history now, more than half a century past. Many these days may not even understand the role of the small town publishers of weekly newspapers.

But to my mind, from all these years later and the luxury of a perspective that my father did not have, it seems it was a fine example of when to kick over the beehive.

Have a great 4th of July.



Newspaper clippings with entire 1961 Editorial, “Against the Fall of Night” by Gordon Nelson. The editorial served to polarize the community and bring the activities of the Klan to the public’s awareness. Three years later, the killings near Meridian Mississippi brought the nation’s awareness to the issues of racial violence in the south. Dub Shoemaker, Mississippi Press Assn Hall of Fame member, and reporter during that period, calls it one of the four most significant times in US history.

Behavior Analyst Board Publishes New Rule Notices, continued

The proposed new rules for Supervision of Behavior Analysts (LAC 46:VIII.Chapter 5) establishe the requirements for supervision of state certified assistant behavior analysts. This Rule outlines the supervising licensed behavior analysts responsibilities and those of the state certified assistant behavior analyst. Below are excerpts of the proposed Rule.

Chapter 5. Supervision Requirements for State Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts [SCABA]

§501. Supervision—General

A. A state certified assistant behavior analyst [hereinafter referred to as "SCABA"] shall assist a licensed behavior analyst [hereinafter referred to as "LBA"] in the delivery of applied behavior analysis in compliance with all state and federal statutes, regulations, and Rules.

B. The SCABA may only perform services under the direct supervision of a LBA as set forth in this Rule. C. Supervision shall be an interactive process between the LBA and SCABA. It shall be more than peer review or co-signature. D. There shall be a written supervisory agreement between the LBA and the SCABA that shall address: 1. the domains of competency within which services may be provided by the SCABA; and 2. the nature and frequency of the supervision of the practice of the LBA by the LBA. E. A copy of the written supervisory agreement must be maintained by the LBA and the SCABA and made available to the board upon request.

§502. Supervision Requirements

A. The manner of supervision shall depend on the treatment setting, patient/client caseload, and the competency of the SCABA. At a minimum, for full-time SCABAS, working at least 30 hours per week, a face-to-face supervisory meeting shall occur not less than once every four weeks, with each supervisory session lasting no less than one hour for full-time SCABAS. The qualifying supervision activities may include:

1. Direct, real-time observation of the SCABA implementing behavior analytic assessment and intervention procedures with clients in natural environments and/or training others to implement them, with feedback from the supervising LBA. 2. One-to-one real-time interactions between the supervising LBA and the SCABA to review and discuss assessment procedures, assessment outcomes, possible intervention procedures and materials, data collection procedures, intervention outcome data, modifications of intervention procedures, published research, ethical and professional standards and guidelines, professional development needs and opportunities, and relevant laws, regulations, and policies.

B. More frequent supervisory activities may be necessary as determined by the LBA or SCABA dependent on the level of expertise displayed by the SCABA, the practice setting, and/or the complexity of the patient/client caseload. These additional supervisory activities, however, do not qualify towards the once per month requirements. The non-qualifying additional supervision activities may include, but are not limited to: 1. real-time interactions between a supervising LBA and a group of SCABAS to review and discuss assessment and treatment plans and procedures, client assessment and progress data and reports, published research, ethical and professional standards and guidelines, professional development needs and opportunities, and relevant laws, regulations, and policies; 2. informal interactions between supervising LBAs and SCABAs via telephone, electronic mail, and other written communication.

C. Supervision requirements for part-time practice, less than 30 hours per week, may be modified at the discretion of the board upon approval of the submitted plan. Additional modifications of the format, frequency, or duration of supervision may be submitted for approval by the board.

§503. Supervisor Responsibilities

A. Qualifying supervision shall ensure that the quality of the services provided by the SCABA to his employer and to consumers is in accordance with accepted standards, including the Guidelines for Responsible Conduct for Behavior Analysts and Professional Disciplinary and Ethical Standards for the Behavior Analyst Certification Board or other nation credentialing bodies as approved by the board.

B. Qualifying supervision shall guide the professional development of the SCABA in ways that improve the practitioner's knowledge and skills.

C. The LBA or the supervisor's alternate LBA designee must be available for immediate consultation with the assistant behavior analyst. The supervisor need not be physically present or on the premises at all times.

D. The LBA is ultimately responsible and accountable for client care and outcomes under his clinical supervision. The supervising LBA shall:

1. be licensed by the board as a LBA; 2. not be under restriction or discipline from any licensing board or jurisdiction; 3. not have more than 10 full-time-equivalent SCABAs under his/her supervision at one time without prior approval by the board; 4. provide at least one hour of face-to-face, direct supervision per month per each SCABA. 5. be responsible for all referrals of the patient/client.

The complete proposed Rule is available in the June La Register.

The Psychology Times

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