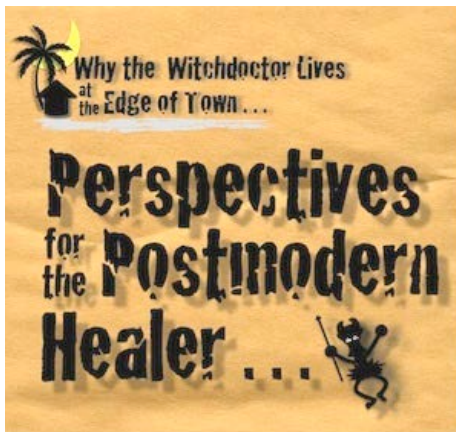


In this Issue



Family therapists at the Red River Institute in Shreveport work to hold the line against the medicalization of mental health services. Page 12.

LSU Cognitive Scientists Look at Lies, Liars, and Detection

- At the American Psychology–Law Society, March 6-8, New Orleans

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Dr. Salcedo and
Beth Salcedo
Feb Conference
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Gov. Stops the Bleeding in Higher Ed

6.6 percent increase, but some experts not impressed

In a press release last week Governor Jindal announced his budget which included a small increase for the state's university systems. The budget puts forth the Governor's plan to hold the line on taxes, increase funding for higher education, increase funding for K-12 schools, and increase funding for healthcare, according to the announcement on January 24, 2014.

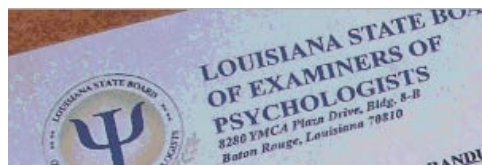
For higher education, this should mean that no more deep cuts will occur to the beleaguered state universities for the coming budget year.

In an earlier press release, the Governor defended his programs, saying that his reforms were working. "We are in the midst of an economic renaissance in Louisiana," he said. "Since 2008, we have announced economic

development wins that are resulting in more than 80,000 new jobs and more than \$50 billion in private capital investment. Because of these job wins, more people are employed than ever before in Louisiana."

"Tens of thousands of jobs are now in the pipeline that must be filled, and our next challenge is to ensure we have the skilled workforce to fill these jobs of

Cont pg 3



LSBEP Election Do-Over

Due to an error in the color of the ballots, the election for a five-year position on the state psychology board is being delayed, current ballots destroyed, and new ballots being sent to licensed psychologists around the state.

"There is to be a do-over of the election," said Dr. John Fanning, Louisiana Psychological Association

Cont pg 6

Third Time is Not the Charm

Psych Board Sticks with Decision on "Supervision"

The state psychology board has apparently ended a brief effort to review their Opinion #12, which states that medical psychologists, those not licensed under the state psychology board, may supervise candidates for a license in psychology.

The Executive Director of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP), Ms. Kelly Parker, told the *Times*, "The Board received attorney-client privileged legal advice a couple of years ago and the information was revisited. LSBEP Opinion #012 is still the opinion of the current Board," she noted.

Cont pg 5

Building Court Systems That Understand Children's Needs

"In the 1980s the Louisiana family court system was an adversarial arena," explained clinical psychologist Dr. Alan Taylor to the *Times*. "Parents fought over children as if they were property, and joint custody was rare, as was the use of psychological experts."

"A psychologist who became involved in the family court arena could expect to have his or her professionalism, objectivity, and motives questioned," said Taylor, whose Baton Rouge clinic has served families since 1985. "Judges and attorneys had little or no understanding of the role of psychological science. Custody evaluators were considered as either dangerous or as pawns to be used. There was no contact at all between attorneys, court judges and experts; the first meeting would take place in the court arena."

Taylor explained that at that time, both sides attacked, and the best an evaluator could hope for was a neutral or somewhat sympathetic judge. "However," he said, "judges were almost as suspicious as attorneys, and mental health experts were seen as mysterious or irrelevant."

"Part of my goal in meeting the needs of children was to attempt to avoid the damage that would be done with highly-contested, bitter divorces," he explained. "I began to take on cases in which I would either be appointed by the court or requested by attorneys to perform a custody evaluation. There were practically no other types of family court services involving mental health professionals at the time."

Cont pg 10



Editorial Page

Public Records Laws & Community Psychology

by J. Nelson

It's a journalist's job to be a snoop. The late Nicholas Tomalin famously said, "The only qualities essential for real success in journalism are rat-like cunning, a plausible manner, and a little literary ability."

While I'm not very good at any of these, I'm working to become a better snoop. Sean Lane and his group at LSU who study lies and detection from the cognitive psychology perspective are doing some fascinating work around these behaviors. If you've have been following the sociobiologists on the evolved mechanisms for cheating and detection, you see how it fits well with social theory and the Star Wars trilogy.

So recently, when rumbling in LPA led to me being asked, very politely, just how I'd come by the information of who was running for the psychology board, I was a bit surprised. I'm usually the one asking the questions. My first response was to feel flattered. All really good journalists sooner or later become the object of someone else's detection efforts. Since I'd like to be a good journalist, this seemed like a step in the right direction.

However, then it dawned on me that someone was thinking that something improper had occurred. I'm just as improper as the next person but that rankled me. Board elections are public business.

It didn't help my bad mood when I got the "protected by attorney-client privilege" from the psychology board director about the supervision issue. I really dislike that answer.

I'm not sure if the rumblings in LPA have been resolved or not, but I sent them a request for documents to see what I can find out about what the heck is going on.

While I was at it, I read the laws again about open meetings and public documents. These are really great laws, and reflect the best of who we are and strive to be in this country.

In their 1940 text, *The Law of Newspapers*, Arthur and Crosman wrote, "The principle of the freedom of the press as it exists today in this country, and in other democracies, is the result of a long and bitter struggle between those who believed in civil rights and constituted authority which feared the exercise of those rights." The battle was not only over the individual's right to speak, write, and publish his thoughts, "but primarily to provide for the people as a whole a means of protecting themselves from the tyranny of arbitrary and oppressive government. In this—the freedom to express dissatisfaction with the acts of government, and to expose improper, illegal, or corrupt acts of governmental officers—lie one of the great purposes of this principle and its tremendous value to all people who live in a democracy."

Open meetings and public records laws support the inherent right of the public to be informed about how government conducts itself and its affairs. People have an unequivocal right, set forth in the constitution, to know what those in power are doing and why. Court rulings have shown that the Public Records Act must be liberally interpreted to enlarge, rather than restrict, the public's access to information.

Now I also have the problem of another "attorney-client" protection when it comes to the psychology board explaining the

reasoning about why psychology interns can be supervised by people who don't have a state psychology license.

Of course it relates to Act 251, like the mysterious memo that the board has refused to release, first protected by one legal reason, then protected by another reason. (Mark Twain said, "If you tell the truth you don't have to remember what you said.")

Protected by attorney-client privilege? What does that really mean psychologically? "*This is really, truly none of your business,*" "*We refuse to be accountable—go suck an egg,*" or "*We are cheating.*"

I wouldn't keep asking except for one thing: It is my sincere belief that the board made the wrong decisions and those decisions were made for political reasons and not for valid reasons. I've had to sweat it out at the board to try and get answers, but I'm a little wiser now.

Aside from disputes about the supervision of interns, the issue of openness is much more profound.

AA has a great truism: "Secrets make us sick." The phrase captures both the fact that deception of others can often lead us to self-deception and vice versa, and that either can then lead us to be vulnerable to problems in our relationships, our mental health, or our character.

We aren't simply responsible for ourselves. As the family-therapists I interviewed for this issue said, nothing exists in isolation.

We are also responsible for the norms of our community.

We should embrace the principles in the open meetings and public records laws, because embedded in those laws are the time-honored principles for living well in a community and a country.

The Psychology Times

Member, Louisiana Press Association

Published monthly
by Nelson News, LLC.

psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com

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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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Corrections & Clarifications

No corrections or clarifications were received for our January issue.

The Bleeding Stops in Higher Ed

Continued

the future. Economists have recently said they have never seen an industrial expansion like the one under way in Louisiana, but have also warned that we must do a better job training skilled workers that will be needed to fill the demand for jobs at the major industrial and high tech projects coming to Louisiana. That’s why our top priority must be making sure we have the resources to prepare our students and train them for the jobs of the future.”

The announcements highlighted increases in state general funding for higher education and increases total higher education funding by \$141.5 million – a 6.6 percent increase over last year, according to the announcement.

Jan Moller and David Gray from the Louisiana Budget Project, wrote, “The good news from Gov. Bobby Jindal’s executive budget is that the bleeding has finally stopped in higher education. After five straight years of deep cuts to public colleges and universities — one of the few areas of the state budget that are unprotected by state law or the Constitution — the proposed budget for 2014-15 actually calls for a slight funding increase.”

In comparing states in their support for higher education, the Postsecondary Education Opportunity, an organization for research about education policy, found Louisiana to have reached a 50-year low in funding (see graph).

The Governor’s announcement said that funding includes a new higher education workforce incentive initiative of \$40 million that will help prepare Louisiana students to compete in the new global economy. These funds will be made available to state research institutions that produce nationally recognized commercial research and to state colleges and universities that partner with

private industry to produce graduates with high-demand degrees and certificates.

More than \$82.5 million will go to Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), Louisiana’s merit-based scholarship program. The bottom line increase to TOPS is \$17 million, the announcement noted. Other investments were outlined.

However, according to Moller and Gray of the La Budget Project, “... there is actually less there than meets the eye,” when the numbers are unpacked. Some of the money will come from raising tuitions and some is contingent on matching funding from private sector partnerships.

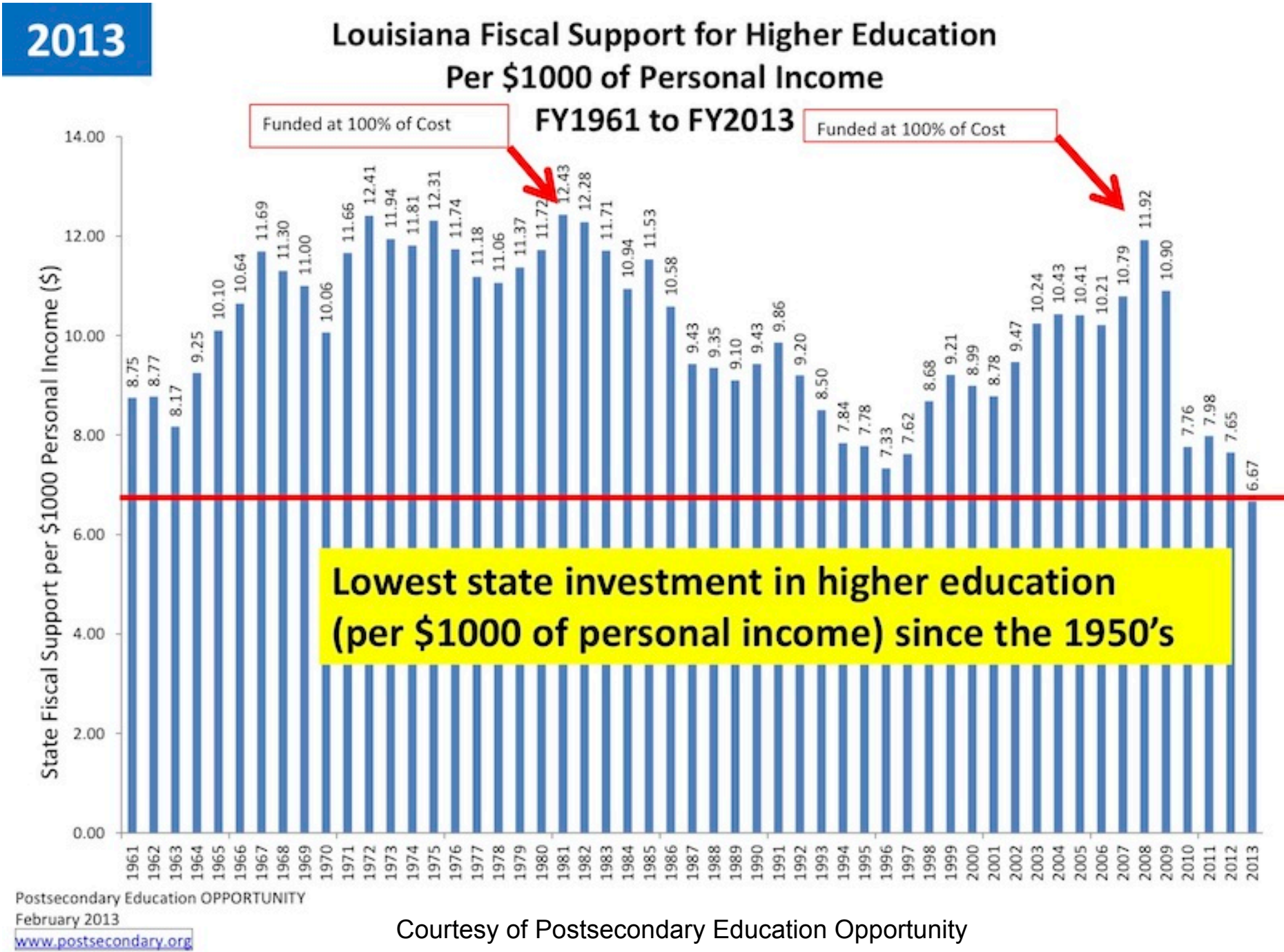
“Still, it’s a lot better than getting cut,” the authors said, “which has been the story in higher education since the Great Recession and two unaffordable income-tax cuts collapsed the state revenue base and forced colleges through an unprecedented retrenchment.”

In his introduction to his budget, the Governor supported his approaches, noting that he began in 2008 to shrink the size of government in order to grow the private sector economy and create more private sector jobs. He said that year 2013 was a record year for business expansion and investment in Louisiana.

Governor Jindal said that more than 80,000 new jobs and more than \$50 billion in private capital investment have resulted, and now the state much develop new skilled employees .

He pointed to the new incentive fund that will be called the Workforce and Innovation for a Stronger Economy Fund – or WISE Fund. The funds will be made available to state research institutions that produce nationally recognized commercial

Cont next pg



The Bleeding Stops in Higher Ed

Continued

research and to state colleges and universities that produce graduates with 4 and 5 STAR job ready degrees. To receive these funds, institutions will have to partner with private industry by recruiting at least a 20 percent private match in cash or in kind, such as technology and equipment, according to the announcement.

Governor Jindal said this collaboration between Louisiana Economic Development (LED), the Louisiana Workforce Commission, and the leaders of higher education has created a targeted investment strategy.

The press release listed partnerships already in place: IBM has entered into a partnership with the LSU School of Engineering. In the UL System, LED recently partnered with UNO and GE Capital, Bossier Parish Community College recently received a \$750,000 investment from EnCana Oil & Gas and Shell E&P to create an Oil & Gas Production Technology program. In New Orleans, Delgado partnered with 45 regional manufacturing and construction firms such as Laitram, Cornerstone, Shell, and Bollinger, in addition to UNO, Southeastern, and Nicholls, to produce 1,500 qualified graduates over four years for the manufacturing sector. Southern University recently partnered with Genesis Energy to create a \$100,000 scholarship fund, invest \$25,000 in Southern’s Civil and Engineering labs, and help Southern ensure its curricula were aligned with the workforce needs of Genesis.

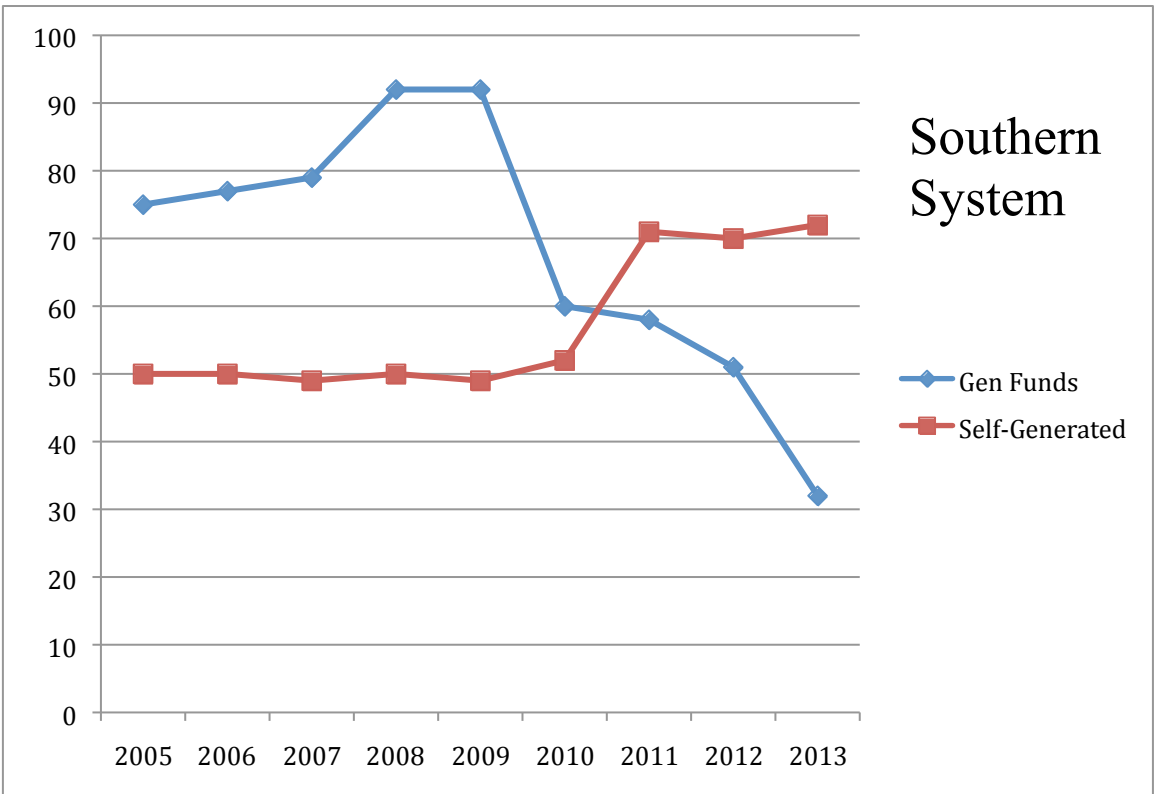
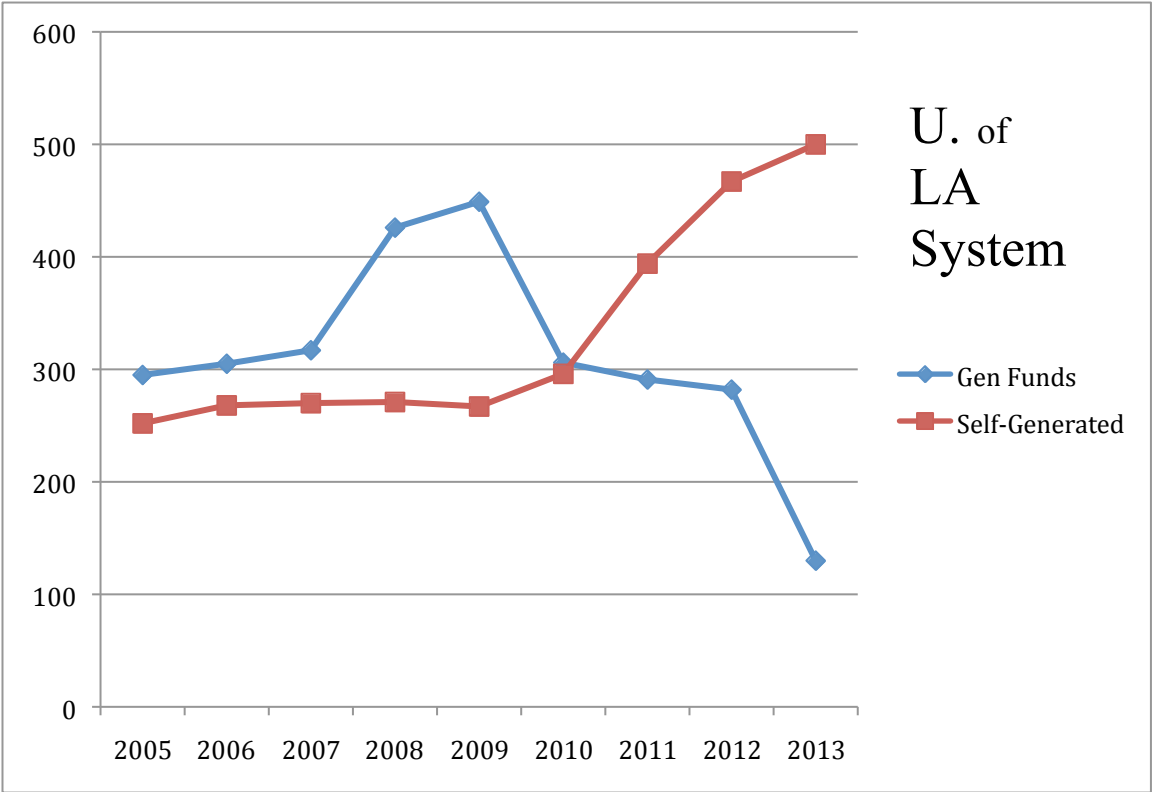
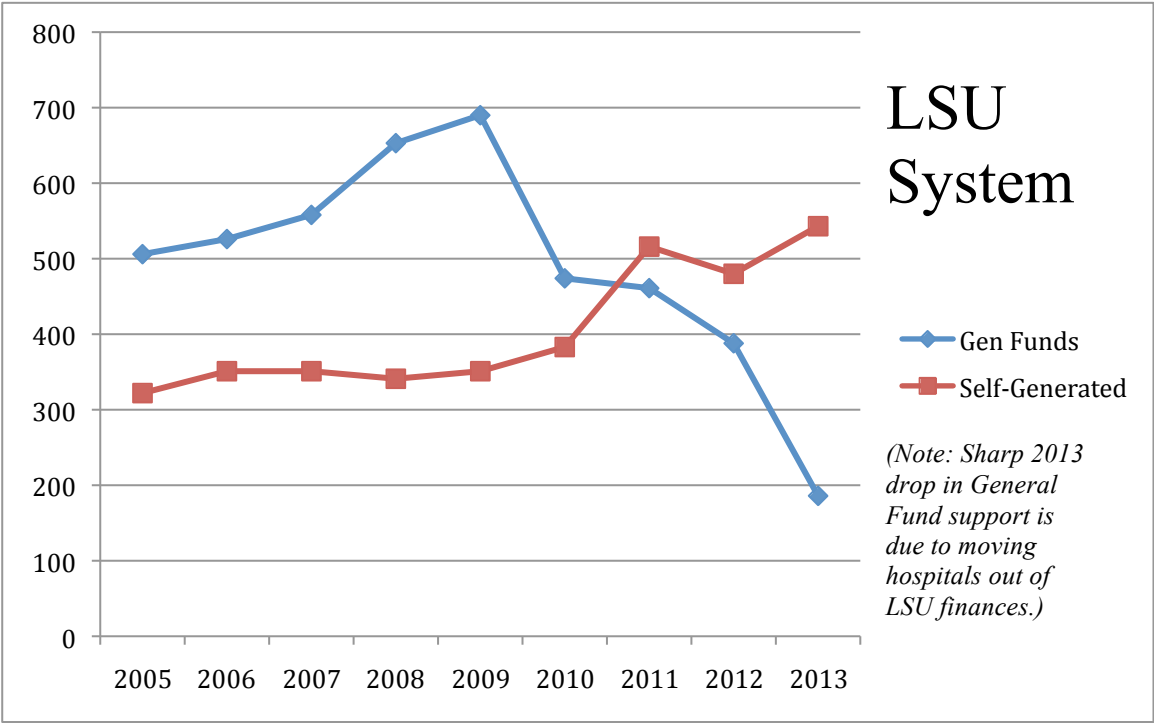
Graphs

Examples of two funding sources over time for three university systems.

The blue line shows the funding from the state general fund (in millions) from the enacted budget.

The red line shows the self-generated funds.

Source: State budgets



Psych Board Sticks With “Supervision”

Continued

Opinion #12 began in 2010 when then chair Dr. Joe Comaty found that under the Psychology Practice Act, supervisors of those seeking a license in psychology must be supervised by someone licensed under the LSBEP. And, he said that a medical psychologist who wants to supervise psychology interns would need to continue to hold their state psychology license.

However, following that decision Comaty, who is also a medical psychologist, was contacted by the Executive Director of the Medical Board, Dr. Robert Marier. And after that the board rescinded and reversed its decision.

Maier wrote Comaty, saying, “Joe, I am writing to ask LSBEP to reconsider its position on the supervision of psychology students by medical psychologists at the request of members of the Medical Psychology Advisory Committee. A summary of the issues prepared by John Bolter PhD, MP, is attached for your reference.”

“First it was clearly the intent of the Medical Psychology Practice Act to enable medical psychologists to continue all aspects of their practice as before including the supervision of psychology students,” wrote Dr. Marier.

“Second and more importantly from a legal perspective – LSBEP permits out of state psychologists to do so and in doing so does not uphold the provision in the Psychology Practice Act that is cited as the reason for not permitting medical psychologists to supervise students. I do not see how you can have it both ways.”

Dr. Bolter submitted a two-page argument with excerpts from laws that related the term psychologist and the term medical psychologist. He cited a specific example, “Labor and Workman’s Compensation law (R.S. 23:1371.1[2]) defines a ‘Psychologist’ as an individual licensed to practice psychology by LSBEP or LSBME.”

In July 2011, the then LSBEP Chair, Dr. Tony Young, told the *Times* that the position of the LSBEP was based on the Workman’s Comp law.

The supervision issue is part of a set of issues from passage of Act 251 that places the practice of psychology under the regulatory



Members of the psychology board at the recent long-range planning meeting. The board is composed of three medical psychologists, one clinical psychologist, and one school psychologist. (L to R) Drs. Jessica Brown, Phil Griffin, Darla Burnett, Marc Zimmermann, and Rita Culross, and Executive Director, Ms. Kelly Parker.

authority of the medical board, including educational issues and other standards of practice.

It is not known if the psychology board, either during 2011 or in this recent review, has received contrasting views or testimony from other sources. The board has a majority of medical psychologists serving at this time.

However, in a previous interview with the *Times*, Dr. Stephen DeMers, Executive Director of the Association for State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB), said that there is no other state where individuals practicing psychology are regulated by a medical board. And he said, “Louisiana is playing with fire.”

DeMers also said, “It might satisfy the rules in Louisiana, but not in any other state. The implications for people down the road could be catastrophic.”

ASPPB serves member boards throughout the United States, and is the regulation authority for psychologists, focusing on issues of standards of practice and mobility across states.

Concerns of ASPPB’s director were repeated to members of

the Louisiana Psychological Association when they looked into the question. However, in an article by Drs. Alicia Pellegrin and Robert Storer for the association’s newsletter, the two authors said they felt the risk to interns was small.

The APA Board of Educational Affairs (BEA) has expressed “strong

concerns about the potential implications of oversight of a psychology licensing board by a nonpsychologist health profession board at the state licensing level. Very specifically, concerns were expressed regarding ultimate oversight by another profession of the evaluation of education and training credentials of psychologists and standards for supervision in clinical training.”

CE Changes Appear Likely For Emeritus Psychologists

“We are currently considering changing the Emeritus language during legislative session. The change would include requiring Emeritus licensees to obtain continuing education but would still allow them to renew annually for a reduced fee,” state psychology board director Ms. Kelly Parker told the *Times*.

Currently those psychologists over 65 with the Emeritus status, who practice part-time, do not have to obtain continuing education units.

Parker noted several reasons that continuing education is required, including keeping pace with emerging issues and technologies, and developing competences.

“The Board believes that with the recent CE rule change, obtaining CE’s will be easier and less costly than expected,” Parker said.

While a number of senior psychologists have raised objections, several sources suggest that this is likely to be changed in the upcoming legislative session.



The previous psychology board members, meeting in the old offices in Baton Rouge. The board has since moved to new offices.

State Psychology Board Election Do-Over, Continued

(LPA) President. LPA helps conduct the elections in conjunction with the state psychology board.

The error, that ballots were printed on plain white paper rather than shaded paper, would make it easy for someone to send in duplicates.

“We do not have any evidence of any voting impropriety having taken place,” said Fanning, “but we want the election to be unambiguously above-board.”

The election is considered to be an important one for many in the psychology community, because of conflicts over issues due to Act 251. Some in the community are concerned about the percentage representation of medical psychologists, who make up only about 5 percent of the licensed psychologists in the state. Currently 3 of the 5 members are medical psychologists.

Running for the 5-year position are Dr. Robin Chapman, a newcomer to the state and health psychologist, Dr. Joe Comaty, a medical psychologist, and Dr. Connie Patterson, a Tulane professor and school psychologist. The election represents an ongoing tug-a-war between psychologists and medical psychologists for control of the board.

The ballots, sent out the first time around Christmas, were due in January. However, now licensed psychologists will be receiving another ballot, for the same election and same candidates, probably sometime in the next few weeks.

Fanning told the *Times* that a board member expressed concern that it might be possible for someone to simply make copies of the ballots and vote more than once. Fanning said a few other psychologists also voiced the same concern. “The Executive Council decided it would be best to re-vote the election,” said Fanning.

“Dr. Gros and I had a phone conference with two of the board members to discuss this,” Fanning said. “We were subsequently advised that the board would like to discuss the election at its January 24, 2014 meeting.”

LPA sent a member to attend but the police closed the Interstate and she was caught in traffic and missed the meeting. “I inquired about any feedback the board might have for us,” said Fanning, “and was told we would receive notification from Kelly Parker, which we have not yet received.”

The *Times* asked Executive Director Parker about the matter and she declined to comment, suggesting contacting LPA.

“The new ballots are ready to go out,” Fanning said. “We have not yet announced this to the membership simply because we want to make sure everything is nailed down procedurally, including our communication with the board.”

“We very definitely do not want any further complications in the electoral process, and do not want there to be confusion or

Coalition Against Human Trafficking To Hold First Annual Conference Feb 8

The Louisiana Coalition Against Human Trafficking will host “Fight Human Trafficking: The Northshore Human Trafficking Conference,” at the First Baptist Church of Mandeville on Saturday, February 8, 2014.

The conference is free and open to the public and will feature leaders from various community organizations including law enforcement. First-hand accounts from former victims are to be highlighted.

Psychologist Dr. Rafael Salcedo is the co-founder of the Louisiana Coalition Against Human Trafficking, a non-profit organization dedicated to fighting this crime. The Coalition was created to develop awareness and understanding about the tragedy of human trafficking and in particular child sex trafficking, also called Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST).

One of the main goals of the conference is to inform the community about the prevalence of child sex trafficking. “This seems timely given the fact that January has been designated by President Obama as Human Trafficking Awareness Month,” said Salcedo.

“Part of our mission includes establishing a therapeutic group home to treat victims of DMST,” said Salcedo. “To that end, we have acquired a large home in the greater New Orleans area, and are in the process of completing permits, licensure requirements, etc. to make the home operational.”

Dr. Rafael Salcedo and wife Beth told the *Times* that they invite all those in the community to attend this free conference. To register go to lacaht.org. (See ad next page.)

The couple received the *Times*’ 2013 Community Award for Altruism, honoring their efforts to stop child sex trafficking and to offer genuine help to these young victims.



Beth and Rafael Salcedo, founders of La Coalition Against Human Trafficking, at a previous conference.

misunderstanding on the part of the psychologists of the state about what we’re doing and why. We are ready to send the ballots out when we receive communication from the board regarding details of the notification process.”

Fanning noted that the LPA Executive Council regrets

having to repeat the balloting process, and takes full responsibility for the error.

The *Times* submitted a Records request to LPA regarding communications about the election.

FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING



free & open to the public • register at lacaht.org



The conference, sponsored by the Louisiana Coalition Against Human Trafficking, will feature leaders of various non-profit organizations, law enforcement, and first-hand accounts from former sex trafficking victims. Several Louisiana-based anti-human trafficking efforts will be showcased, including LACAHT's recently-purchased Free Indeed Home, which is first home in the state dedicated to the rehabilitation of underage female victims of sex trafficking. Attendees will participate in breakout sessions focusing on appropriate responses to the issue. Lunch and beverages will be provided. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the conference will run from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 8, 2014 at First Baptist Church Mandeville.

Some Support for Healthcare In Governor’s New Budget

The Governor will increase healthcare funding for the next fiscal year in his budget, announced last week. This includes the promise of no provider rate cuts and no reductions in Medicaid eligibility.

The Executive Budget will provide an additional \$26 million to expand access to home and community-based waiver services. Overall, the budget includes more than \$606 million in spending on these waivers, an increase of almost 6 percent when compared to the current year budget, according to the announcement.

This money will enable the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) to begin filling over 2,250 previously frozen waiver slots (including all legislatively authorized slots), adding 200 new NOW waiver slots, and reducing the current waiting list by over 4,000 individuals, said the memo authors.

The Governor reviewed details of the implementation of the private partnerships that replaced the state run charity hospitals, saying that the program was working.

The announcement also outlined operations of the state’s Bayou Health program, “with nearly 900,000 enrollees transitioned from the legacy fee-for-service Medicaid program to a health plan of their choice.”

The Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership has provided a new approach to both delivering and financing behavioral health services, drawing on the strengths of the private, public and non-profit sectors. This will provide enhanced access to a more complete and effective array of evidence-based behavioral health services and supports, while also improving individual health outcomes, said the announcement.

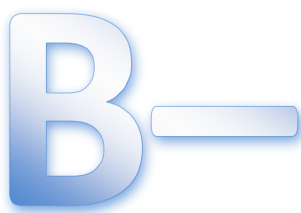
Within the LBHP, OBH launched the Coordinated System of Care (CSoC) in five regions to better coordinate comprehensive care for children and youth with significant behavioral health challenges or co-occurring disorders who are in, or at-risk of, out of home placement. Statewide implementation of CSoC is anticipated to be completed by the end of FY 14, noted the announcement.

Pennington To Open New Childhood Obesity Program

Governor Jindal and Pennington Biomedical Research Center announced the new Childhood Obesity and Diabetes Research Program at Pennington’s Baton Rouge-based campus and opened a newly renovated space for the program’s activities. The Jindal Administration provided \$6.4 million in funding for the renovated building that houses the new research clinic. The funding has allowed Pennington Biomedical to retain 19 direct jobs for pediatric studies, and to create more jobs in the future as grants are obtained.

Psych Board Wants Psychologists To Keep CE Records for Six Years

At their September 2013 meeting, the psychology board discussed whether licensees should keep continuing education records. According to the minutes, the Board discussed the issue carefully. Dr. Culross moved to issue a Board opinion that all psychologists should retain continuing education records or certificates for 6 years. The motion passed with all members voting favorably.



La Grabs Top Ranking in Educational Reform

StudentsFirst, a non-profit education policy group that evaluates states on whether the right policy environments are in place to best serve students and raise achievement levels, gave Louisiana their top spot in a State Policy Report Card ranking, announced in January.

“Louisiana has established itself as a national leader for creating innovative and important student-centered education policies,” the group wrote. “The state has adopted meaningful educator evaluations, and it requires districts to base all personnel decisions, as well as compensation structures, on classroom effectiveness. Louisiana is also a leader for

empowering parents with choice and information.”

The group graded hard, with the top grade of a B–.

Louisiana ranked first with an overall grade of B– and GPA of 2.92. Florida ranked second with a GPA of 2.71. Indiana was third with 2.48 (C+), and Rhode Island was fourth.

StudentsFirst writes, “Our mission is to build a national movement to defend the interests of children in public education and pursue transformative reform, so that America has the best education system in the world.” To view the report: <http://reportcard.studentsfirst.org>

Behavior Analyst Board Members Discuss Finances, Sets Dates

As described in their minutes of December 2013, the members of the Louisiana Behavior Analyst Board discussed finances and alternative ways to finance the expenses of the board.

They also considered developing supervision rules for unlicensed individuals practicing under the direction of a Licensed Behavior Analyst.

The members set dates for future meetings as February 4, March 11, April 8, and June 3.

Death Notice

Dr. Armond Devezin Dies December 20

Armond Alphonse Devezin, Ph.D., age 81, died Friday, December 20, 2013. Dr. Devezin was a licensed psychologist and associate professor at Dillard University in New Orleans. He was a psychologist for the New Orleans Police Department and operated a private practice, Devezin’s Psychological Services.

He was the first African-American president of the Louisiana Psychological Association, and also served as president of the Louisiana Association of Black Psychologists.

A memorial article is to follow.



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.

Join our interest society or present your credentials and training for examination and diplomat status at: www.amphome.org



Psychology research team at LSU Psychology in Baton Rouge examines the nuances of lying, remembering lies, what to look for in detecting lies, and other issues of this area of human nature. The group works both in pure research and applied areas. They will present some of their research at the upcoming American Psychology–Law Society conference, to be held March 6-8, in New Orleans. (L to R) Stephanie Martin, Rachel Dianiska, Kacie Mennie, Sean Lane, and Lloyd Moffett.

(Photo by Jim Zietz, LSU University Relations.)

And the Lies Have It

LSU psychological scientist, Dr. Sean Lane, and his group at the Office of Applied Cognition continue to tease out nuances of lies, liars, and detection

Dr. Sean Lane, Associate Professor at the LSU Department of Psychology, and Co-Director of the Office of Applied Cognition, will be presenting research on some of the complex cognitive science behind lies and deception, at the upcoming conference of the American Psychology–Law Society to be held March 6-8, in New Orleans. The Society is Division 41 of the American Psychological Association.

Lane and his team delve into the convoluted nature of humans and their lies, how memory affects lies and truth, and the nuances of detection.

The team includes graduate students, undergraduates, and past graduates, Stephanie Martin, Rachel Dianiska, Kacie Mennie, and Lloyd Moffett. The group works with Dr. Emily Elliott, an LSU colleague and expert in the area of working memory and attention. Dr. Megan Papesh of the LSU faculty will also present at the conference.

“My laboratory studies the cognitive, particularly memory, processes that operate in complex, real-world situations,” Dr. Lane explained to the *Times*.

“Much of our work focuses on understanding cognitive processes in legal settings,” he said. “For example, we’ve recently been doing research examining people’s memory for their lies.”

In a previous study, Lane and former graduate student Kathleen Viera examined the difference in false descriptions and false denials, a topic important to forensic

interrogators. The researchers examined how the two types of lies were different cognitively. False denials are less cognitively complex and easier to forget, making it harder to hold together during more intense interviewing. Their study was accepted for publication in the *J. of Applied Research and Memory Cognition*.

For the upcoming conference, Lane, Martin, Elliott, and Mennie will present *Working memory capacity and cognitive load influence people’s veracity judgments of interviewees*, and also, *The impact of cognitive load and WMC on information elicitation and deception detection*. Kacie Mennie and others will present research on *The effect of maintaining eye contact on information elicitation and deception detection*.

Dr. Papesh will present on *Context-based criterion shifts in photo-ID verification*.

“We will be presenting research on the strengths and weaknesses of a technique designed to enhance the ability to detect deception in interviews,” Lane said. “This line of research is designed to empirically answer questions that have arisen from law enforcement investigators using the tools of cognitive science. In ongoing and future work, we are examining meta-cognition in the context of investigative interviews –with post-doc Sarah Jordan– in laboratory and field studies.”

“One thing we’ll be highlighting,” Lane said, “is how individual differences in working memory capacity can influence the

interpretation of interviewee’s behavior.”

“The conference draws an international group of researchers and practitioners to discuss the latest developments in this area,” said Lane. He explained that most of the research presented can be roughly grouped in forensic psychology, such as clinical determination of competency or prisoner mental health. And, the other topic is psychology and the law, which includes jury decision-making and eyewitness memory.

“One unique aspect of the conference is it’s interdisciplinary flavor, as it is common for attorneys, judges, and law enforcement officials to join in the conversation about how psychology should inform public policy,” said Lane.

“Our research is conducted in both the lab and the field, and we attempt to use what we learn to improve performance in real-world settings and to refine basic theory,” Lane said.

Along this line, and with their other work, the group is beginning a collaboration with the National Center for Biomedical Research and Training at LSU to examine ways of enhancing law enforcement training.

Find more about the Office of Applied Cognition at <http://www.lsu.edu/psychology/oac/> For information about the American Psychology–Law Society go to <http://www.apadivisions.org/division-41/index.aspx>

Building Court Systems that Understand, Continued

Taylor met the harsh realities of the adversarial, legal system when he scheduled a meeting with a father involved in a custody battle. The father happened to be an attorney, and he brought along his own attorney to the interview.

“He then proceeded to announce that they were going to conduct a deposition of me,” explained Taylor, “and that, unless I provided the kinds of information they expected or wanted, I could expect to be sued or prosecuted.”

Taylor took an “immediate hiatus” from performing custody evaluations and spent months thinking hard about the conundrum.

“I was determined to approach family court work in a different manner,” he said, “and to reduce my stress levels. I decided to provide custody evaluations as part of a team involving myself and a female social worker, which allowed two disciplines, two genders, half of the work load, and half the stress,” he said. “This not only made a significant difference in the stress on the evaluators, but we found that families and children under evaluation were greatly relieved to have a man and a woman who would sit with them and listen to their stories, which were often being told for the first time.”

He enlisted his friend and colleague Marcla Cox, LCSW, for this prototype. “We began to try to humanize and make the evaluation process more friendly to everyone involved,” he said. “We took a collegial approach and began to talk with attorneys and to encourage all of the parties involved to provide all the information they wished.”

Their efforts paid off. “This one decision almost immediately produced a significant change in the family court atmosphere and the relationships between the disciplines,” he said. “Court appearances were significantly reduced, and judgments were much more often stipulated than decreed.”

Taylor later married Leslie Todd, LCSW, whose own practice focused on families. He convinced her to try forensic work.

“Like almost every social worker I knew, I was terrified of court,” says Todd. “But I added in my family systems approach and began every one of our evaluation sessions with a genogram of both households. Not only did the families like it, but the attorneys started catching on to family dynamics. They *loved* it.”

The husband and wife team have now been doing child custody evaluations together since 1998. They think they have more credibility with clients when they introduce themselves as professionals who are also together in a stepfamily.

“But as a social worker,” said Todd, “I was bothered by the lack of resources available to the parents *after* the evaluation. Once the two households were established, who would help these people learn how to drop their hostilities and move on?”

While researching the problem, Todd discovered the Association for Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), an international, interdisciplinary association with a mission to improve the lives of children and families, mostly through the positive resolution of family conflict.

Taylor and Todd joined AFCC in 2002 and began attending as many conferences as they could. “My first thought in walking into the conference was, ‘*These are my people*,’” Taylor said. “There was an immediate sense of understanding, shared goals, and the sense of being among the best and brightest as well as the most dedicated mental health and legal professionals working in the family court arena.”

“AFCC is the highest quality professional organization I have ever seen,” Taylor said. “Family court work can be extremely difficult and stressful, and AFCC provides valuable backup on a number of fronts.”

Working together, Taylor and Todd brought what they learned

from the AFCC to the Louisiana family court system.

Todd explained, “We came up with a decision tree for judges regarding the ‘menu of services’ mental health people could provide in cases of mild, medium, or high conflict divorce. This was a new paradigm for them, and they liked it. We modeled collegiality to the attorneys and told them we could help them manage their clients better. We modeled positive language-- like “parenting plan” instead of “custody”-- and we asked attorneys to tone down their inflammatory rhetoric. We emphasized mediation over litigation.”

In 2003, Todd approached Chief Family Court Judge LaVergne about trying Parenting Coordination work on an experimental basis. “This hybrid model was developed by AFCC to help redirect parents locked in high-conflict divorces,” she explained. “The purpose was to cut down on litigation and more importantly, spare the children from more emotional damage.”

While Judge Keaty and several professionals in Lake Charles were promoting Parent Coordination, Todd began working to bring the methods to Baton Rouge. Judge LaVergne soon named Todd to the Louisiana Law Institute’s Parenting Coordination Committee. Todd also joined the local Collaborative Divorce group, another niche for collaborative-minded professionals.

Birth of the Louisiana AFCC Chapter

In 2007, the Louisiana legislature passed the Parenting Coordination law. “This provided a new niche for mental health professionals, and another reason to organize a Louisiana chapter of AFCC,” Todd explained.

In May 2009, in a show of post-Katrina recovery, AFCC held its 46th Annual Conference in New Orleans. “The timing was perfect for us,” Todd said. And the new group began to develop. Todd served as chairperson through this three-year process and became the founding President of the new Louisiana chapter.

Todd’s contributions were acknowledged by AFCC when they named her an “AFCC Ambassador,” a designation for those who help expand the organization’s reach while exemplifying the collegial and collaborative spirit of AFCC membership.

“Today,” said Todd, “AFCC-LA has over 100 members, evenly split between legal and mental health professionals, with a few financial experts as well. We have one of the highest percentages of judge members in the nation. Our Board is interdisciplinary; our second President was a judge, and our third is an attorney-mediator.”

Many members serve on national boards and the Louisiana Law Institute, she said. The group provides training, and free continuing education for

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Some of the AFCC-LA members attending the AFCC 2012 Chicago Conference. (L to R) Alan Taylor, PhD, Leslie Todd, LCSW, Pam Martin, PhD, Alyson McCain, PhD and Don Hoppe, PsyD. (Photo, courtesy Leslie Todd.)

Building Court Systems that Understand, Continued

members attending regional lunch and learns in Metairie, Baton Rouge, and Northshore. They will host their 4th Annual Conference March 27–28 in New Orleans

The Future Looks Bright

For the incoming President, Terri Campesta, Licensed Professional Counselor and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist from Kenner, educational activities will be a continued focus for the growing Chapter.

“My goal is to expand the education opportunities offered in this state. I foresee additional seminars and workshops for Parent Coordinators, Custody Evaluators, Domestic Mediators, psychotherapists, and attorneys to improve their skill sets as we move forward to embrace conflict resolution.”

Campesta, a Child Custody Evaluator, Domestic Mediator, and Parent Coordinator, notes many improvements. “Mental health professionals and family law practitioners are having conversations about what is truly in the child's best interests,” she said, “not just giving the concept lip service. Child custody evaluators are asked to determine the full scope of what parenting time arrangements will work best and attorneys are developing Consent Judgments based on the evaluator's knowledge, avoiding lengthy, expensive and stressful trials that further escalate conflict.”

“Attorneys are asking mental health professionals who serve as Parent Coordinators how they can assist and are beginning to trust the Parent Coordinator's input,” said Campesta. “Through conversation, mental health professionals have a better understanding of the attorney's role and duty to represent their client.” The exchange continues to grow, she explained. “In the end, the family is better served.”

Todd, who still runs the Chapter's website and publishes the quarterly newsletter, explained, “One of our goals is to make our website the state's central resource to find databases of professionals, agencies, and programs to help children in divided homes,” she said. “We are actively promoting the work of Child Advocacy Centers and LAPEN [Louisiana Parent Educators Network]. We want to help family-focused agencies to network across the state and become known to the Court.”

Still Much to Do

There is still much to do. “There has been a real need for experienced, well educated, and competent professionals who work together to serve children and their families,” Campesta. said. “Parents and children need legal



Psychologists Alyson McCain (L), Alan Taylor, and Pam Martin share a cab at an AFCC conference. (Photo, courtesy Leslie Todd.)

representatives whose actions consider the nuances associated with parenting relationships.”

“Domestic Mediators can be utilized to facilitate custody and property division disputes. Child Custody Evaluators are needed to formulate recommendations regarding how the child's best interests are served in the unique situations presented in each family dynamic. Parent Coordinators are needed to help high conflict parents navigate and implement parenting plans.”

Dr. Sally Thigpen, a licensed psychologist in Monroe, and a Chapter member finds many differences when compared to the past. “I’ve been working in the field of family psychology for years, but when I learned about AFCC, I found a new family of people working together to make life better for parents and children who are participating in nontraditional families. I see a strong need for support for families in terms of solving problems before they get to the litigation stage.”

Todd noted, “We need to have standards of practice—and provide training to meet those standards of practice— particularly in child sexual abuse forensic examinations and reports, domestic violence and substance abuse evaluation and intervention, child custody evaluations, and court-involved therapy.”

“We need child visitation centers, parenting education programs, stepfamily and grandparents-as-parents support programs.” And she said, “We need mental health professionals who are confident and competent in working in teams with attorneys in creative ways, such as in divorce mediation in which the attorney does the property settlement and the clinician does the parenting plan.”

“We need Parenting Coordinators—lots of them, all over the state,” Todd said. “We need mental health professionals who also like to work at the level of systems change, helping us separate out ‘Family Court’ from court. We are interested in seeing more judgeships devoted solely to family court work.

An Important Niche for Mental Health Professionals

Dr. Sally Thigpen noted, “In north Louisiana there are not many therapists trained in mediation or parenting coordination,” she said, and thinks that more could be helpful.

Dr. Taylor explained the opportunities for those interested in this challenging work. “I believe that affiliation with AFCC provides a wonderful opportunity for young professionals,” he said, as a way to develop skills and professional competence. “Family court work is a rapidly evolving and developing field that can be very fulfilling and rewarding,” he said. And he believes that older, more experienced mental health professionals would be valued and welcomed into this area. “To do family court work requires a great deal of clinical background in addition to familiarity with the legal system. There continues to be a need for more seasoned clinicians who can bring their knowledge and experience into this field and secure the rewards of being challenged and stimulated to use all the abilities they have developed in their education and training on a day-to-day basis.”

“I am very proud to have been associated with the initiation and development of the Louisiana state chapter of AFCC,” said Taylor, “which for once finds Louisiana in the forefront of national change in quality services for a population who greatly needs improved services.”

“The mission of AFCC-LA is to be a resource center and act as a change agent in the areas of family law,” said Taylor. “Its goal is to transform the family court system into a more efficient and humane support system for those who are encountering serious conflicts and adverse effects on children and families.”

“Justice should be tempered with mercy,” said Todd. “Family court officers bring justice; mental health professionals bring mercy—we educate parents about children’s needs for peace between households, and we can teach them the skills to achieve it.”

The Louisiana Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC-LA)

Fourth Annual Conference

*Restructuring The Family:
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Keeping the Faith, Baby

Family Therapists at the Red River Institute Take Aim at Medicalization of Talk-Therapy and Molecular Model

Photos by Britney Waters
Graphics courtesy of RRI

As the mental health profession continues the slide into medication as a primary form of treatment, a small group of family therapists in the Shreveport area work to light candles in the dark.

The group of counselors and family therapists at the Red River Institute is led by outspoken Director Tom Moore. Moore is a family therapist, educator and philosopher, who regularly takes aim at the growing trend to medicate people for their psychological problems, problems that he views originate in interpersonal and cultural contexts.

Moore, a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with supervisor status, joins colleagues Howie Brownell, Dr. Katie Garcia, and Dr. Kelly Tyner at the Red River Institute (RRI) in Shreveport, Louisiana. Together they push for a more humanistic, holistic, and less chemical approach to life's problems.

"It is ironic that in spite of the incredible spike of prescription drug used in our society in the last thirty years," Moore explained to the *Times*, "our emotional and psychological 'dis-ease' as a society seems to be spiking as well."

Medical journalist and Pulitzer Prize nominee Robert Whitaker's 2010 book, *Anatomy of an Epidemic: Magic Bullets, Psychiatric Drugs and the Astonishing Rise of Mental Illness in America* focuses on this disturbing fact. As psychiatry has gained ground, mental illness has skyrocketed.

"I think that the realization of this fact is causing consumers and providers of mental health services to take a fresh look at more traditional views of wellness that are rooted in physical, relational, and spiritual health," Moore noted. "Chronic imbalances created by cultural and societal stressors erode our emotional and psychological resilience and create vulnerability to depression and anxiety. Since the beginning of time the only tried and true answer to this vulnerability seems to be a collaborative, supportive network of relationships—our 'village.'" And he said, "The research is clearly showing us that relationships heal—not pills."

Dr. Katie Garcia is Moore's colleague at the Red River Institute and formerly the Clinical Director at the Center for Families in Shreveport. Dr. Garcia warns against the mechanic approach so common today. "A person's mental health is quite unique from other forms of physical, bodily health," she said. "There is a certain mystery and beauty to it. There are so many aspects to brain and mind that we do not, and cannot, understand."

Those at RRI try to keep the faith; holding that much of modern malaise is not a

problem that stems from, nor can be remedied by, biochemical adjustments. Rather they say, our problems emerge from a toxic disconnection from self, others, and the community. The place to promote the healing is not in a pill but in our relationships.

"According to family systems theory," said Dr. Garcia, "people cannot be viewed in isolation. When we attempt to treat an individual's diagnosis or 'mind,' we are completely discounting the entire context in which they live," she said.

"The entire field of marriage and family therapy was originated by psychiatrists who were finding themselves continually frustrated at seeing patients' symptoms improve in an isolated environment and then immediately relapsing once they were returned to their home environment."

"Problems stem from difficult relationships," Garcia said. "Not just problems such as infidelity or parent/child difficulties, but even drug abuse, depression, schizophrenia, eating disorders, anxiety disorders, and more—all can be understood through a systems framework by looking at the context in which the behaviors occur."

"I also believe that problems can be resolved the quickest when these relationships can be discussed openly, with all parties involved, in the context of a therapeutic setting. If any of

these are absent, the process can take longer," she explained.

The group at RRI holds firm to this philosophy, speaking out frankly about what they offer and why it is important to the consumer on their artfully designed webpage, offering news, articles, commentary and resources for professionals. Moore also hosts a frank discussion on his blog, *Perspectives for the Postmodern Healer*, the philosophy captured by topics like "The Witchdoctor Speaks" and a "Healer's Manifesto"

The Manifesto lays out affirmations for the family therapist: "I reject the molecular hypothesis as a sufficient summation of the human condition," and "I practice a traditional 'healing art' that is rooted in and utilizes relationship and community." And, "In my work, I seek to preserve the integrity of the whole person, the uniqueness of the individual, and the sacredness of the human being."

Another of the Marriage and Family Therapists at the Institute is Howie Brownell. "... we are healers and not mental mechanics," Brownell said. "We promote healing contexts and not 'fix' people like they were broken toasters or machines. We are human and have our unique approaches to the world," he

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Family therapists at Red River Institute in Shreveport (L to R), Tom Moore, LPC, LMFT, Kelly Tyner, PhD, LMFT, and Howie Brownell, LMFT.

Family Therapists at RRI

Continued

said. Brownell especially likes a quote from the movie *Patch Adams*: “When you work with illnesses you win some you lose some. When you work with people you win every time.”

Sky-rocketing use of antidepressants

The group is in good company when it comes to their concern about the overmedication of the consumer. One in ten people in the U.S. now take an antidepressant according to the Center for Disease Control. Antidepressants were the most common drug used by adults age 18 to 44. And, once taking the drugs, 60 percent of people continue taking them.

Why the dramatic increase? “The simple answer to that is money,” said Director Moore. Experts suggest that the global market may be \$693 billion. “The wide range of problems that the pharmaceutical companies claim these drugs can treat reminds me of the old traveling medicine show peddlers in the mid-1800’s and has led to massive off-label prescribing ...”.

“What the research is showing us, however, is that there is much more wishful thinking and sophisticated marketing behind these drugs that real science,” Moore said.

Moore’s views mesh well with scientists who are looking at the issues. Last fall, in a joint conference sponsored by Tulane and the Louisiana Psychological Association, a premier researcher in the area, Dr. Irving Kirsch, Associate Director of the Program for Placebo Studies at Harvard Medical, told the attendees, “The placebo response is about 75 percent of the drug response.” Kirsch’s work also

shows that the non-placebo benefits of drugs often make little practical difference for the patient.

Some scientists are beginning to look at the big picture problems for tinkering with the neurotransmitters. In an article about the evolutionary importance of serotonin, “Primum non oncere: an evolutionary analysis of whether antidepressants do more harm than good,” (*Frontiers in Psychology*). Authors warned that serotonin is involved in many complex, interconnected adaptive processes, explained nutritional biochemist, Cass Nelson-Dooley, of Health First Consulting.

She explained that the authors see serotonin as an ancient system, having evolved one billion years ago and we share it with animals, plants, and fungi. “Serotonin is under tight homeostatic control in the brain, gut, and blood plasma,” she said. “The article shows that SSRI antidepressants affect every major system regulated by serotonin.” While antidepressants have a modest effect on depressive symptoms, there are many risks. The authors suggest that targeting the serotonin system with drug therapy results in a ‘push-back effect,’ to achieve homeostatic equilibrium, that ultimately makes the risks of the medication far outweigh the benefits.”

This relates to other research showing that while depression appears to lift faster, patients tend to relapse, and what should have been a short phase of depression becomes chronic.

“Pharmaceutical companies spend an exorbitant amount of money marketing and advertising,” said Dr. Garcia. “This approach has been tremendously successful with the



Michelle Long, LPC, and Tom Moore, LPC, LMFT, look over some materials at the Red River Institute in Shreveport.

general population. It is now impossible to watch a television show without seeing an ad for some drug for some mental illness, and if the current drugs you are using are not working, the ad will recommend adding an additional one. The underlying message is- this is what works, and if it is not working, get a stronger dose. I have seen countless clients who have been prescribed psychotropic medications who have seen absolutely no benefits, but refuse to question their efficacy.”

Does the new DSM help or hurt?

With the release of new DSM-5, some critics point to additional problems for consumers of mental health services. In a recent issue of *Psychology Today*, Allen Frances, M.D., listed a host of concerns, in “DSM5 in Distress.”

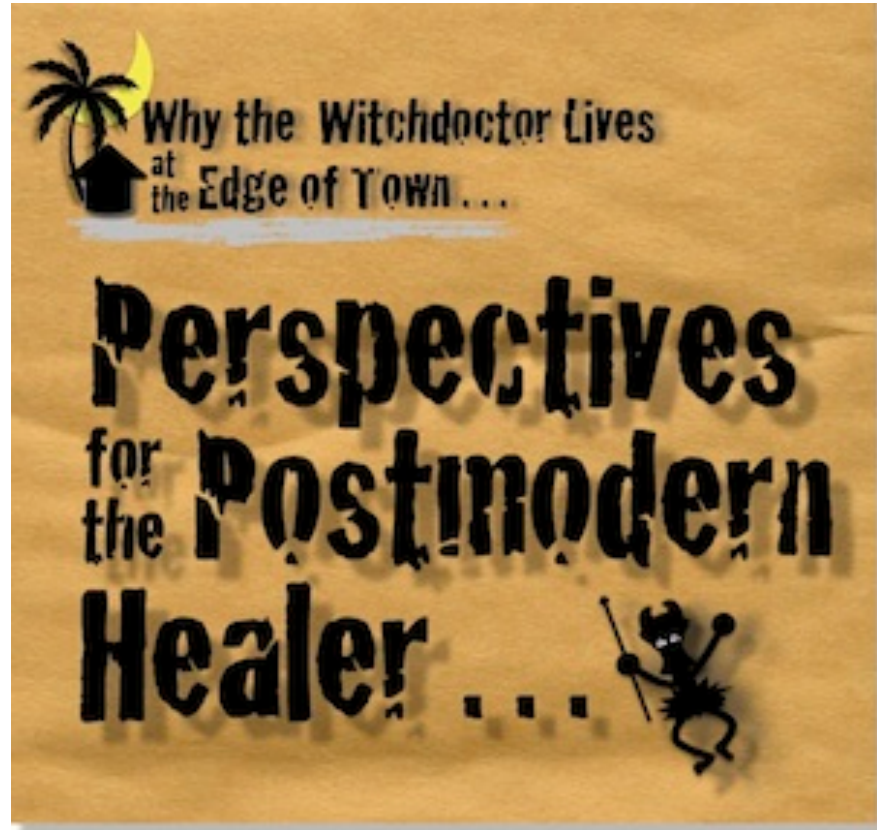
“New diagnoses in psychiatry are more dangerous than new drugs,” Frances wrote, “because they influence whether or not millions of people are placed on drugs—often by primary care doctors after brief visits.” Temper tantrums become Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder, simple everyday worries become Generalized Anxiety Disorder, and normal grief is now Major Depressive Disorder, “... thus medicalizing and trivializing our expectable and

necessary emotional reactions to the loss of a loved one and substitution pills and superficial medical rituals for the deep consolations of family, friends, religion, and the resiliency that comes with time and acceptance of the limitations of life,” wrote Frances.

The theme blends well with the RRI’s concerns. “The stated intent of the manual,” said Moore, “is to provide an atheoretical taxonomy of symptoms that allows health professionals of different disciplines to communicate effectively with one another about their patients or clients. Instead,” he said, “the DSM has been used to classify and label *people* rather than symptoms. Mental health professionals who practice psychotherapy or family therapy understand how anti-therapeutic this labeling can be, especially for children.”

Dr. Kelly Tyner, Marriage and Family Therapist at the Institute and at the Veteran’s Hospital in Shreveport, agrees.. “I think the original intent of the DSM was to assist mental health professionals in communicating efficiently with one another about what individuals are struggling with. Instead what we have is a method for professionals to explain particular behaviors.”

She views this as limiting rather than helping. “I can’t count the number of times I have heard mental health professionals say



Family Therapists at the Red River Institute, Continued

that they don't work with a particular group of individuals simply based on their diagnosis."

"The overreach is tremendous," agreed colleague Garcia, "with such little research to verify its credibility. The language has even evolved, once being referred to as a guide, and now seeming to imply the content as fact. The problem is, these disorders and diagnoses cannot be objectively measured, as diabetes or cancer or high blood pressure can."

Brownell, thinks it may take a whole new way of making sense of our problems. "... it doesn't help us resolve the problems associated with this 'thing' that we call human experience," he said. "I think that instead of trying to objectify and validate what we do as practitioners, we should accept that we are wordsmiths and we practice an art form that encapsulates the absurdity that is part of our humanness and must be embraced as such, and not medicalized."

"We have moved to an isolative type of society," said Dr. Tyner. "With the advent of the television in main stream America, we have developed more and more ways of isolating ourselves from one another and mentally checking out from what's going on around us. Simply look around you and note the number of people who are interacting with an electronic device instead of the people around them. I'm actually in a conference typing this on my phone right now!! The idea of the village that Tom brings up is an exceptionally important idea. It evokes ideas of interaction and connection and these are things that are vital to emotional health."

One of the core beliefs for those at the RRI is the value of the relationship, consistent with the newest findings from outcomes researcher and psychologist, Dr. Jeb Brown of the Center for Clinical Informatics. Brown, using new linear models and very large data bases, has found what is often suspected. "Across the board it is the therapist that explains the outcomes," Brown said to the *Times* previously, "not age, not experience, not credentials, or the type of therapy." This even includes whether medication is helpful. "Therapist effects," said Brown, "this is what is driving things. It resides with the therapist."

Efforts to hold both humanistic and scientific strains of the rope together

Therapists at the Red River Institute see their own efforts as connected to their colleagues, their interns, and the larger community. The group stays active and in practice and educational efforts, including conferences, training, their Director's blog, and (<http://www.redriverinstitute.org/>) website.

"Our Spring Conference in Shreveport is a celebration of the art of talk therapy," said Moore, "always accompanied by a bold critique of the mental health profession. We are developing our new website into a hub of reliable information for the independent nonmedical mental health provider," he said. "We also use our website to keep professionals informed about how they can take political action to prevent the further 'medicalization' of the mental health profession through legislation."

The group also sees the issue within the professional community to be an area for

collaboration. "Our mental health community is constantly attempting to answer questions and find treatments when problems arise," said Dr. Garcia, "and all professions within mental health should be given much credit for their true desire to explain a part of our body that is often unexplainable. I think what is important is for us to be clear and transparent about what we, as a mental health field, know and what we do not know—what we hope to know, and what we can never know," she said.

"Mental health problems will never have a 'quick fix,'" she said. "We need to place more value on spending time with our clients in a therapeutic setting and helping them find their own solutions for life's difficulties and problems."

Brownell points to problems with the culture. "I also believe as Edwin Friedman stated in his book, 'A Failure of Nerve' that our culture has anxiety that is related to a collective loss of nerve. It represents a regression or 'throw back' to earlier points in world history where we have seen a creativity gridlock, which essentially results in reacting rather than 'proacting.' As professionals, we need to, as Friedman offers, rise above the morass that we get caught in so that we're not stuck with our culture in the problematic situations."

And for the family therapists at RRI, it may begin with the basics. In the Witchdoctor blog, Moore reminds his students and readers that all ancient healing disciplines teach that the 'right action' flows only from the 'right motive.'

And, for the professional healer, the motive is always compassion.



Psychology At The Movies

Vertigo

by Dr. Alvin Burstein

Oh, the mind, mind has mountains; cliffs of fall, Frightful, sheer, no-man-fathomed... Gerard Manley Hopkins

I learned the other day that in the British Film Institute's poll of film critics, Orson Welles' *Citizen Kane* had been displaced as the best film of all time by Alfred Hitchcock's 1958 *Vertigo*.

Classic tales like *Oedipus Rex* or *Cinderella* or *Hansel and Gretel*, persist over time, because the stories resonate with some basic aspect of being human. What was it, I wondered, that the Hitchcock film tapped? With that question in mind, I recently viewed a re-mastered DVD of the movie.

The plot is intricate. The protagonist (Jimmy Stewart) is a police detective forced to retire because of debilitating acrophobia. The phobia resulted from a traumatic experience. While attempting to assist Stewart, who was dangling in space after slipping during a roof top pursuit, a colleague fell, and Stewart saw him plunge to his death.

After his retirement, Stewart is pulled into an intricate murder concocted by a friend who wants to kill his wife. The friend has recruited the second protagonist, played by Kim Novak, and groomed her to look and dress like his blonde wife. He persuades Stewart to tail his "wife" suggesting that she may be suffering from a combination of split personality and possession by her grandmother, a woman who had killed herself. He persuades Stewart to follow Novak to determine whether she is actually possessed.

Novak and Stewart fall in love, but Novak, unable to extricate herself from the murder plot, lures Stewart into following her to the top of an ancient church tower. Trapped by his phobia part way up, Stewart watches what he believes to be Novak jumping to her death. In fact, Stewart's friend, has flung his murdered wife's body off the tower's top.

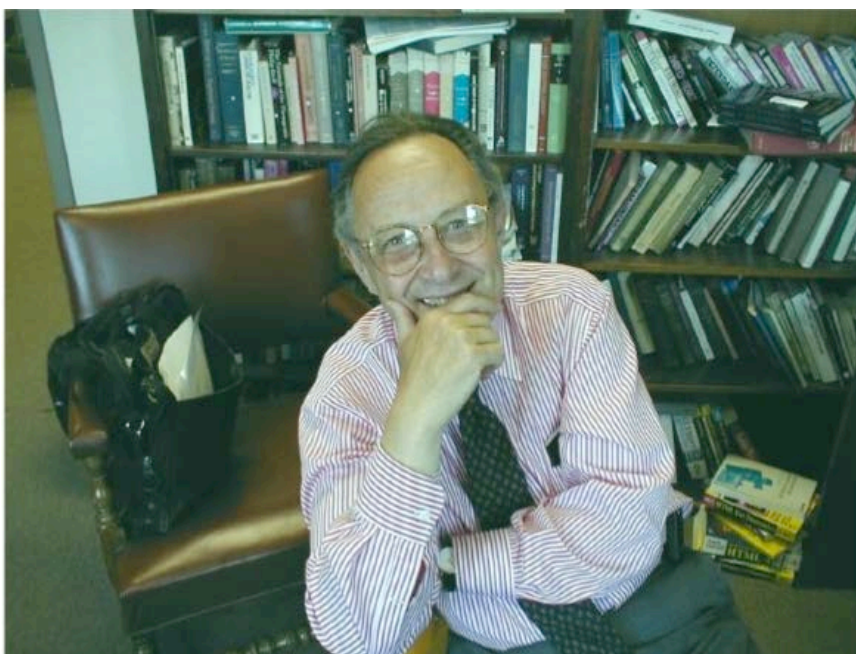
Stewart slowly recovers from the crushing depression of this reprise of his earlier trauma, but is haunted by the experience of seeing women he takes to be Novak. He encounters Novak again, with her hair its original color and no longer dressed like

the wife. Taken by her resemblance to his lost love, he persuades her to date him, and, ultimately, to bleach her hair and dress like the woman whose death he thought he had failed to prevent.

When Novak inadvertently dons a piece of jewelry that she had worn before her faked suicide, Stewart realizes the imposture, and forces her to return to the tower and climb to its top with him. At the tower's top, Novak confesses her complicity in the crime, but pleads her love for Stewart. Just as he is about to embrace her, a nun walks out of the shadows, and Novak, startled, steps backward off the tower's edge, falling to her death. The movie ends with Stewart walking to the brink of the tower and staring down at Novak's body.

A central issue in this film is that of love and loss. Stewart and Novak fall in love. There is a powerful irony in the fact that the woman with whom Stewart falls in love is an imposter, one who has an assumed identity, and that when he encounters the "real" Novak, he forces her to re-assume her alien self. This can be understood as a demonstration of the power of transference, of our attempt to construe new relationships as recreations of our past. It also reflects a tragic element, the inextricable link between love and loss, the truth that every love relationship must end in loss, a truth that mortality imposes on us. Stewart loses Novak when he thinks that she has died, recreates her, only to lose her again, twice, once when he realizes she was an imposter, and again when she actually falls from the tower.

At another, even deeper level, one might wish to recall Freud's comment, ... *the act of birth is the first experience of anxiety, and thus the source and prototype of the affect of anxiety....* The very act of being born must leave deep preverbal, non-conceptual traces of the painful loss of the natal environment, the primal fall out of Eden. Stewart's attempts to undo the terrifying inevitability of that fall, doomed to failure is captured in *Vertigo*. The terror of loss is expressed in his symptom, and the symptom evaporates in grief when the loss is undeniable.



(courtesy photo)

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.

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Job Title: Clinical Psychologist
Department: Department of the Army
Agency: U.S. Army Medical Command
Job Announcement Number: NCMD147715111035258D

SALARY RANGE: \$82,642.00 to \$107,434.00 / Per Year
OPEN PERIOD: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 to Monday, February 10, 2014
SERIES & GRADE: GS-0180-13
POSITION INFORMATION: Full Time - Permanent
DUTY LOCATIONS: 1 vacancy in the following location: Fort Polk, LA [View Map](#)
WHO MAY APPLY: United States Citizens
SECURITY CLEARANCE: Not Applicable
SUPERVISORY STATUS: No



Veterans Health Administration
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Job Title: Psychologist (Home & Community Services)
Department: Department Of Veterans Affairs
Agency: Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration
Job Announcement Number: FE-14-1040362-TWa-203

SALARY RANGE: \$69,497.00 to \$90,334.00 / Per Year
OPEN PERIOD: Thursday, January 30, 2014 to Thursday, February 20, 2014
SERIES & GRADE: GS-0180-00
POSITION INFORMATION: Full Time - Excepted Service Permanent
DUTY LOCATIONS: 1 vacancy in the following location: Baton Rouge, LA [View Map](#)
WHO MAY APPLY: United States Citizens
SECURITY CLEARANCE: Q - Nonsensitive
SUPERVISORY STATUS: No

The Psychology Times

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