



The legislature is plowing through its lists of bills, with community members providing their views. Above, Dr. Jacqueline Mims and Dr. John Fanning testify on different sides of HB 15, by Representative James. See page 4 for story.

People

LSU Psych Chair, Dr. Mathews, to Retire

Chair of the Louisiana State University (LSU) Psychology Department and founder of the cognitive psychology program, Dr. Robert Mathews, will retire at the end of this month. After receiving his doctorate in psychology from Yale University in 1976, he came to Baton Rouge as a young Assistant Professor and made his home for nearly 40 years, with contributions in academics, research, and university administration.

Mathews has led the department through one of the toughest financial periods in the last decades, and yet has been able to build a dynamic group of scientists and educators, and a department that has grown in national prestige and focus.

“As chair, I am pleased that I have been able to retain our great faculty

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Legislature

Specialist in School Psychology Looks Set for Easy Pass in House

Senate Bill 128, a measure to create a new, optional license under the psychology board for “Specialist in School Psychology,” is sailing through with only small changes, and is scheduled for House floor debate on May 7. The bill was reported favorably out of committee

last week in a 12 to 0 vote. The committee made short work of the bill, with no cards filed in opposition. The measure would add to existing psychology law, the definition of “Licensed specialist in school psychology.”

Mandate Removed from Suicide Prevention Training Bill, SB539

A measure that would have required suicide prevention training for mental health counselors, social workers, physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists, medical psychologists, and others, was amended in committee to remove the mandate.

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Expansion in Scope for Marriage & Family Therapists Passes Senate Floor, 39 to 0

A bill to expand the scope of practice for Marriage and Family Therapists, SB121, passed the Senate by 39 to 0. The original language was amended in the Senate Commerce Committee on April 16, and then again on

the Senate floor by the author. One of the amendments adds certain educational requirements, and another, adds a consultation and collaboration clause with someone licensed under the medical board or a psychiatric nurse practitioner.

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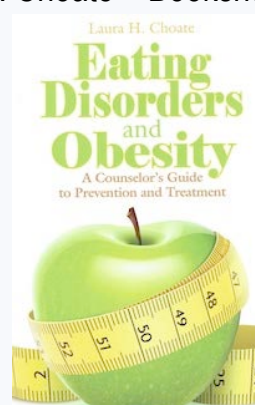
116, 77, 20 Snake-Bit LSBEP Election Finally Concludes – Maybe

Votes for a five-year position on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists were finally counted on Saturday, April 26, in a snake-bit election that has included three rounds of ballots having to be sent to state psychologists, and a fourth round still a possibility.

Dr. Constance Patterson captured 116 votes, 77 were cast for Dr. Joe Comaty, and Dr. Robin Chapman received 20 votes. Patterson’s and Comaty’s names will be sent to Governor Jindal’s Office for him to name his appointee. Ballots were counted in an open meeting at Touro Infirmary, New Orleans, beginning at 8 a.m. Conducting the vote counting was Louisiana Psychological Association

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Dr. Choate – Bookshelf



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Psychology at the Movies Best Picture: 12 Years a Slave



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Editorial Page

Who Has the Conflict of Interest?

by J. Nelson

A rumor's going around. I think it might have started with David White, the LPA Executive Director, who can be totally excused for not knowing the difference between a dual role and a conflict of interest. But then the rumor gained steam, latching on to other motivations, until finally, it was stated with conviction in a letter from Joe Comaty to the Assistant Director of Boards and Commissions, Ms. Robinson.

"One of the candidates currently running has a direct conflict of interest," Comaty wrote.

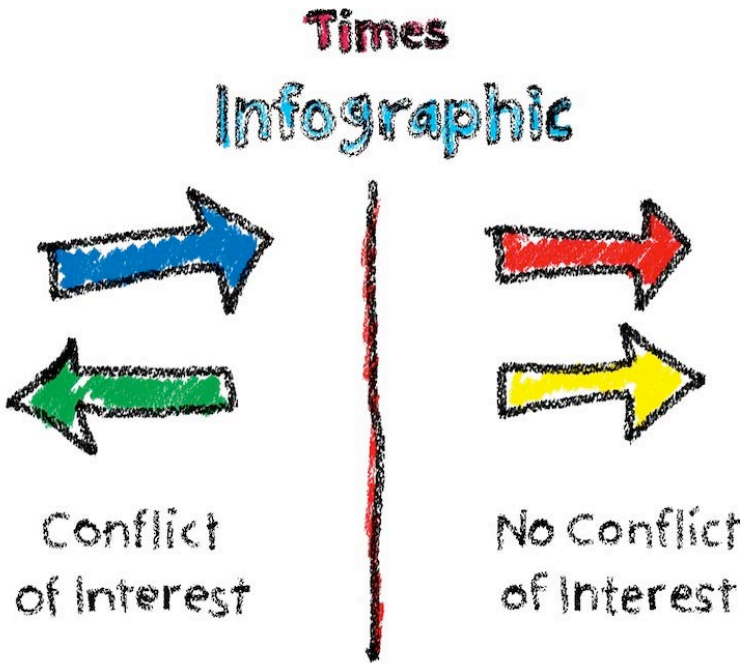
Cognitive psychology tells us that an idea catches on because it's simple, emotional, and because of our automatic, lazy think brain. Shame, shame. Conni Patterson had a dual role, not a conflict of interest, but apparently it is becoming the complaint du jour.

I checked with her about it and turns out she had a very small job with the board to help out on a few investigations. She resigned, and expects any of the very few cases she worked on to be closed very soon, if not now.

But that is not the point. People should check out their "arrows." Patterson's primary goal in aiding the board would be the same goal if she were sitting on the board, to help figure out the truth.

"A conflict of interest is a set of circumstances that creates a risk that professional judgment or actions regarding a primary interest will be unduly influenced by a secondary interest," write Bernard Lo and Marilyn Field, and the Committee on Conflict of Interest in Medical Research, Education, and Practice, part of the Institute of Medicine at the National Academies.

In our profession, primary interests might include scientific truth, client welfare, or investigation validity. Secondary interests, can include financial goals, but also and more diabolically, psychological goals such as status, power, or even protection of group identity.



Patterson had a dual role, not a conflict of interest, and a simple analysis shows us we would not expect a conflict of goals in this situation. (By the way, most board members have dual roles.)

In his letter to Boards and Commissions, Dr. Comaty said that Patterson would have to recuse herself and this would impair the board's performance.

Recuse onself? Does he mean like recusing oneself after searching one's conscience and finding that a personal goal conflicts with a primary goal?

Like in 2009 when the psychology board, made up of LAMP-Political Action Committee members, made a decision to sit by and do nothing while their own legislation was being passed, legislation that diluted the psychology practice act? Like that? The way no one recused themselves?

Or in 2012, when Comaty was approached by representatives of medicine and medical psychology to change his decision, so that psychology interns could be supervised by professionals without a state psychology license? That way? The way he didn't recuse himself?

Or, in 2012 when LPA sent Phil Griffin to ask the psychology board if they'd discuss ways to bring psychology back from the medical board, and they said they were happy with things the way they were. The way the medical psychologists (MPs) on the board didn't recuse themselves. That way?

Or how the board decided that in the case of MPs, it was okay that continuing education was delivered by a Political Action Committee, just don't do it again. That way?

There is no more clear evidence that MPs have different goals in regard to independent clinical psychologists, than the current collaboration clause for counselors (and soon to be marriage and family therapists) where MPs will be collaborating with counselors for clients who have a serious mental illness, but clinical psychologists will not.

In December 2010, pushed by then Executive Director Jaime Monic, the board asked the Attorney General to answer a question, "Is there a conflict of interest when a psychologist is a member of the Psychology Board and is simultaneously licensed as a medical psychologist with Medical Examiners Board?"

The Attorney General's office said all they could rule on was dual-office holding. But then they said the propriety of a public board member's conduct is governed by Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics, and gave them the address and the phone number and wrote, "We further recommend that you seek an advisory opinion from the State Board of Ethics on this issue."

But no one ever did. Go figure.

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Corrections & Clarifications

No corrections were sent to us for the last issue.

Marriage and Family Therapists Scope of Practice to Be Enlarged, continued

The measure, by Senator Morrell, provides new language that adds the term “psychotherapy” and also “limited to prevention, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental, emotional, behavioral, relational, and addictive disorders” to the current law.

In the Senate Commerce committee, a provision for educational requirements was added. The new language is, “E. A licensed marriage and family therapist engaged in the diagnosis of individuals shall furnish satisfactory evidence of the following to the board: (1) The applicant has graduated from a program of graduate study which in addition to the standard training in the professional application of psychotherapeutic and family systems theories, will also require a minimum of six credit hours in diagnostic psychopathology, whereas students are taught to systematically collect and analyze data based on one or both of the two standard diagnostic systems employed, International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision or the Diagnostic and Statistical

Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, for the above purposes. However, licensed marriage and family therapists who have satisfied all other criteria for licensure as required by the board on August 1, 2014, shall be allowed to diagnose individuals upon completion of the continuing education requirements of this Section.” And, (2) As diagnosis is constantly being enhanced by emerging empirical research, the licensed marriage and family therapist shall receive six hours of credit in continuing education that focuses on diagnosis.”

Also added was similar language to the current Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) practice law, amended by Act 320 in 2012 and then changed by a later law, which outlined LPCs work with persons with “serious mental illness” and set out requirements for the consultation and collaboration with a practitioner who is licensed under the state medical board or an advanced practice registered nurse.

“(3) Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to authorize any person licensed under the

provisions of this Chapter to assess, diagnose, or provide treatment to any individual suffering from a serious mental illness, as defined by this Section, when medication may be indicated, except when a licensed marriage and family therapist, in accordance with best practices, consults and collaborates with a practitioner who holds a license or permit with the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing who is certified as a psychiatric nurse practitioner.”

The bill is next to be heard in the House Health and Welfare Committee.

The proposed law amends the present law and defines “practice of marriage and family therapy” to mean the rendering of professional marriage and family therapy and psychotherapy services, limited to prevention, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental, emotional, behavioral, relational, and addiction disorders to individuals, couples, and families, etc.

Psychologist’s Provisional License Heads to House

Senator Martiny’s bill to allow the state psychology board to issue a provisional license to those who are being supervised for a psychology licensure, will be heard on the House Floor May 7.

The measure has moved quickly from the Senate where it passed with a vote of 36 to 0. It was heard in the House committee on April 23 and reported favorably, 12 to 0. It is scheduled for the House floor and expected to pass easily.

Terms for Disabled to Use “Person First Language” Passing without Problems

Representative Walt Leger’s bill to change the terms used to refer to individuals with disabilities has passed both the House and Senate and is headed back to the House. The April 30 vote on the Senate floor was 36 to 0 after minor amendments. It will return for final approval in the House. The law will call for changes in the names of agencies, institutions, private organizations, and other entities. The measure notes the linguistic paradigm known as “person first language”, which emphasizes a person’s humanity over any condition or characteristic the person may have, to be employed wherever possible to refer to persons with disabilities and other persons with exceptionalities.



The psychology board has helped to put two bills in front of the legislators. Here, Senator Martiny is describing the Specialist in School Psychology bill to members of the House Health and Welfare Committee the House. Executive Director Kelly Parker (L) and Chair, Dr. Rita Culross look on.



Dr. Jacqueline Mims testified in support of HB 15, by Representative James. The measure was deferred after a very close vote in committee.

Bill to Place LPCs on Clinical Team Deferred After Close 4 to 5 Vote with 5 Members Absent

An effort to add Licensed Professional Counselors to the list of professionals who serve on the clinical team that is sometimes appointed to work in lieu of a sanity commission, failed to pass in a 4 yeas, 5 nay vote, on April 23. Testimony was heard in the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice.

Speaking in favor of the bill was Dr. Jacqueline Mims, who provided information and outlined for the legislators some of the differences between the mental health professions. She said, "None of us received specific training in forensic

counseling or psychology," and explained her own experience of over 19 years with the Baton Rouge City Court. She noted her doctorate in counseling psychology and also a doctorate in special education. She is currently enrolled in forensic psychology she explained. Dr. Mims currently serves on the Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners.

Dr. John Fanning, president of Louisiana Psychological Association, testified in opposition to the measure, saying that the sanity commission issues would likely

involve persons with major mental illness, and this would fall outside of the scope for counselors' in their current law.

Filing cards for information were Executive Director Kelly Parker and Deborah Harkins, Esquire, for the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, and in opposition were a representative of the Louisiana Defense Lawyers, the Louisiana Criminal Defense Lawyers, and the Baton Rouge District Attorney.

The close 4 - 5 vote came with 5 members absent due to a traffic accident on I-10 at that same time.

“Health Care Profession Institute” Moves to House Committee, Grows to 32 Council Representatives

Senate Bill 649 by Senator Mills to create the Louisiana State Health Care Profession Institute, with a 32-member council, was amended and passed the Senate floor on April 23 in a 35 to 2 vote. It will be heard by the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs. Those to be represented on the Council of this new Institute include individuals from

medicine, dentistry, nursing, optometry, physical therapy, speech-language, dietetics, vocational rehabilitation, and occupation therapy. Included from mental health areas will be the executive director of the psychology board, the chair of the Medical Psychology Advisory Committee, individuals from

licensed professional counselors, social work, marriage & family, and behavior analysts.

The goal of the Institute is to consider needed improvements in health care professions and recommend reforms, and to modify or eliminate antiquated scope of health care profession issues.

Suicide Prevention Training Bill, Continued

Deleted from the bill was, "... A. Beginning January 1, 2015, each of the following professionals certified or licensed in Louisiana shall, at least once every six years, complete training in suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management that is approved, in rule, by the relevant disciplining authority: ..."

The amendment replaced the mandate, with instructions to the Department of Health and Hospitals to offer training and post it on their website. "A. In recognition of the state of Louisiana's goal in reducing the number of suicides and suicide attempts each year in Louisiana, beginning January 1, 2015, the Department of Health and Hospitals shall offer each of the following professionals certified, licensed, or registered in Louisiana access to certain training in suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management through posting links to such training on the department's official website:"

Senator Ben Nevers from Bogalusa had introduced the measure and Baton Rouge psychologist and suicide prevention expert, Dr. April Foreman, helped craft the idea, calling suicide a public health issue. "Suicide is the 10th leading cause of deaths for all people in Louisiana," she told the *Times* for a previous article. "Only 9 to 10 percent of mental health professionals can pass a competency exam," in this topic, said Foreman. "This is a big training deficit."

In a related measure, Senator Nevers introduced a Senate Concurrent Resolution, SCR75, on April 14 which requests DHH to study and develop a list of best practices for suicide prevention training programs to make available to professionals and citizens on a voluntary basis. It was read by title today and adopted by a vote of 37 to 0. It will go to the House.

See related story in the April issue of the *Times*.

Art Therapist Bill Still Waiting In H&W Committee

The measure to create a new professional, art therapist was assigned to the House Health and Welfare Committee on March 10 and has not advanced or been heard. Authored by Representative Bishop from Lafayette, House Bill 634 would establish a new mental health professional in art therapy, to be licensed under the LPC board.

Some Executive Positions May Be at Risk

Bill to Replace Titles for Counselors, M&F Therapists Advances

SB 194 by Senator Mills passed the Senate easily on April 7, in a 39 to 0 vote, after being reported favorably out of committee. It was read by title in the House and referred to the House Health & Welfare Committee.

SB194 would replace the titles, of Counselor Intern with “Provisional Licensed Professional Counselor” and also the title of Marriage and Family Therapist Intern with “Provisional Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.”

Electronic Communications in Mental Health Laws

Two bills both updating procedures for emergency custody orders, SB 185 and HB 330, are advancing easily. Mental Health law will be change to allow coroner or judges to include the use of email or fax for delivering an order for custody. The proposed law provides that the order for custody shall be delivered to the appropriate law enforcement agency by hand, facsimile, or other electronic means, including but not limited to e-mail.

Changes to the BA Line Technicians

Revisions to the Behavior Analyst law passed the Senate Floor in a 38 to 0 vote on April 7, after being amended. The bill was received in the House and referred to the Committee on Health and Welfare in the House.

The law will amends present law to provide a registered line technician shall be at least 18 years of age and possess a minimum of a high school diploma or its equivalent.

Bill to Criminalize Sexual Contact by Psychotherapist Stalls

For the second year in a row, an effort to criminalize sexual contact by a psychotherapist with his or her client, fails to find traction with the legislators.

The bill was read by title and referred to the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, March 10. No action has been taken since on the measure.

Bill to Combine DHH & DCFS Struggles, Passes House 69 to 28, On to Senate

A bill to combine the Department of Health and Hospitals with the Department of Children and Family Services, first introduced as HB 152 then substituted as HB 1256, has passed the House with a vote of 69 to 28. It proceeds to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

According to the Fiscal Note for the Legislative Fiscal Office, the measure is anticipated to result in a decrease in total expenditures by an indeterminable amount in FY 15 and future fiscal years. Effective November 1, 2014, this measure combines the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) under one department - the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS). This proposed legislation does not eliminate any programs or services provided by either department, said the Note.

The new secretary of the DHSS is to provide a reorganization report by March 1, 2015 to the Joint Legislative on the Budget (JLCB) that will require the new secretary to consider and

propose merger/consolidation of functions, abolition of agencies, consolidation of offices, elimination of positions, elimination of duplication of functions, consolidation of the office of management and finance functions, and implementation of other efficiencies.

The Fiscal Note indicated that both DHH and DCFS have said that determining a fiscal impact on such a merger would be difficult to determine, but anticipate any savings would be the result of efficiencies at the executive management level. At a minimum, the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) assumes this measure will result in the elimination of various duplicative executive management positions and various section heads. Positions that the new secretary may eliminate due to duplication include Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Human Resource Director, Press Secretary, Director of

Audit and Accounting, Director/Administrator of Procurement and Contracts, Director/Administrator of Budget and Planning, and Executive Counsel. The overall net savings in FY 15 will depend on the hours of termination pay for each individual eliminated, which is unknown.

The Note added that other savings may result from implementation of efficiencies and economies of scale in the operation of the new department. The secretary may review efficiencies related to eligibility determination of financially means-tested programs such as SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, and WIC. Information provided by the state CIO indicates economies of scale savings are typically generated from IT functions such as infrastructure and system co-location, pricing (discount costs by offering volume), agency IT personnel reductions, and reductions in the number of outsourced IT contracts.



A favorable vote out of the House Committee for the HB 157 put forth by Senator Martiny creates a provisional license for psychologists. It was supported by the psychology board.

Bill Goes Forward as Substitute HB 1280

Law Would Direct Boards to Write Telehealth Rules to Expand Access to Distance Services

Representative Simon’s HB 903 was reported by substitute and became HB 1280 on April 30 after a 12 to 0 favorable vote in the House Health and Welfare Committee.

The new language in this effort would expand access to telehealth services by requiring licensing boards and commissions to promulgate rules to provide for, promote, and regulate the use of telehealth in the delivery of healthcare services within the scope of practice regulated by the licensing entity.

The proposed law would repeal present law and require any

physician practicing telemedicine as defined in present law, except for those physicians practicing pursuant to a telemedicine license, to use the same standard of care as if the healthcare services were provided in person. Proposed law further provides that a telemedicine provider, except for those physicians practicing pursuant to a telemedicine license, shall not be required to conduct an in-person patient history or physical examination of the patient before engaging in a telemedicine encounter if all of certain conditions are met.

The proposed law defines "telehealth" as a mode of

delivering healthcare services that utilizes information and communication technologies to enable the diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education, care management, and self-management of patients at a distance from healthcare providers and which allows services to be accessed when providers are in a distant site and patients are in the originating site. Telehealth facilitates patient self-management and caregiver support for patients and includes synchronous interactions, noted the bill digest.

Proposed law repeals present law and requires any health insurance issuer that covers healthcare services provided via telemedicine or healthcare services provided via telehealth to provide such coverage in accordance with the provisions of the insurance plan or contract.

The new law would require any medical assistance program administered by the Dept. of Health and Hospitals that covers healthcare services provided via telemedicine or healthcare services provided via telehealth to provide such coverage in accordance with the provisions of that program.

By the Numbers...

Political Actions Committees. PACs. For one million dollars, some say, you can pass any law you want. Here is a look at five of the PACs in the community, and how much money they took in from their contributors, over three specific years. There are a few missing data points. All contributions to PACs, as well as payments out, are filed in monthly public reports with the State Ethics Board. Not included are fees paid to lobbyists or other political contributions that go through professional associations.

| LA Psychological Association PAC | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Receipts | |
| 2011 | \$00.00 |
| 2012 | 20,715 |
| 2013 | 1,410 |

| Louisiana Political Action for Candidate Election | |
|---|---------|
| <i>(Social Work)</i> | |
| Receipts | |
| 2011 | \$1,904 |
| 2012 | 1,769 |
| 2013 | 1,465 |

| Licensed Professional Counselors PAC | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Receipts | |
| 2011 | \$2,908 |
| 2012 | 4,930 |
| 2013 | 4,402 |

| LA State Medical PAC | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Receipts | |
| 2011 | \$119,609 |
| 2012 | 96,805 |
| 2013 | 68,699 |

| LA Academy of Medical Psychologists PAC | |
|---|-----------|
| Receipts | |
| 2011 | \$112,847 |
| 2012 | 151,559 |
| 2013 | 60,365 |

Patterson -116, Comaty – 77, Chapman – 20

Troubled LSBEP Election Finally Completed, continued

(LPA) President Dr. John Fanning, assisted by Council members Dr. Paula Zeanah, Dr. Carolyn Weyand, and Dr. Lucina DeGrange who videotaped the proceedings. Attending for the Louisiana Board of Examiners of Psychologists was Dr. Phil Griffin. Public members attending were candidate Dr. Joe Comaty, Dr. Claire Advokat, and Julie Nelson from the *Times*.

The hotly-contested election was fraught with both quality problems and concerns by some of ballot and election tampering, together making it one of the strangest elections in memory according to some sources.

On December 31, 2013, candidate Joe Comaty emailed Executive Director Kelly Parker voicing his concerns about the security of the ballots and his views about conflicts of interests with some in LPA who were conducting the election. He also wrote Boards and Commissions Assistant Director Holly Robinson, listing 5 issues, including his view that one of the other candidates had a direct conflict of interest. (See related story, page 8.)

Quality problems also plagued the election process, apparently fueling tensions and fears about vote tampering.

Ballots are typically sent on colored paper, but the LPA Executive Director and his Texas firm printed the first round of ballots on plain white paper. During the second

mailing, a cover letter that explained that this was a second ballot, was left out of some of the packets. A request by LPA to the psychology board to send a reminder by email, was rejected, and so a third ballot had to be sent.

However, things still did not go smoothly. Several sources noted that David White opened a number of the ballots before the Saturday vote counting procedure, when the plan was to leave them all sealed until Saturday. One source told the *Times* that White reported that he had also somehow misplaced two of the ballots.

On the Friday afternoon before the Saturday public vote count was to take place, LSBEP Executive Director Kelly Parker emailed LPA President John Fanning a letter from Dr. Marc Zimmermann, Vice Chair of the LSBEP, and medical psychologist, concerning the integrity of the election.

“I am writing to inform you that the Board has concerns about the integrity of the election process in lieu of the recent reports involving the ballots for the election,” said Zimmermann. “Specifically, prior to the official count the ballots have been opened which raises the concern of the security of the entire election process.”

The *Times* talked with Dr. Zimmermann who said, “We have concerns about the whole election process.” He explained that the board’s decision to send the letter had

been made sometime during the day, while the board held its monthly meeting.

Dr. Kim VanGeffen, who attended the board’s meeting said, “I was rather surprised to see the letter from Marc given that there was no indication at the Public Hour that LSBEP did not expect the vote count to take place or that they had any concerns,” VanGeffen noted to the *Times*. “In fact, there was very little mention of the vote count and only joking about the latest drama,” she said.

“I thought we [the LSBEP] talked about it in the open meeting,” Zimmermann said, “maybe in a joking way,” but he could not recall exactly when during the day that the decision was made to send the letter or if it was discussed in executive session.

It is not clear how serious this last matter may become. The *Times* spoke with retired LPA Executive Director, Connie Stigall, who said that it was “... customary for executive directors to open association mail,” not knowing until it is open which are ballots and which are other types of correspondence. And she said, much of elections have been primarily on the honor system.

The *Times* asked Dr. Joe Comaty if he intended to challenge the election, and no reply was returned.

The current election is part of an on-going struggle over control of the psychology board, with the powerful political group,

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Members of the Louisiana Psychological Association hosted a public meeting to count the ballots in the election for a seat on the state psychology board. L to R: Drs. John Fanning, Paula Zeanah, Carolyn Weyand, Joe Comaty, and Phillip Griffin.

LSBEP Election

continued

Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists-Political Action Committee, who has been effective in helping medical psychologists be appointed to the board. Those who oppose Act 251, have pushed for regular psychologists to serve, but so far have been unsuccessful in obtaining a majority.

Currently the LSBEP includes three medical psychologists serving of five positions. Medical psychologists are not required to hold a state psychology license in order to practice psychology and make up only about 5 percent of those holding a license in psychology. However, medical psychologists hold 60 percent of the board’s positions.

LPA will officially support Patterson’s appointment, based on a policy put into place by the association to support the person who has received the most votes by their peers, regardless of affiliation.



Drs. Carolyn Weyand and John Fanning recount ballots in the current psychology board election.

Emails Point to Behind the Scenes Tensions In Current LSBEP Election

A release of emails from both the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists and the Louisiana Psychological Association responding to requests for public records by the *Times*, points to behind the scenes interactions, some of which contributed to the historical three ballots having to be sent to voters.

In a December 31, 2013 email from Dr. Joe Comaty to Kelly Parker, Executive Director of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP), Comaty wrote about several concerns he had regarding the election.

He first said that he had been given emails circulated about the election, "... that we had discussed earlier," and noted that the emails "... indicate a concerted effort on the part of this group to run Connie or get behind Robin and to clearly defeat me at all costs."

The memo seemed to suggest that Comaty believed the emails to come from LPA. However, sources confirm that the emails referred to by Comaty came from Grassroots, a group opposing Act 251 and its consequences.

Comaty wrote to Parker, "Well, I hope that the new year will bring new opportunities to rid LPA of these malicious members."

In this email to Parker, Comaty expressed a complaint that this

group had the names of candidates before others in the voting public, and also his concerns about how the voting would be verified. "How can we be sure that some psychologists would not be encouraged to send in more than one ballot; or that there may be some manipulation of the counts?" he wrote. "Of course, I would be unfairly judging the integrity of my colleagues and making a serious allegation."

In another email, released by the LSBEP, Ms. Parker forwarded a copy of a letter Comaty wrote to Boards and Commissions Assistant Director Holly Robinson on January 2, 2014. It is not clear how Parker came by a copy of this letter. She forwarded it to LSBEP chair Dr. Rita Culross.

In this letter, Comaty listed his concerns, beginning with, "One of the candidates currently running has a direct conflict of interest," he wrote to Robinson.

He also noted his complaints that some LPA members had knowledge of the candidates before others did, and that some psychologists had enlisted the help of counselors to support one candidate over another, and that he had a concern that there was a lack of security measures for the ballots and the counting of the ballots.

In other emails released to the *Times* for both LSBEP and LPA, there were numerous back and forth discussions with Comaty about ways to resolve or answer his concerns, or explanations about why not. "We understand your concerns and will continue to try and resolve them," wrote Dr. Bryan Gros, and explained that the group would reissue ballots and this time number and color them.

There was also an exchange regarding Dr. Conni Patterson’s consulting work for the board, where LPA president John Fanning said that Patterson had met all the qualifications.

In another topic, Comaty complained about a LPA listserve comment criticizing him while he previously served on the board. The emails discussed a solution for Comaty to, along with the other candidates, write a statement which LPA officials would send to members. (Comaty is not a member of LPA.)

Both the state psychology board and the state psychological association responded to a *Times* request for public records, after some delays by both. Louisiana Psychological Association President Dr. John Fanning contacted the *Times* and

explained that the attorney had changed her initial opinion, and now felt that the emails did in fact fall under public records laws.

The attorney for the psychology board wrote the *Times* that the request was "unusually expansive" and the board could refuse it on those grounds, but they did not. The *Times* analyzed the first release of emails and asked that gaps be reviewed, and the board sent several more emails.

The *Times* did not receive any emails involving the two other candidates contacting either LSBEP or LPA.

LSBEP Discusses CE Emeritus Issue

At its February 2014 meeting members of the Louisiana Board of Examiners of Psychologists discussed the issue of Emeritus psychologists having to meet continuing education requirements. According to the minutes, the members reviewed the emeritus requirements and current CE exemption. "Dr. Culross moved to keep the qualifications for emeritus alone as is but require CE via rule promulgation." (*sic*) The Board discussed the motion and it passed by roll call with no opposition, noted the minutes.

Exemption of Psychologists, Others From ABA Law Not Working Well

The efforts to exempt psychologists and others practicing applied behavior analysis from having to obtain an additional license under the new Louisiana Behavior Analyst Board (LBAB) appear to be having some problems, several sources have reported to the *Times*.

The issue stems from the licensing of assistants and line technicians, which are often important individuals in the treatment teams for comprehensive services in applied behavior analysis (ABA).

The law, Act 351, passed in the 2013 legislative session, after long negotiations in a working group, exempts psychologists. Under §3715, "Persons and practices not affected," the law includes: "(9) An individual licensed to practice psychology within the state, so long as the applied behavior analysis services provided by the licensed psychologist are within the licensed psychologist's education, training and expertise. This includes individuals acting under the extended authority and direction of licensed psychologists. Licensed psychologists and those acting under their extended authority are prohibited from representing themselves as behavior analysts, licensed behavior analysts, assistant behavior analysts, or state certified assistant behavior analysts without being duly licensed or state certified."

However, the new law also defines the assistant behavior analyst and the line technician to be "under the supervision of a licensed behavior analyst."

Issues between the professions were supposed to have been worked out in the painful and pains-taking efforts of the Behavioral Analysts Licensure and Regulation Study Commission, which worked on these issues throughout 2012 and in 2013.

The Behavior Analyst license is \$400 for application and \$400 for annual renewal.

Health&Hospitals Announces Medicaid to Cover Applied Behavioral Analysis Services

In a press release, March 30, 2013, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals announced that Medicaid will cover Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) services for persons who meet the guidelines published in the February 2014 Emergency Rule (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 40, Number 2).

The announcement noted that to access these services a person should select a Medicaid enrolled ABA provider who will submit the request for prior authorization to Molina Medicaid Solutions for approval.

For assistance locating these providers, interested person can call the Specialty Care Resource Line at 1-877-455-9955 or DHH directly at 1-844-423-4762.

Psych Board Holds Closed Meeting, April 7

The Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists held a closed meeting with the Board Advisory Counsel on April 7. The agenda indicated that the group was to meet from 9:30 am to 11 am. The exception to open meetings law was listed as LSA-R.S. 42:6.1, but no specific exemptions were listed. Main exemptions allowed include discussions of character, professional competence, mental health of a person; collective bargaining strategies or prospective litigation; security plans, investigative proceedings; or extraordinary emergencies such as natural disasters or epidemics. There does not appear to have been a description in the minutes for this closed meeting.



Dr. Lacey Seymour and Dr. John Courtney participate in discussion at the Study Commission in December 7, 2012. The group negotiated many issues in the new laws about Behavior Analyst but a loophole has apparently nullified the exemption for some.

CMS Rejects Louisiana's Hospital Privatization Plan

Federal officials at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have declined to qualify the plans for privatization of six state-owned hospitals that serve the uninsured and poor. The rejections involve the LSU-run hospitals in New Orleans, Lafayette, Houma, Lake Charles, Shreveport and Monroe. "To maintain the fiscal integrity of the Medicaid program, CMS is unable to approve the state plan amendment request made by Louisiana," the federal agency said in a statement as reported by the AP.

In a statement from DHH Secretary Kathy Kliebert, she said, "CMS noted that they support the mission of the public-private partnerships and the effort to create equality in the delivery of health care to the residents of Louisiana. This denial by CMS is in stark contrast to earlier approval of four SPAs for the public-private partnership with Our Lady of the Lake (LOL) in Baton Rouge. The SPAs for LOL were approved in July of last year and included advance lease payments for four clinics to be operated by the private partner."

Both Governor Jinday and Kliebert said they will appeal the decision.

American Board of Medical Psychology

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

Tulane Psychology Rolls Out New Program: Behavioral Health 4+1

Tulane Psychology is introducing a new program in Behavioral Health this spring. The announcement noted that the program was developed to provide students with training needed for basics of Behavioral Health. A second goal is to provide a more in-depth understanding of the major areas of concentration at a graduate level to those who are new to psychology.

The Behavioral Health 4+1 has 2 tracks, one Applied and one General. The applied track includes study in science about the interplay between psychology, health, and illness, prevention, and health care delivery and system components, among others. The General track provides the greater number of domains of knowledge in psychology beyond behavioral health.

\$3.3M Grant to Tulane

The National Institute of Mental Health has granted Tulane University a five-year, \$3.13 million grant to study the causes of Major Depressive Disorder, said a Tulane announcement last fall.

Dr. Jinying Zhao, associate professor of epidemiology at the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and principal investigator. According to the announcement, the researchers will attempt to identify alterations of genetic makeup, called “epigenetic” changes, that may cause the disorder. “Epigenetic changes are related to many psychosocial, behavioral and/or environmental factors,” says Zhao in the announcement. The researchers will compare the DNA of twin pairs only one of which has Major Depressive Disorder.

Red River Institute Holds Conference

In an effort to help engage those in the north part of the state and connect to the activities in Baton, the Red River Institute (RRI) began its April 4–5 Spring Conference with a panel discussion featuring Mary Alice Olsan, Executive Director of the LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor) Board of Examiners, Dr. Tom Caffery, member of the Legislative Committee for Louisiana Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, and Mark Reynaud, Chair of the Marriage & Family Therapy Advisory Committee. This, RRI Director Tom Moore, Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT), explained to the *Times*.

“This was a rare opportunity for licensees to spend a full hour and half with three individuals who are the most knowledgeable in the state regarding current regulatory and legislative issues,” he said. “Many topics were covered including the implications of current scope of practice legislation for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists and the ‘why’s and wherefore’s’ of the mandatory collaboration restrictions placed on LPCs and LMFTs by Act 320 that was passed three years ago,” he said.

He explained that LPCs in the northern part of the state sometimes feel distanced from the activities in Baton Rouge. “Licensees up here in ‘the other

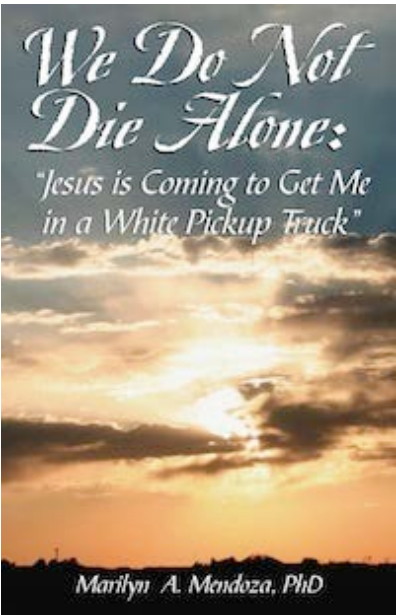
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Mark Reynaud, LMFT and Chair of the Marriage & Family Therapy Advisory Committee spoke at the recent Red River Institute Conference. (Photo by Britney Waters)

Author, Psychologist Looking for Information about Evil

[Editor’s Note: Dr. Mendoza, author of *We Do Not Die Alone*, is investigating a new line of research and asking practitioners for help. She is interested in hearing from those who may have had first-hand experience in the therapy room with evil. Those interested in providing feedback or opinions may reach her at mamphd12@yahoo.com.



Mental Illness and Evil

By Marilyn A. Mendoza, Ph.D.

Once again the news tells us that someone diagnosed with a mental illness has committed a heinous crime and people have died. An act of evil has occurred but no one will call it that. Evil is that which hurts ourselves or others. It is the absence of good. There is evil. We see it and hear about it every day.

But is there a relationship to mental illness? We know that hundreds of years ago people who were mentally ill were viewed as evil and as possessed by the Devil. People were banished, locked up, ostracized, tortured and killed for having a mental illness. Everyone was frightened of them. The mentally ill were the scapegoats for evil acts. Are they still today? In the 21st century, we no longer label people with mental illness as bad or evil. Evil is not a synonym for mental illness. However, severe mental illness can bring with it a lack of control, an altered sense of reality and the inability to use good judgment. Just as extreme narcissism leads to a lack of empathy and concern for others.

Over the years, research as conducted by Milgram and Zimbardo has proven that anyone is capable of committing evil acts given the right environment, time and situation. Of course, none of us want to think about that, much less believe that about ourselves. Hannah Arendt, philosopher and political theorist, coined the phrase that describes this in her book, *Eichmann in Jerusalem* as the “banality of evil.” The term refers to ordinary people like you and me who committed acts of pure evil. These were people who under normal circumstances would never have thought of killing anyone let alone mass murder.

In our work as therapists, we rarely, if ever, think about the concept of evil. Well, we may think of it but dare not say it out loud. For most of us the word evil immediately invokes religious thoughts of Satan and the devil. When I began to ask colleagues about their experiences with evil, they were always taken aback and looked puzzled at the mere mention of the word. They would respond with statements such as “I believe that man is basically good,” or “I don’t believe in evil.” Indeed, I believe that our profession works very hard not to ever use the word evil. It is certainly a loaded word with many connotations and reflects a judgment call on our part. But do we ever even take time to reflect on the concept of evil? Most of us have worked with victims of evil but have we ever worked with someone that we thought was evil?

Just as in trauma work we talk about “Large T” and “little t” trauma to describe the nature and impact of the trauma. We can think about evil in much the same way. There is a continuum of acts from “little e” evil to “Big E” evil. “Big E” evil refers to acts of cruelty such as war, genocide, torture. While little e evil refers to harmful behaviors we do to ourselves such as cutting, not eating or eating too much, not taking needed medication, as well as to others in the form of self-serving manipulations, belittling and bullying.

I am gathering data from different groups of mental health professionals about their views on evil and mental illness. If you could take a few moments to answer the following questions:

- Do you believe there is evil?
- How do you define evil?
- Do you believe you have treated victims of evil? If so, was it “Big E” or “little e” evil?
- Have you ever treated someone you believed to be evil?

People

LSU Psych Chair, Dr. Mathews, to Retire

and hire more during the worst of financial times at LSU,” he told the *Times* last week.

“... I worked to get the department in tune with trends in the field by moving into more physiological measures and neuroscience in their research. We hired two researchers, Melissa Beck and Megan Papesch who use physiological measures in their research. We also hired a neuro-clinical psychologist, Matthew Calamia, to replace the expertise we lost with Drew Gouvier's retirement.”

During Mathews' tenure as chair the number of faculty members obtaining grants to support their research greatly increased, he explained, a critical effort in austere times.

But maintaining this course has not always been easy. Mathews explained the challenges of holding together a quality psychology program during financially rough periods. “We have too few faculty members for our 600 plus undergraduate student majors and our PhD programs,” he said. “We have done our best to make our unavoidable large classes engaging and offer personal attention to our students. However, we should be a faculty of about 35, instead of 21.” He also noted the last of resources for graduate students.

But Mathews' career has also been full of rewarding experiences. Mathews views one his greatest accomplishments to be the founding of the cognitive PhD program in 1986 and making it a success.

“I have had a hand in hiring all of our outstanding faculty in the cognitive area,” Mathews told the *Times*, “first as area head and later as chair. This area is thriving and nationally prominent,” he said, “especially in learning, attention, memory and perception research.”

He sees a second most important contribution to be his founding of the Office of Applied Cognition, called the OAC, with co-director, Dr. Sean Lane.

“This office is dedicated to applying cognitive science to solve real world problems,” said Mathews. “The work has included research on teaching highway workers basic math through an innovative online training program, helping math teachers improve their expertise by using deliberate practice, and studying the impact of rolling out new technology in a hospital.”

Dr. Mathews plans on continuing to serve as co-director of the OAC in retirement, and is looking forward to “... more projects that benefit both science and the community,” he said.

Mathews has taught both graduate students and undergraduates, he has been awarded numerous research grants, including several from the Army Research Institute for work in implicit and explicit learning, from the National Science Foundation for physicians' adoption of technology, and from the Louisiana Board of Regents for cognitive science.

He has numerous publications including a chapter currently in press, titled, “Implicit and explicit processes in the development of mental skills: A theoretical interpretation with some practical implications for science instruction,” to be part of the edited volume, *To think and act like a scientist: The roles of inquiry, research and technology*. Mathews has published a long list of scholarly



Dr. Robert (Bob) Mathews, retiring Chair of Psychology at Louisiana State University, visiting China to study and lecture in 1990.

(courtesy photo)

contributions, such as, “The interaction of implicit learning, explicit hypothesis testing learning, and implicit-to-explicit knowledge extraction,” in *Neural Networks*.

So, when the *Times* asked him, “What has been most rewarding?” his answer was not surprising. “My research on implicit learning over practically my whole career has been very rewarding. The role of non-conscious cognition in everyday thinking is huge and previously ignored.” He is also excited by his work on cognitive bias in decision-making. “We have found a way to create a confirmation bias—false belief—in the lab and are studying the cognitive mechanisms that maintain the belief—for example, attending more to confirming evidence—to develop methods to help eliminate bias in real world situations.”

“We do have two minds,” Mathews' said to the *Times* in a previous interview, referring to two mental systems what operate by different rules. “Not only does implicit learning exist,” he said, “but it may be the primary way we learn.”

One important track of his investigations, funded by the Army Research Institute, has been medical decision errors. An estimated 44,000 people die each year in hospitals, from preventable errors in decision-making of medical professionals. “The good news,” Mathews said, “is that they [medical professionals] often choose effective treatments. The bad news is that they are generally unaware of bad side effects and often unconsciously merge side effects with their judgments about the efficacy of treatments on the main output variable,” he explained.

“They also too often prescribe ineffective treatments and believe individual differences exist when there are none,” he said. “We have only scratched the surface in this research.”

Dr. Mathews contributions to the both the university and the department have been significant. He has served as the Chairman of the Institutional Review Board for LSU for the last 14 years. And, he has been the Human Subjects Administrator for the last 11 years. In this role, Mathews has been responsible for the safety of all human

subjects at LSU, including the critical research after hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

He developed the on-line course to teach psychology majors about careers in psychology, solving a decades long problem for undergraduates who left universities without a clear job path or plan. Mathews worked with Dr. Paul Atchley from the University of Kansas, LSU colleagues Drs. Sean Lane, Emily Elliott, and his graduate student Jon Tall to develop the course which is now required for all psychology majors.

“It teaches them about the wide variety of career paths for psychology majors and helps them choose their courses,” said Mathews. “It also helps them find opportunities to enhance their competitiveness both within and outside the department,” he said.

What has Dr. Mathews enjoyed the most? “I have enjoyed most as chair was working with so many excellent, dedicated members of my administrative team. Most notably, Sean Lane, Emily Elliott, and Jason Hicks contributed every day to making our department a success. In addition, Mike Hawkins, Drew Gouvier, and Tom Davis have made great contributions. All of our faculty members have contributed much during these 6 years as chair.”

The low point? “I regret the demise of our I/O [Industrial-Organizational] PhD program in recent years,” he said. “We simply did not have the resources to meet their growth needs, so they left the department. There is talk at the college level of rekindling this program. This would be wonderful but would require a great financial commitment by the college.”

What are his plans now? Dr. Mathews looks forward to continuing some of his research with a small number of students, and “... no administrative or teaching responsibilities, it is exciting to just focus on doing valuable research.”

“In retirement I will also resume an old hobby—throwing pots, and begin a new one—growing orchids,” he said.

Since daughter Eva and her family will be moving back to the area from Boston this summer, he added, “Most importantly, I will get to help raise my two-year old grandchild.”



The Bookshelf

Who's Writing
What?

Eating Disorders and Obesity: A Counselor's Guide to Prevention and Treatment

Dr. Laura Choate
2013 American Counselors Association

Dr. Laura Choate, Louisiana State University Associate Professor, and Licensed Professional Counselor, has added an extremely useful and practical book to her growing repertoire of works that focus on the interventions with girls and women, college student wellness, and preparation of those in the counseling and psychotherapy fields.

In *Eating Disorders and Obesity*, Choate has gathered an impressive group of contributors who lay out the foundational knowledge, techniques, and practical applications needed for practitioners working with those who struggle with eating disorders.

The book is not just for those working directly with those who have disordered eating patterns, but Choate provides critical information and insights for anyone in health services, education, or community health. She and contributors show the problems are embedded in our culture, including the family, schools, and media. In this, the authors point to the pervasive and unavoidable push toward disordered eating in our culture, especially for girls and women, but also for boys and men.

While Choate and contributors realize the need for understanding this complex problem from the mixture of biology, environment, and individual psychology—that all must be taken into account by the insightful therapist—this volume focuses on the practical techniques and perspectives that a therapist or counselor needs to work competently and ethically within a comprehensive framework.

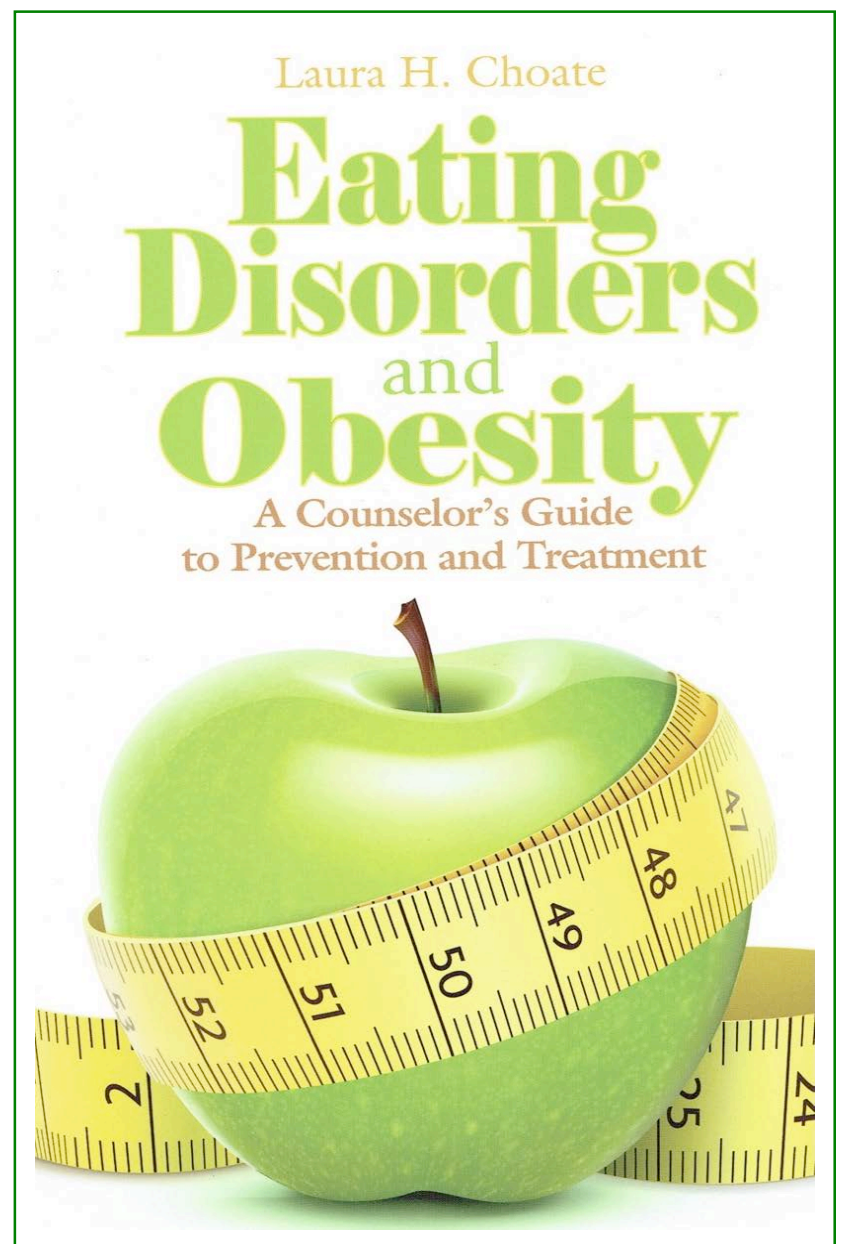
"I am not alone in acknowledging the pervasiveness of cultural pressures regarding eating, weight, and shape that leave very few individuals unscathed," Choate writes in her introduction. "These pressures influence individuals to varying degrees depending on the genetic vulnerability and their exposure to environmental risks."

Pointing to these pressures and their results, such as the fact that 46 percent of all 9th to 12th graders are actively trying to lose weight, she writes in her introduction of the reason for the text.

"Because I want my children and all others to be equipped with the skills they need to stay healthy and resilient in the face of the cultural pressures surrounding eating, weight, and shape, this book is dedicated to assisting counselors and their clients to become empowered to effect positive change in this area within the multiple systems (family, school, community) in which they are embedded."

"... 46 percent of all 9th to 12th graders are actively trying to lose weight ..."

— *From Eating Disorders and Obesity*



"Because I want my children and all others to be equipped with the skills they need to stay healthy and resilient in the face of the cultural pressures surrounding eating, weight, and shape ..."

— *Dr. Laura Choate*
Introduction, why she wrote the book

"Eating disorders and obesity are a preventable public health concern," she concludes, "and considerable efforts are necessary to prevent their initial onset and progression. Counselors are in a position to provide effective prevention programs in school, mental health, and college and university settings, and it is my hope that this book will provide them with essential resources for putting these programs into practice."

Eating Disorders and Obesity is logically divided in to four sections. The first, "Foundations," includes key information about the sociocultural context for eating disorders, about how effective interventions must include information about media, family, peers, and about gender differences and issues of race and ethnicity.

Section two is "Assessment and Practice Frameworks for Eating Disorders and Obesity." This section includes chapters that outline how the concerns of clients are linked into treatment planning, assessment, and where a client falls on the continuum of care, which can range from prevention to intensive treatment. A focus on school counselors, who are involved at a critical period of the emergence of eating disorders and how they play an important role in early detection, is explained. School based interventions are also included in this section.

The next part, "Effective Prevention and Early Intervention for Eating Disorders and Obesity," lays out essential information about prevention and public health. Included is a description of prevention programs for children, for young adults and college students, and also a "culturally adapted guided self-help program..."

The final section outlines the approaches for those who need more intensive therapy, "Effective Treatments for Eating Disorders and Obesity." In this part, contributors lay out the evidenced-based programs and psychosocial outpatient treatments for eating

BOOKSHELF
continued

disorders and obesity which fall within the counselors scope of practice. Authors clarify the overlap between major approaches, but also set out some of the distinct approaches, including enhanced cognitive-behavioral therapy. One of the major benefits of the text, here the contributors provide research about which particular treatments work with which subpopulation of clients.

The writing is consistent across the chapters but maintains the authors’ voice, a real plus because so many of these authors are high-level theorists and practitioners of international recognition.

The chapters are also balanced between research information, insight for the reader, and practical, usable information to help technical expertise for treatment. One of the benefits of the book is that readers are helped to be aware of pitfalls in this complex area of work, with its multiple slippery slopes.

Each chapter is nicely summarized at the end with chapter highlights, a well-stated conclusion, references, and in many of the chapters, recommended readings or resources.

All toll, 42 contributors help make this book a comprehensive review with strong practical help for the counselor or psychotherapist working in any setting.

One of most engaging chapters, co-authored by Choate, is “Ethical and Legal Issues in counseling Clients With Eating Disorders.” Choate and coauthors explore the serious and ethically complex issues for those assisting this population.

“Eating disorders (EDs) are serious biopsychosocial issues with severe consequences, including a range of potentially lethal medical complications. The rate of mortality in clients with anorexia nervosa (AN) is among the highest of all psychiatric conditions.” ... “In addition, suicidality has been correlated with both AN and bulimia nervosa.”

She points out that despite the lethal risks, people with these disorders are often not motivated to seek treatment, a set of conditions that present “... several legal and ethical dilemmas for the counselor.”

The writers point to numerous challenges, such counselors reporting they felt their appearance was monitored by the clients, that power struggles were common with this population, and how difficult it is for some counselors to understand the “ego-syntonic nature of the client’s symptoms, how they prefer their emaciated state.” The authors point specificity to issues with scope of competence in this complex area and how important it is to have a depth of



Members of the counselors board at a meeting in a previous year. L to R: Kathy Lammert, Dr. Ernie Cowger, and Dr. Laura Choate. Dr. Choate has published two books recently, she is an Associate Professor at LSU, and holds a position on the state counselors’ board.

real understanding into the complicated social systems involved.

The edited *Eating Disorders and Obesity* offers some of the most respected names in the field. This is just a sampling of the board base of experience that goes into the work includes the following experts.

Dr. Linda Smolak, Emerita Professor of Psychology at Kenyon College, coeditor of *Body Image, Eating Disorders, and Obesity in Youth: Assessment, Prevention, and Treatment* (American Psychological Association), and author of *Body Image: A Handbook of Science, Practice, and Prevention*, (Guilford Press) helps launch the work with chapter one “Sociocultural Influences on the Development of Eating Disorders and Obesity.”

Dr. Margo Maine, clinical psychologist working in the field for 30 years, coeditor of *Treatment of Eating Disorders: Bridging the Research-Practice Gap*, (Elsevier), *Effective Clinical Practice in the Treatment of Eating Disorders: The Heart of the Matter* (Routledge), and *The Body Myth: Adult Women and the Pressure to be Perfect* (Wiley), and *Father Hunger: Fathers, Daughters and the Pursuit of Thinness* (Gurze), and *Body Wars: Making Peace With Women’s Bodies* (Gurze), coauthors the chapter two in this volume, “Gendered Considerations in the Treatment and Prevention of Eating Disorders.”

Dr. Niva Piran, professor of counseling psychology at the University of Toronto, and recipient of the Florence Denmark Distinguished mentorship Award from the Association of Women in

Psychology, author and researcher, provides the chapter, “Prevention of Eating Disorders in Children: The Role of the Counselor.”

Other authors include those from Centre for Clinical Interventions Eating Disorder Programme in Perth, West Australia, Dr. Anthea Fursland, clinical psychologist, and Dr. Hunna Watson, research psychologist, at the Princess Margaret Hospital for Children in Perth, both who serve on the steering committee of the National Eating Disorders Collaboration in Australia.

This work adds to Choate growing list of contributions in this area. She authored the 2008 book, *Girls’ and Women’s Wellness: Contemporary Counseling Issues and Interventions*, and the 2013 work, *Adolescent Girls in Distress: A Guide for Mental Health Treatment and Prevention*. She has published over 20 articles in peer-refereed journals including the *Journal of Counseling and Development*, *Counselor Education and Supervision*, and the *Journal of Mental Health Counseling*. She was the 2004-2006 editor of the *Journal of College Counseling*, and an editorial board member of the *Journal of Counseling and Development*.

Dr. Choate currently serves on Louisiana Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners, and is a National Board Certified Counselor and a Board Approved Supervisor in Louisiana. She was the 2009-2010 chair of the American Counseling Association Publications Committee.

Red River Institute Conference, continued

Louisiana’ always value the opportunity to dialogue directly with the people that are making decisions that affect their ability to practice,” he said.

The conference hosted a full house for the event. The clinical portion of the program Saturday afternoon featured Dr. Tom Caffery from Southeastern Louisiana University and Mark Reynaud, MA, from Baton Rouge who presented on attachment theory in marital therapy and the Gottman approach to working with couples struggling with infidelity.

“Many licensees are still confused by LCA’s (Louisiana Counseling Association) sponsorship and support of Act 320, a law that placed restrictions on the practices of LPCs and LMFTs by imposing mandatory collaboration with medical practitioners,” he noted. “Our panel would have been a great way for LCA to answer some lingering questions and clear the air. I really hope we can set something up in the future for a representative of LCA to be with us.”

The mission statement of the Institute is to foster a healthy professional culture for all mental health professionals, Moore said. “The Witchdoctor’s Ball on Friday evening was a celebration of the art and science of talk therapy and a call to action to prevent the further medicalization of the mental health profession.”

**Psych Board Calculates
BA Board’s Costs at 15%**

At the February meeting of the psychology board, members discussed the financial arrangements between the newly formed Louisiana Behavior Analysts Board and the state psychology board.

Members reviewed the 2014-2015 budget prepared by Valerie Dominique, CPA, and voted to accept it. Members also reviewed information from the accountant concerning the sharing of costs with the psychology board, a percentage which comes to about 15 percent, they said.

According to formal minutes, Dr. Zimmermann moved to formally correspond with Behavioral Analyst board regarding the percentage and request that they pay the new percentage through July 31, 2014 unless something changes significantly.

The psychology board’s projected total expenditures for 2014 is listed as \$246,000. Fifteen percent comes to \$36,900.

According to the BA law, the Louisiana Behavior Analyst Board and the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists shall share office space, professional staff, and other resources in the operation and management of each of the respective boards, according to the law passed last year. The law also allows the BA board to accept grants, donations, or gifts of money or services from public or private individuals or organizations or from any other sources to be utilized for the purposes of the board. Such monies shall be deposited into the treasury of the board.

**Dr. Kelley in “Science
Of Spill” Seminars**

Dr. Mary Lou Kelley, Louisiana State University Psychology Professor was a speaker in the “Science of Spill Seminar Series,” a set of lectures presented in Conjunction with the Swine Palace World Premiere of “SPILL.”

Dr. Kelley presented “Psychological Impact of the Deepwater horizon Oil Spill,” March 6, at the Reilly Theater, located on Tower Drive in Baton Rouge.

The speaker presentation series ran for four weeks with different LSU faculty members presenting who have conducted research on the effects of the spill. The presentations highlighted scientific research, from psychological, to biological, to chemical, air mapping, to satellite images.

“SPILL” is a collaborative, multimedia play inspired by the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon/BP oil spill, widely perceived as the largest environmental disaster in U.S. history.

Psychology At The Movies

12 Years a Slave

by Dr. Alvin Burstein

Aristotle taught that the power of epic tragedy lies in its ability to stir the audience to pity and fear—catharsis. The emotional impact of *12 Years a Slave* earned it three Academy Awards, a Golden Globe Award and British Film Academy kudos. Watching it I felt more than fear. I felt horror. Yes, and pity.

And yet, and yet.

The story is that of Solomon Northrup, an African American man born free in New York State who, in 1841, is kidnapped and sold into slavery. It describes his scarifying experiences over the more than a decade in the cotton fields and mansions of south Louisiana, confined, beaten, lynched, and betrayed, all the while clinging to the flickering, fading hope of returning to his wife and two children and to his life as a free person.

During the opening credits an announcement that what follows is “based on a true story” scrolls across the screen. The unfolding story limns the evil of slavery, and its power to inflict agony and corrupt the spirit. But the characters in this drama verge on caricatures, seeming almost two-dimensional.

Consider the portrayals of Northrup, and Patsey, a young woman slave. They have an extraordinarily complicated and intense relationship. They are physically intimate and close enough that she pleads with him to kill her as an escape from the abuse and exploitation that dominate her life. Northrup not only refuses to help her die but is bullied by his master into mercilessly whipping her. Their relationship is fraught.

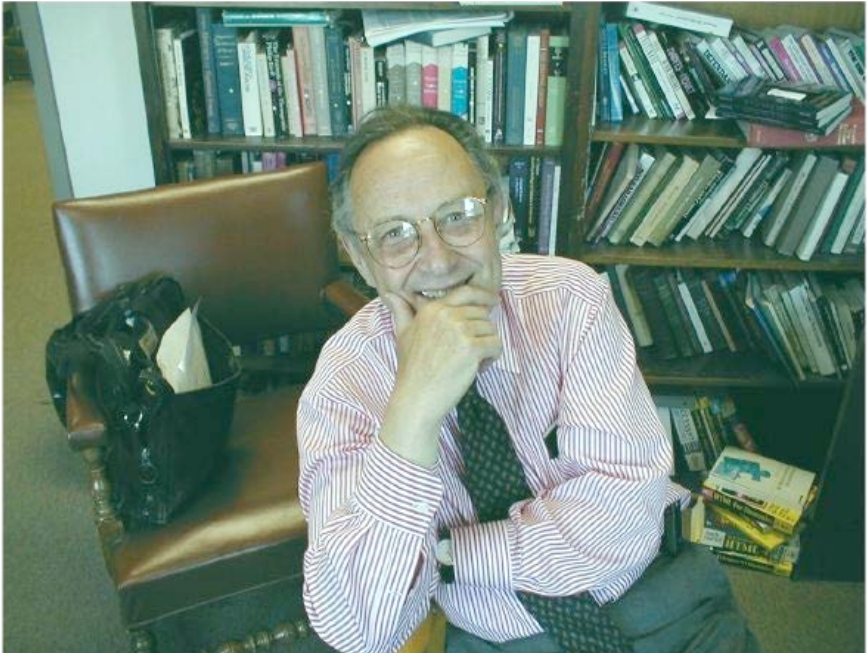
When Northrup is rescued by a friend from New York who had learned about his situation, Patsey bewails her desertion.

Northrup returns to New York, weeping at being reunited with his wife and two children and meeting his namesake, a new grandchild.

A happy ending.

But I found myself wondering how Northrup remembered Patsey. How her feelings about him, about how all of his experiences of being a slave for twelve years had marked and changed him. Had he to deal with survivor’s guilt? Did he feel shame at being an instrument of the sadistic eroticism of the master that made him participate in Patsey’s beating?

Exploring these dynamisms, looking more deeply into Patsey, and, for that matter, into the dark and twisted ambivalence of Patsey’s master, would have transformed a deeply moving film into great art.



*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

Up-Coming Events

LPA to Hold Convention June 12–13 in New Orleans

The Louisiana Psychological Association will hold its Annual Convention and business meeting June 12 and 13, at the Sheraton Galleria in Metairie, Louisiana. The theme will be “Resiliency, Mindfulness, & Resolve: Coping with the Hand You’re Dealt.”

Special Invited speaker will be Abbot Thay from the Buddhist Temple in Baton Rouge, starting the program with his presentation on “Mindfulness Meditation.”

Keynote Speaker, Dr. Judy Kuriansky, will present her work on Disaster Recovery. Dr. Kuriansky is a well-known TV/Radio celebrity, psychologist in New York City. Since one of her subspecialties is Sex Therapy, the second half of her workshop will focus on “Couples’ Sexual Relationships Post-Disaster.”

Other Invited Speakers include two individuals who are currently running for APA President. Dr. Tony Puente will present on CPT codes. And, Dr. Jessica Daniel Henderson will present on “Moving from At Risk to At Promise: Perspectives on Child and Adolescent Development.”

Dr. Jesse Lambert will present a two-hour ethics workshop, and Dr. Kelly

Pears will present a three-hour workshop on PTSD.

Dr. Lore Dickey will present on “Psychological Practice with Transgender and Gender, Nonconforming Clients,” and Dr. Michelle Moore on “Utilizing Mindfulness Techniques with Children and Adolescents Diagnosed with ADHD.”

Dr. Emily Sandoz from University of Louisiana–Lafayette will chair a symposium presented by her students, with the topic “Staying Flexible in a Rigid World.”

Tulane’s Dr. Michael Cunningham will present a workshop titled, “Resilience, Vulnerability, and Defiance in Urban African American Adolescents.”

LPA President-Elect Dr. Joe Tramontana will chair the 3rd Annual Symposium for Early Career Psychologists (ECPs) and Students. “In prior years,” he said, “my panel included experienced psychologists talking about applications of psychology they are practicing that they had no clue—or training in graduate school—they would be doing. This year, we also have two ECPs on the panel to talk about the challenges they’ve faced in their early careers. Topics include hypnotically enhanced



Dr. Kelley Pears returns by popular demand to the Louisiana Psychological Association Convention in June. Pears is a VA psychologist and expert in treating PTSD.

psychotherapy, equine assisted psychotherapy, prescription privileges, psychologists in leadership positions, and others.”

Also this year, the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists will provide an update on Board affairs. Thursday will include the association’s business meeting, and awards for the 2014 Distinguished Psychologist and Early Career Psychologist.

A poster session and cocktail hour concludes the convention on Friday evening.

Dr. Joe Tramontana said, “I have had what seemed at first the daunting challenge of being Program Chair for our annual convention scheduled for June 12 & 13, 2014. But with the assistance of my committee—Drs. Nemeth, Zeanah, DeGrange, & Storer—I believe we have a “kick-ass” program scheduled, with a line-up of speakers, programs, and

CEU opportunities deeper than we have had for years.”

“One change this year is that after surveying LPA members, it was determined that New Orleans was the most popular locale,” said Tramontana. “We’ll meet at the Sheraton Galleria in Metairie, providing easy access for members not wanting to go downtown, and equally easy access for convention goers who want to partake in the downtown nightlife.”

Plans for July 16 to 18 PTR Summer Symposium Complete

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. Byron Simoneaux. Owner and Director, Dr. John Simoneaux opens the first day of the Symposium with training on Diagnostic V-Codes and Other Conditions that are outlined in DSM-5, followed by Dr. Byron Simoneaux with a workshop on PTSD. “The first afternoon is particularly exciting,” said John Simoneaux, “because a new and much improved Dr. Simoneaux, son Byron, will be teaching about PTSD, based on his experiences working on a specialized in-patient PTSD unit at the Veteran’s Administration Hospital in North Little Rock.”

Teri Theaux, LPC, heads off the second day, with a workshop to help mental

health professionals learn how to work with parents in ensuring educational success for their children. Ms. Theaux brings years of practical experience in the schools to this overview.

Dr. John Simoneaux will present in the afternoon about one of his favorite topics, Antisocial Personality Disorder, one of the more frequent diagnoses he encounters in his forensic practice.

The third day kicks off with a Summer Symposium veteran, Dr. Dena Matzenbacher, Psychology Chair from McNeese State University. Matzenbacher will discuss implications of extended adolescence. “Dr. Matzenbacher is a

dynamic and entertaining speaker, her previous presentation at the Summer Symposium was extremely well received,” John Simoneaux told the *Times*.

The symposium concludes with training on Ethics, this time discussing ethical problems relating to the beginning and ending of therapy, presented by Dr. John Simoneaux.

“Over 200 mental health colleagues in Louisiana have found the Symposium to be a great way to have fun while earning 23 continuing education hours on a variety of practical and useful topics,” Dr. Simoneaux said. “With the Symposium, you will learn in a relaxed atmosphere, you will laugh, and you will

gather all of the hours you need.”

“During the presentations you might even get a prize for saying something smart, or asking a good question, in the midst of all of the education, there are door prizes, games, and other entertainment. Participants are encouraged to dress very casually—jeans and t-shirts are fine—and to join the staff in the evenings for music, refreshments, and talk.”

Because of its growing popularity, some people are turned away each year, so early registration is encouraged, he noted. For more information contact PTR at 318-443-0845 or 888-229-8128, or go to professionaltrainingresourcesinc.com

Memorial Day May 26

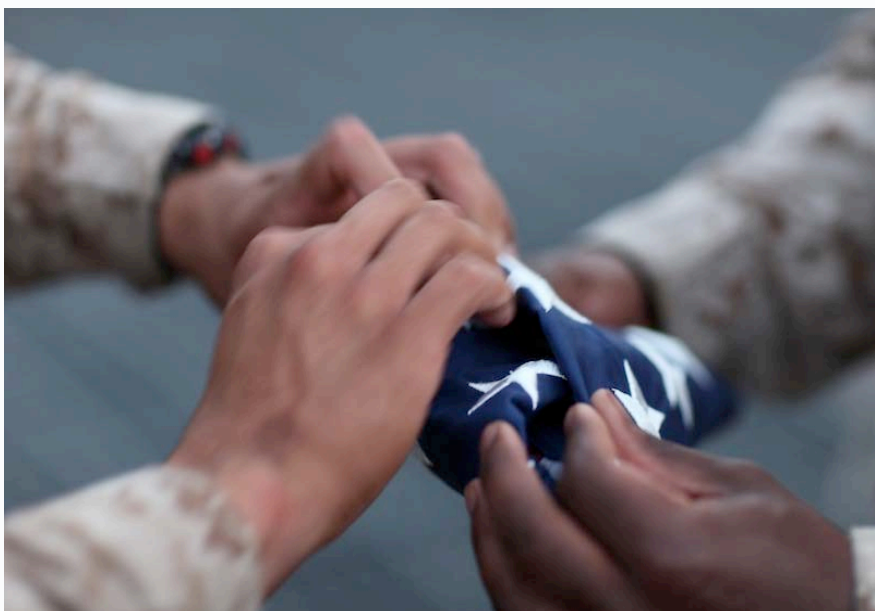


Photo by Master Sgt. Grady Fontana of 1st Marine Division.

“In my judgment this is the most sacred of all national holidays, celebrating and honoring those people who have served, and particularly those who have given up their lives in the service of this great nation.”

“And, it gives us the opportunity on Memorial Day to renew our own commitment to America and its values. And also, to remind ourselves that as ugly as war is, and as devastating as the consequences are, there truly are some things that are worth fighting for. And these wonderful Americans who stepped forward and have done that for us, we are truly blessed as a result of it.”

Ret. General Jack Keane

The Psychology Times

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The Psychology Times

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