

## 2014 Year In Review



One of the strangest events of the year was the election for the psychology board, which required three ballots, a public counting of votes, and a trip to the Ethics Board. Above, Dr. Paula Zeanah and Dr. John Fanning from the Louisiana Psychological Association count the third round of votes.

In many ways 2014 was just a regular sort of year. Previously predicted dramatic changes seemed to come in small, manageable steps or were still on the horizon. Despite what some experts predicted about the drastic changes for healthcare providers, most have not seen the huge change. And while oil prices are 50 percent off, and higher education and state health systems will surely be hit in 2015, things were mostly flat in 2014.

Last year Mental Health, both the boards and the associations, had things to do and people to see down at the legislature, coming out of this year with provisional licenses, a new option for school psychology specialists, and additions to the Marriage and Family Therapist license. A sweeping telehealth law took effect, telling providers that location no longer matters.

As usual there were a lot of bright spots in contributions of individuals, some of those we honor in our Community Awards.

Perhaps the most interesting news we reported on, requiring five requests for public documents, were the

politics surrounding the election for the psychology board. That could go down in the archives as the high point—or maybe the low point—of the year.

Here is a review of much of the news and features of 2014. For complete stories see our website.

### JANUARY

**Dr. Tiffany Stewart Leads Project On Military Health at Pennington.** Dr. Tiffany Stewart began a multi-million dollar study on the health of Warfighters funded by the United States Department of Defense. Stewart is a psychologist and Director of the Behavior Technology Laboratory at Pennington Biomedical.

**Three in Race For Psychology Board.** In what would become the most bizarre board election that many can remember, Dr. Joe Comaty, Dr. Robin Chapman, and Dr. Connie Patterson put their names in the hat to fill a five-year term on the state psychology board.

**Violence Prevention Group and LaTech Team Up.** Members of the Coalition for Violence Prevention began work with Louisiana Tech professor

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Dr. Frank Igou and his team to develop a scientifically based training method for violence prevention.

**Dept of Education Gives Okay for School Specialist Credential.** Representatives of the Louisiana Department of Education gave the go ahead for the “Licensed Specialist in School Psychology” to the psychology board.

**No Change in Controversial Opinion on Supervision.** The psychology board

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## The Psychology Times

# 2014 COMMUNITY AWARDS

The *Times* staff conceived of our Community Awards last year and the feedback was so positive we are at it again. The awards are based on principles of organizational and community psychology, and then we looked at the 2014 news makers to see who was doing what in concert with these themes.

We looked for win-win problem solving, concern for the rights of others, openness, creativity, and the willingness to step up and take the initiative for making the community, in some cases the world, a better place.

We gave our community members appreciation points for contributions to scientific truth, healthy group and subgroup functioning, and overall contribution to human welfare. If they ignored personal cost to benefit a societal goal, they earned our high respect. For those stepping out of their silos and comfort zones, we applauded. Innovations got us cheering.

Hats off to all our winners. Thank you for your work, wisdom, and vision. Once again, we noticed.

# Editorial Page – Opinions

## My New Year's Resolution: Be Less of a Hedgehog

by J. Nelson

I recently finished one of Phillip Tetlock's books on human judgment, this one an early report of his expert political judgment experiments. Tetlock took one of the most complex areas imaginable, world politics, gathered high level experts into a large pool for forecasting, and measured their accuracy in predicting events. From post-Communist Russia to the Japanese stock market to the future of Canada, he designed a complex method for figuring out who can predict geopolitical events better.

Tetlock found that it's not a person's years of experience, gender, or political affiliation that matters. It's not being an academic, or having a PhD, or past training that matters.

It's cognitive style, our style of reasoning. *What* experts are thinking matters much less, than *how* they are thinking. When it comes to judgment, what matters is whether the person is a fox or a hedgehog.

Tetlock uses Isaiah Berlin's prototypical hedgehog at one end of the cognitive style continuum and the prototypical fox at the other. Hedgehogs are confident in their views, "know one big thing," and push determinedly to apply this idea. Foxes on the other hand, "know a lot of little things," they cover more ground, are flexible improvisers, with a dubious, self-critical style of reasoning. While foxes are moving from one idea to the next, hedgehogs are digging in and pulling the dirt in on top of themselves. The deeper they dig the more they risk becoming trapped in their own ideas, uncovering more reasons why their initial view is "right."

Tetlock points out the paradox that the media and the public prefer the confidence and simplicity of hedgehogs. He also notes that hedgehog's "formulaic solutions to ill-defined problems" is a quality prized in scientists. Something to think about.

But he also warns to keep in mind that foxes themselves aren't all that amazing, being consistently outperformed by statistical models. Even foxes need training to do well. However, hedgehogs, bless their hearts, are roughly equal to dart-throwing chimpanzees.

The popularity of insight into human judgment, advanced in large part by Daniel Kahneman, psychology's Nobel Prize winner (*Thinking, Fast and*

*Slow*), is making its way into the collective. A refreshing example is Scott Lilienfeld's 2014 article, "Why Ineffective Psychotherapies Appear to Work," with his list of hedgehog type cognitive distortions that therapists apply. But this type of meta-cognition, thinking about thinking, especially in group dynamics, seems slow to catch on.

So you might understand my surreal experience when I found myself at the psychology board's recent planning meeting defending one of my most cherished hedgehog ideas, free speech. The board says it needs more authority to govern licensees' behavior—not just to govern their practice of psychology—but to discipline overall "professionalism," and this includes speech.

I found myself fumbling around in a discussion over free speech with Dr. Comaty, muddying up my concepts and doing a terribly poor job of making my point, which would of course make no real difference even if I would have somehow come up with the brilliant ideas that I only thought of later when I was obsessing over what I did say and wishing I hadn't said it.

Nevertheless, my lifelong affection for Freedom of Information is one of my hedgehog views. As any good hedgehog, I've spent decades acquiring evidence to support my ideas, from organizational, humanistic, and evolutionary psychology. I've filtered everything else out that doesn't fit.

And of course, also like any good hedgehog, I'm not about to change my mind. My belief-defending behaviors include the *Times*, which is now going on 6+ years. I'm trying to encourage freedom of information, free expression, and open conflict resolution in the community. Of course I don't see any need for more control by government over free speech. I see the complete opposite: We need more entrepreneurial freedoms, more outspoken visionary leadership, more open debate of differences, and less covert political gamesmanship.

But Tetlock is elegantly convincing. So, with my one exception about individual freedom, I'm going to try and be much less of a hedgehog in 2015.

### The Psychology Times

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We welcome ideas for news, features, Letters to the Editor, photos, and other material related to psychological community of Louisiana.

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From publisher and the staff at

### The Psychology Times



## Bleak Budget Outlook as Oil Prices Continue Slide

The continuing drop in oil prices may be good for the country as a whole in the long-run, but Louisiana will have to further tighten its belt, something that will likely affect higher education and health care.

The *Advocate* interviewed the Commissioner of Administration, Kristy Nichols, last week who said, “We’re going to have to make some tough choices.” Everything will have to be considered, including “more cuts to higher education and the possibility of no merit pay raises for state workers,” Nichols said, according to the *Advocate* report.

Oil prices have recently hit a five-year low and they continue to slide. The price of oil is tied to the state budget because of royalties and taxes the state collects are linked to oil. For each \$1 drop in oil the state loses about \$12 million in revenues.

The Governor was already looking at ways to reduce a \$1.4 billion shortfall, but this number is continuing to grow.

According to a number of analysts, fracking has put competitive pressure on the OPEC who is now reducing prices by releasing more oil in efforts to protect their market share.

## Governor’s Executive Order in Dec *Register*

Specifics to be set out for victims of sexual assault, “Forensic Medical Exam”

An Executive Order was published in the December issue of *Louisiana Register* listing the duties of government agencies for assisting victims of sexual assault. In the two-page Order, Governor Jindal instructs the Crime Victims Reparations Board, in consultation with the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, to revise its administrative policies and develop a list of eligible medical expenses related to the forensic medical examination for victims of sexual assault.

He also instructs the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) and the Department of Public Safety to jointly convene a group to formulate a definition for “Forensic Medical Exam” as it relates to the crime of sexual assault. One of the goals is to ensure that all charges are included in that definition and are not chargeable to the assault victim.

The Governor also tells the DHH, through the medical directors of each of its nine regional Health Service Districts, to coordinate a sexual assault response plan. The plan must be in by February 1.

The Governor introduces the topic with, “All government, of right, originates with the people, is founded on their will alone, and is instituted to protect the rights of the individual and for the good of the whole. Its only legitimate ends are to secure justice for all, preserve peace, protect the rights, and promote the happiness and general welfare of the people. ...”

# Louisiana Awarded Grant to Address Child Sex Trafficking

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children, Youth and Families awarded grants to Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, HP Serve and LouisianaChildren.org. The funding will center on improving outcomes for child trafficking victims in Louisiana by analyzing data and implementing best practices for children in the child welfare system. It will also be used to develop infrastructure for coordinating multiple agency efforts to deliver services, as well as expand collaborative efforts to serve victims of child trafficking.

"Protecting children is the most important thing we do at DCFS," said DCFS Secretary Suzy Sonnier. "Sadly, child trafficking is becoming more prevalent, but this grant will be invaluable in our work to

prevent trafficking and serve those children who have already been victims of abuse and neglect."

According to the announcement, research demonstrates a connection between youth involved in child welfare systems and those who have been or become victims of child trafficking. A 2013 study by the Institution of Medicine and National Research Council, found that many times sexual abuse and involvement with child welfare precede trafficking of minors. A report conducted by the California Child Welfare Council found that 50-80 percent of victims of commercial sexual exploitation, including child sex trafficking, are or were formerly involved with child welfare.

"Sex trafficking of minors is one of the most horrific

crimes that can be committed against a child," said Claudia Berry, Executive Director of HP Serve. "The trauma of being trafficked has a long term impact on all of its victims. HP Serve is pleased to have received funding from DHHS to expand what we are doing to help youth in the child welfare system who are at risk of or are involved in minor human trafficking in Louisiana."

The grant will allow DCFS and its partners increased resources to identify and combat child trafficking, including the implementation of special assessments to target children entering or returning to child welfare who may be child trafficking victims and to improve services provided.

(Source: La. DCFS)

# Pew Research Lists Most Striking Findings of 2014

Pew Research is a center for research on a wide range of topics aimed to help key stakeholders in society understand and solve the world’s most challenging problems. Pew listed a number of what researchers considered “striking findings for 2014.” Below is a list of some of the top issues from Pew and links to their reports.

1. “Republicans and Democrats [are more divided](#) along ideological lines – and partisan antipathy is deeper and more extensive – than at any point in the last two decades: 92% of Republicans are to the right of the median Democrat; and, conversely, 94% of Democrats are to the left of the median Republican.”
2. The gap between how much young adults with a bachelor’s degree or higher earn, and those with no degree is the largest [in the modern era](#). This is even with huge levels of student debt and also high youth unemployment.
3. The percent of American adults who have never been married is at an all time high. At the same time, marriage rates are continuing to drop. “In 2012, one-in-five adults ages 25 and older had [never been married](#),” noted Pew researchers. And, “Men are more likely than women to have never been married. And this gender gap has widened since 1960.”
4. “Nearly three-quarters (72%) of the public thinks religion is losing influence in American life, [up from 52% who said so in 2002](#),” and most say they believe that the influence of religion is waning, and also see this as unfortunate and a bad situation. A growing number report that “religion *should* play a role in politics.”
5. While the Great Recession was hard on all US families, and housing and other assets have become to recover some of their value, this recovery is not a uniform effect. “... wealth inequality has [widened along racial and ethnic lines](#). The median wealth of white households was 13 times the wealth of black households and 10 times that of Hispanic households in 2013, compared with eight and nine times the wealth in 2010, respectively,” says Pew.
6. The public is concerned about privacy issues. Public policy debates, especially after major hacking incidents and also high tech products that track citizens and consumer activity have fueled concerns. “ — 91% of Americans [agree or strongly agree](#) that consumers have lost control over how their personal information is collected and used by private companies.”
7. According to Pew, a majority of Americans are ready to pitch the “war on drugs: 67% say the government should focus more on [providing treatment](#) for those who use illegal drugs such as heroin and cocaine, while just 26% think the government’s focus should be on prosecuting drug users,” say the Pew researchers.

# Med Board Posts Guidance for Medical Psychologists Supervising School Specialists or Provisional Licensees

The state Medical Board published “Guidance for Medical Psychologists” in their recent News category on their website. The guidance relates to two measures passed in the spring legislative session. The measures, Act 136 and Act 137, established the “Licensed Specialist in School Psychology” and the “Provisionally Licensed Psychologist.” The bills were amended to include medical psychologists who may supervise these new categories but who are only regulated by the state medical board.

The statement by the medical board, posted on December 17, stated that MPs licensed only under the medical board should comply with the supervisory obligations set out by the state psychology board. Specifically the announcement noted:

“While the LSBEP has no regulatory authority over MPs who do not maintain their license with the LSBEP, the supervisory requirements imposed upon LSSP [Licensed Specialist in School Psychology] and PLP [Provisionally Licensed Psychologist] by the law and any LSBEP regulations must be met in order for these individuals to lawfully practice their profession. With that in mind, the Board would consider it the professional obligation of any MP who undertakes the supervision of an LSSP or PLP to be aware of and comply with the obligations imposed on such supervisors by law and LSBEP rules. Failure to provide such supervision would work to the detriment of the LSSP or PLP (and clients), who could also be found to be engaged in an improper practice for lack of supervision.”

“In short, while there may little occasion for an MP to serve as a supervisor for a LSSP or a PLP, an MP who does so should comply with the supervisory obligations imposed by law and LSBEP regulations. To do otherwise may be viewed by the Board as unprofessional conduct or having a professional association with an improper practitioner, which could give rise to disciplinary investigation and/or action by the Board.”

According to the August minutes of the Medical Board, Dr. C. Mouton, Executive Director of the Medical Board, met with Kelly Parker, Executive Director for the psychology board, and discussed these new Acts and that included medical psychologists as potential supervisors. “... Following review and discussion it was the consensus of the Board to await the input of the Medical Psychology Advisory

Committee on this matter,” noted the August minutes.

In the September minutes of the psychology board, minutes noted, “Ms. Parker updated the Board regarding the meeting with LSBME and counsel.”

And in their meeting on October 10, the Medical Psychology Advisory Committee was listed in its agenda to discuss the Rules for Acts 136 and 137. No minutes have been published thus far as to the substance of that discussion.

## Still Not on 2015 Screening List Vitamin D3 Relates To Overall Mortality

A year end *Medscape* review of health research that should change primary care included findings for vitamin D deficiency. Low D3 was associated with increased mortality risks of 35% for CV disease, 14% for cancer, 30% for nonvascular/noncancer death, and 35% for all cause mortality. Supplemental vitamin D reduced mortality by 11%, the report noted.

However, the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force still does not support D3 screening. It issued a first-ever guidance on the routine screening for D, saying that evidence is insufficient to support routine screening.

# Psychology Board Hires Prosecutor

On December 22 the psychology Board announced that it has retained a new prosecutor, attorney James Raines. Mr. Raines is a partner in the Baton Rouge office of Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, L.L.P. and according to the firm’s website he practices in the areas of casualty, tort and insurance defense, with an emphasis on workers’ compensation matters.

Another major focus of his practice according to the website is an emphasis on Medicare compliance and also Medicare Secondary Payer Act, in which Mr. Raines has earned a designation.

He graduated in 2004 from the Paul M. Hebert Law School at Louisiana State University. He acquired an undergraduate degree in psychology from Harding University in 1997, and a Masters in psychology and also in Marriage and Family Therapy from Abilene Christian University.

The board has declined to be interviewed by the *Times* on this and other matters.

### Clarifications

No corrections or clarifications were received for our December issue.

Please send corrections to the *Times* at [psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com](mailto:psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com)

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.

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# Family Therapists Fly the Banner for Alternatives to Psychopharmacology

The Louisiana Association for Marriage and Family Therapy will be flying the banner for alternatives to the growing trend toward psychotropic medication when they host science writer and author Robert Whitaker at their upcoming annual conference. The conference, “Psycho-therapeutic Alternatives to Medication,” will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Baton Rouge, February 19 through 21. Whitaker, author of *Anatomy of an Epidemic: Magic Bullets, Psychiatric Drugs, and the Astonishing Rise of Mental Illness in America*, and Dr. Jacqueline Sparks, Professor at University of Rhode Island, an expert in outcomes research, will be keynote presenters at the conference.

“Our training and our bent is toward the less restrictive, less invasive, most holistic kinds of care,” said Dr. Matt Morris, President of Louisiana Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, “and that often entails intervening at the system level rather than just at the patient level.”

“The problem,” Morris told the *Times*, “may relate to their system—their family system, their interpersonal system, their community system—and less to their psychobiology. We don’t use medications for the whole family,” he said.

Morris explained that his community is concerned about the vulnerable populations, specifically “... the mentally ill members of our communities and the children and adolescents,” he said. “By history, Marriage and Family Therapists also have a bent toward social justice issues and so in Robert Whitaker we see these themes coalescing, namely the use of psychotropic medication and some of our most vulnerable populations. The two themes are social justice and the holistic approach,” he explained.

Whitaker’s *Anatomy of an Epidemic* takes a critical look at the underlying problems in the growing use of drugs in the treatment of mental illness and he draws some disturbing conclusions. He shows that the dramatic rise in the use of psychopharmaceuticals has coincided not with a decline, but rather with a rise in both mental illness and mental illness disability. He reviews the failed theory of chemical imbalance and concludes that psychiatric drugs can disrupt brain function and lead to chronic illness on their own.

Dr. Morris explained the conference has multiple goals. “The theme of the conference is psycho-therapeutic alternatives to medication,” he said, “so we’re not just talking about the problem with medication but what we can do as therapists to support our clients, for coping and overcoming and living with their distress.”

Tom Moore, family therapist and Director of the Red River Institute located in Shreveport, considers Whitaker’s book an important one. “Whitaker is offering a long-overdue critique of the mental health profession as a whole—not just psychiatry but all those mental health professions that have evolved from psychiatry,” Moore told the *Times*. “The molecular hypothesis of mental illness will eventually go down in history as one of the foundational myths of the modern age.”

**“... in Robert Whitaker we see these themes coalescing, namely the use of psychotropic medication and some of our most vulnerable populations. The two themes are social justice and the holistic approach.”**

Dr. Matt Morris, President  
Louisiana Association for  
Marriage and Family Therapy

Moore added, “Much like Galileo, who challenged the notion that the earth was the center of the universe, so Whitaker—along with a rising chorus of others—is hastening the demise of the molecular hypothesis,” he said. “And, like Galileo, many in the mental health establishment would love to burn him at the stake for heresy.”

Author Robert Whitaker confirmed that there has been some backlash for him. “In response to *Anatomy*,” he told the *Times*, “the ‘critics’ have of course criticized me personally. I am biased, I cherry-picked the data, and so forth. And by writing the book, which provides such a counter-narrative to prevailing wisdom, you naturally open yourself up to such ‘kill the messenger’ attacks,” he said. “And I did initially feel that there were some repercussions for me as a journalist.”

However, Whitaker also feels that a saving grace was when the prestigious Investigative Reporters and Editors Association awarded him the Best Investigative Journalism book for 2010, sandwiched among other top winners for newspapers like the *New York Times* and *Chicago Tribune*.

“That was a confirmation for me personally,” Whitaker said, “that I had stayed true to journalistic principles in the book. Moreover, the book has now been translated into a number of languages, and so that is rewarding too,” he said.

In the 2014 Louisiana legislature, the Marriage and Family Therapists put forth a bill to clarify scope and added the term “diagnosis” to their licensing law. However, a consultation and collaboration clause was also included, mirroring the one added to the counselors’ 2011 Act 320 that requires consulting with a prescribing medical professional on serious cases.

Tom Moore is concerned about this issue. “At the legislative level, the scopes of practice of mental health professions continue to be shaped by profit, politics, and turf rather than the actual needs of the consuming public,” he said. “The result of this ‘cart before horse’ approach is restricted trade for qualified mental health professionals, restricted access for the public to mental health services, and higher costs for professional and consumer alike.”

Robert Whitaker says there have been a few changes since *Anatomy*. “There is more discussion going on in psychiatry today,” he told the *Times*, “about the need to use low doses of psychiatric medications, and at times to support drug withdrawal protocols. In addition, there has been a fair amount of new research published that supports the conclusions drawn in *Anatomy*.”

“The problem is,” he said, “that the changes in practice are the exception to the rule. The prescribing of stimulants and antidepressants goes up and up, and polypharmacy is so common when an antipsychotic is prescribed. And the number of people going on disability continues to climb too.”

What is it going to take to stop this automatic slide toward more and more medication? “I am not sure,” he said. “I don’t think the scientific ‘evidence’ really matters. Family doctors and psychiatrists are primed to prescribe the drugs, the public



Author, Robert Whitaker  
(courtesy photo)

has been taught to ask for them, and it doesn’t really matter whether they aren’t very effective over the short term, and worsen long-term outcomes. We have become a society awash in psychotropic drugs.”

Tom Moore said he is hopeful that professional organizations continue to work to get the word out to use approaches most relevant to the consumer and “shuck medical model envy.” He believes that the state conference and the training at his Red River Institute will help.

Whitaker said he thinks the change will have to come in a grassroots movement in consumers. “The societal discussion needs to change,” he said, “and my guess is that is where it will be changing in a meaningful way, in discussions among users of the drugs.”

**“I don’t think the scientific ‘evidence’ really matters. Family doctors and psychiatrists are primed to prescribe the drugs, the public has been taught to ask for them, ...”**

Robert Whitaker, Author  
*Anatomy of an Epidemic*

After studying as a fellow at the Edmond J. Safra Research Lab on Institutional Corruption at Harvard University, Whitaker is now writing a more academic book with co-author Lisa Cosgrove. Together they look at academic psychiatry through the lens of institutional corruption and how “economies of influence” can lead an institution away from serving its public mission, he said. The book, *Psychiatry Under the Influence: Institutional Corruption, Social Injury, and Prescriptions for Reform*, will be out this April.



Science and Education

# LSU Psychology Graduates 22 PhDs

The Louisiana State University Psychology Department announced its recent doctoral graduates for 2014.

Christine Vinci, a doctoral student in clinical psychology graduated recently. She was guided by Clinical Psychology faculty member Dr. Amy Copeland.

Clinical faculty member Dr. Alex Cohen supported two clinical psychology students who were awarded doctorates, Laura Brown and Gina Najolia.

Suzanne Booth-Ledoux received her doctoral degree. She is a student of Cognition and Brain Sciences faculty member, Dr. Emily Elliot.

Faculty member in School Psychology, Dr. Frank Gresham, was the support behind four new school psychology graduates: Katherine Chenier, Emily Corwin, Aaron Fischer, and Lisa Minor.

Dr. Robert Mathews, retired Chair, and departmental faculty member in Cognition and Brain Sciences, is advisor for new graduate, Jonathan Tall.

Christy Seidel graduated under the guidance of Cognition and Brain Sciences faculty member Dr. Janet McDonald.

Graduating doctoral students guided by Dr. Johnny Matson, Distinguished Research Master in the clinical psychology area, were Megan Hattier, Max Horovitz, and Alison Kozlowski.

Dr. Sean Lane, Cognition and Brain Science, is the faculty advisor for new doctoral graduate, Tanya Karam.

School psychologist and faculty member, Dr. George Noel, is the advisor for new graduates Jessica Schuh-Claus Alvarez and Carolyn Barahona.

Whitney Jenkins and Ann May are new doctoral graduates in clinical psychology with the support and assistance of Dr. Thompson Davis in the Clinical Psychology faculty.

Dr. Melissa Beck, faculty member in Cognition and Brain Sciences, is the advisor for new doctoral graduate, Justin Ericson.

Clinical psychology professor, Dr. Mary Lou Kelley, has guided Meghan Geary, Mindy Scheithauer, and Julia Thompson, in graduating with their doctorates in 2014.

## UNO’s Dr. Carl Weems Works on Cybersecurity

Dr. Carl Weems, professor of psychology at the University of New Orleans Psychology Department, is part of a team working to understand personality factors related to cybersecurity risks.

Weems is part of the multidisciplinary team that includes two UNO professors of computer science. The research is funded by a \$223,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.

The team is looking at attention, personality, cognitive preferences, and other factors that can aid in the detection and prevention of cybersecurity risks.

By studying the links between psychological factors and cyber behaviors in real world situations Dr. Weems and th other members of the research group hope to uncover ways to adapt software systems to help reduce risks and effects of cyber attacks.

(Source: UNO News)

## Stress Solutions

by Susan Andrews, PhD

### Passing Stress onto the Next Generation

“Pass the salt. Pass the rolls. But, please don’t pass the stress.”

As a clinician, you will surely have the opportunity from time to time to counsel young women who are pregnant or who are hoping to get pregnant. Or, you may be a young psychologist looking to start or increase your own family. In the first case, you can offer information to your client about how chronic stress can harm their developing baby. Or, you can profit from knowing the value of managing stress – especially during pregnancy.

Last month we reviewed new research on how chronic stress can cause premature aging and illness because the constant overproduction of cortisol reduces the supply of the body’s telomerase and that prevents the cell from reversing the effects of stress on telomere length. This is the mechanism by which chronic stress can harm your DNA. However, there is more; another pathway by which stress impacts the body at the cellular level happens in the developing baby of a chronically stressed mom. Thus, the “transgenerational transmission of risks” has to be taken into account in planning ways to improve public health.

Dr. Sonja Entringer and colleagues published a study showing the higher the mom’s anxiety during the prenatal period, the shorter the baby’s telomere length. Now a great deal of research has been published on prenatal stress and anxiety and how it affects the child for the rest of his or her life. *Stress Solutions for Pregnant Moms* (Andrews, 2012) reviews the most important studies. The effects are not simply on health (such as premature birth and low birth weight, asthma and digestive problems). Serious consequences include the child’s reduced ability to cope with stress. The developing child of a chronically stressed mother is also more likely to have problems with attention and behavior (ADD/ADHD). Other related problems include learning problems, lower IQ, higher incidence of anxiety and depression, and even an increased risk of autism.

Not only are the newborn’s telomeres affected by the mom’s stress, but also the mom’s chronically high levels of cortisol may trigger changes in the developing fetal brain. The cortisol levels in the mother’s blood are noted by the fetus’s brain. The brain of the fetus begins to consider the higher cortisol levels as “normal.” According to this theory, the brain then decides that it does not need as many stress-hormone receptors in the developing hippocampus. The end result is that more cortisol will remain in the child’s blood whenever stressed and the child’s H-P-A axis has been changed or dysregulated.

The bottom line is that we are living in a world of ever increasing stress because of the constant change in which we live. Our world is changing daily and we are so aware of it because of the nearly instant TV, cell phone and internet coverage for major events. Everyone or nearly everyone has access to multiple sources of information. People now accept this level of stress as “normal.” Certainly, we all have the right to decide for ourselves how much stress for which we are willing take the consequences. But, now that we see the consequences are being passed to future generations, I believe it is critical to start implementing known strategies and solutions to manage stress better. And, in our role as clinicians, we need to get the word out.



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



# 2014 Year In Review

Continued

quickly dismissed a request to reexamine the reversal of Opinion #012.

**State Medicaid Director Asks for Ideas to Help Modernize Program.** Project Director for Medicaid Modernization asked for ideas regarding improvements to Louisiana Medicaid system.

**Times Honors Community Leaders:** The *Times* named UNO's Gerald LaHoste, Brandon Baiafonte, and the UNO Biopsychologists; Michael Chafetz; Dr. Raphael and Beth Salcedo; *members of the Louisiana Coalition for Violence Prevention*; Suzanne Chabaud; Leaders in the Louisiana Counseling Association; LCA; and the LSBEP task team with Steven Welsh, Rita Culross, Connie Patterson, Carmen Broussard, Susan Ratterree, E. Francoise Parr.

## FEBRUARY

**Gov. Promises to Stop the Bleeding in Higher Education.** Governor Jindal announced a small increase for the state's university systems, and also an increase for healthcare, including the promise of no provider rate

cuts and no reductions in Medicaid eligibility.

**LSBEP Election Do-Over.** The first round of voting in the psychology board election had to be scraped after a candidate complained that the ballots could be easily duplicated, having been printed on plain white, instead of colored paper, by the Louisiana Psychological Assn who conducted the voting.

**"Building Court Systems That Understand Children's Needs."** The *Times* talked with community experts in families and legal systems to explore what is working in Louisiana. Dr. Alan Taylor, Psychologist, Terri Campesta, LPC and LMFT, Dr. Sally Thigpen, Psychologist, and Leslie Todd, founder of the Louisiana chapter of Association for Family and Conciliation Courts, and Licensed Clinical Social Worker, were featured.

**Coalition Against Human Trafficking Held First Annual Conference.** Psychologist Dr. Rafael Salcedo and wife Beth Salcedo, co-founders of the Louisiana Coalition held "Fight Human Trafficking: The



The 2014 Legislative session was fairly peaceful but busy. Above Dr. John Fanning (far left) and Dr. Jacqueline Mims (far right) testify about House Bill 15.

Northshore Human Trafficking Conference." It was the first of its kind.

**Psychology Board Changes Emeritus CEs.** While a number of senior psychologists raised objections, the board eliminated the waiving of CE requirements enjoyed by some Emeritus psychologists.

**"And the Lies Have It."** LSU psychological scientist, Dr. Sean Lane, and researchers at the Office of Applied Cognition, Stephanie Martin, Rachel Dianiska, Kacie Mennie, and Lloyd Moffett, teased out nuances of lies, liars, and detection for the March conference of American Psychology-Law Society, held in New Orleans. Dr. Emily Elliot and Dr. Megan Papesh also participated.

**La. Grabs Top Ranking in Educational Reform.** *StudentsFirst*, a non-profit education policy group, gave Louisiana their top spot in a State Policy Report Card ranking.

**Dr. Devezin Dies.** Dr. Armond Devezin, associate professor at Dillard University and first African-American president of the La. Psychological Association dies.

**Family Therapists at the Red River Institute Take Aim at Medicalization of Talk-Therapy.** The *Times* spoke with Director of the Red River Institute, Tom Moore, a family therapist, who is concerned about the growing trend to medicate people for their psychological problems. Also interviewed were family therapists Howie Brownell, Dr. Katie Garcia, and Dr. Kelly Tyner.

**VERTIGO-- Psychology at the Movies.** Guess Columnist Dr. Alvin Burstein reviewed the classic Hitchcock thriller.

## MARCH

**Legislative Session Convenes.** The legislature began its plod through a growing set of proposals which included a new designation for "Licensed Specialist in School Psychology," a proposal for provisional license for psychologists, and also new provisional designations for interns in counseling and marriage and family therapy. Marriage and Family Therapists sought to clarify their scope of practice. A bill to criminalize sex with clients returned and a bill to add Licensed Counselors to the clinical team in lieu of a sanity commission was included.

**Second Round, No Good Either--Ballots Go Out a Third Time.** A missing cover letter in some ballots triggered more complaints about the election process and the second round was scrapped.

**Dr. Matthews Retires from Loyola.** Long-time professor of psychology at Loyola University in New Orleans and key figure in state and national psychology, Dr. Janet Matthews, announced her retirement from Loyola.

**UNO's Dr. Beaton Directs New Lab.** Dr. Elliott Beaton, Assistant Professor in the University of New Orleans Psychology Department, started the Stress, Cognition, and Affective Neuroscience Laboratory. Beaton and colleagues are studying how stress and anxiety might affect long-term development and risk of schizophrenia in children with chromosome 22q11.2 deletion.

**Dr. Susan Tucker Reviews Her Treatment Programs for LCAD.** Dr. Tucker presented an overview of her intensive and innovative

## The Psychology Times 2014 COMMUNITY AWARD ALTRUISM

**Dr. Raphael and Beth Salcedo**

Love is certainly patient—also very determined. That is why we are honored to give our 2014 award for Altruism as a repeat of our 2013 winners.

Dr. Raphael Salcedo and wife Beth Salcedo have embraced the heart-wrenching tragedy of child sex trafficking. In 2014 they continued their efforts to push for change, involve others, and provide for healing of these youngsters trapped in the darkest, criminal element of our society.

The Salcedos organized the Northshore Human Trafficking Conference in February, through their Coalition Against Human Trafficking, and continued their work to open the "Free Indeed Home" for trafficked children.

This year's Altruism Award once again goes to Raphael and Beth Salcedo for their courage, unselfishness, and determination to help stop child sex trafficking and to heal its young victims.



# 2014 Year In Review

Continued

treatment programs for the members of the Louisiana Commission on Addictive Disorders.

**LSU Life Course & Aging Center Presents Holocaust Survivor Eva Kor.** The LSU Life Course and Aging Center, together with LSU School of Social Work, presented “An Evening with Eva Kor, Holocaust and Mengele Twin Experiment Survivor.” Center members include Drs. Jan Hondzinski, Neila Donovan, Katie Cherry, Pricilla Allen, William Jenkins, and invited speakers Drs. Emily Elliott and Ed Golob.

**Psychology Board Approves Past CE Training by LAMP-PAC.** Members of the psychology board approved previous continuing education training purchased from the political action committee, LAMP-PAC, even though PACs are not approved providers of training.

**Bookshelf: *Living with Your Body & Other Things You Hate; How to Let Go of Your Struggle with Body Image Using Acceptance & Commitment Therapy*, by Emily Sandoz, PhD and Troy DuFrene.**

**ROBOCOP 2014 -- Psychology at the Movies.** Guess Columnist Dr. Alvin Burstein reviewed the newest version of the classic sci-fi movie.

**APRIL**

**Legislators Plug Away at Plethora of Bills.** Legislators got into their stride as final deadlines for filing bills ended. A bill for mandating continuing education for suicide prevention drew attention; Gov. Jindal proposed to strengthen laws for human trafficking; and Representative Simon offered a “TeleHealth” bill.

**Community Members Attended First Ever Legislative Forum.** For the first time ever members of the mental health professions met to discuss their various positions on legislation. The Legislative Forum was co-sponsored by the Louisiana Counseling Association and the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. Representatives from the Louisiana Association of Clinical Social Workers, Louisiana Association for Marriage and

Family Therapy, Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners, Louisiana Psychological Association, National Association of Social Workers, Louisiana Chapter, and Louisiana Counseling Association, attended. Organizers included Carmen Weisner, LCSW, and Cindy Nardini, LPC.

**SB 539 Highlighted State Suicide Rates, Need for Training in Healthcare Ranks.** A measure that would mandate suicide prevention training for mental health professionals drew both support and objections. Suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death but mental health workers score poorly on tests of their knowledge about prevention. The *Times* interviewed Baton Rouge suicide prevention expert and Kansas licensed psychologist, Dr. April Foreman, and Dr. William “Bill” Schmitz, Jr., a licensed clinical psychologist in Baton Rouge, who is also current President of the American Association for Suicidology.

**LSU’s Dr. Papesh: Matching Photos is Risky Security Measure.** Louisiana State University Assistant Professor of Psychology, Dr. Megan Papesh, authored new research demonstrating that people can’t match photo IDs nearly as well as assumed, bringing into question issues of security programs that use photo ID matching to catch false passports and other high-risk situations. She found that error rates for catching a face to photo ID mismatch could go as high as 40 percent.

**Third Set of Ballots Sent for Same LSBEP Election.** Ballots for the psychology board election were sent to licensed psychologists for the third time. Louisiana Psychological Association later decides to opt out of conducting future elections.

**Continuing Education: Does It Accomplish What We Think It Does?** In a feature on the science of training, the *Times* talked with Dr. Frank Igou, Industrial and Organizational Psychologist at Louisiana Tech, who is working with the Louisiana Coalition for Violence Prevention to develop valid training for mental health professionals.

**Special Report: Do the Boards Support “Direct Participation?” What Citizens Should Know.** In a look at the boards in the community and how well they

comply with open meetings laws, the *Times* found that each has its own culture, with strengths and weaknesses, in meeting the true goal of citizens’ participation.

**Cancer Survivor Spreads Hope.** Dr. Columbus Ellis, a volunteer at Ochsner Cancer Center in Kenner, was showcased in a feature article reprinted from Kiwanis International.

**Dr. Janet Ruscher Helps Launch APS *Speaking of Science*.** Tulane Dean, Dr. Janet Ruscher, helped launch the new series about how those in psychology should talk to the rest of the world. The new series, *Speaking of Science*, premiered in the *Observer*, the magazine of the Association for Psychological Science. The column focuses on how to communicate in clear, understandable, and interesting ways for people outside the discipline.

**Fifth “Mindfulness” Day Held.** “Mindfulness” training was offered by Thay Dao Quang, M.Ed., and

Drs. David Weibel, Sherry Desselle, and John Pickering.

**University of Louisiana Held Academic Summit.** Showcasing academic excellence across the system's nine universities, the topics included service-learning, art, and undergraduate research.

**Southern University’s Counseling Center Co-Hosted Training for Working with Military.** The University Counseling Center at Southern University-Baton Rouge, and Director Dr. ValaRay Irvin, provided a training event for clinicians who work with military families. The training was co-sponsored with the Center for Deployment Psychology.

**MAY**

**Legislative Bills Move Forward—or Not.** The bill for specialist in school psychology goes for easy passage. Marriage and Family Therapy therapists scope of practice clarifications passes Senate 39 to 0. The Telehealth bill advances. Bills for a “Health Care

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The Psychology Times

2014


COMMUNITY AWARD

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Cindy Nardini, Carmen Weisner

The mental health community has been characterized, and not at all attractively, as “warring fiefdoms” by one Senator. Another one wrote publically that huge progress could be made if the mental health community’s factions would “spend even half the time collaborating on how to make their professions better as they have spent on senselessly fighting with each other.”

In 2014 Cindy Nardini, LPC, and Carmen Weisner, LCSW, organized the first ever Legislative Forum, bringing community members together to talk openly about differences, and to build a climate of mutual respect and honest resolving of conflicts. This award honors those who recognize the importance of win-win problem-solving in the long-term productivity of a community. Our hats are off to Nardini and Weisner.





# 2014 Year In Review

Continued

Profession Institute,” one to combine DHH & DCFS, and one for the criminalization of sex with patients all struggled. A bill to place Licensed Professional Counselors on clinical team for sanity issues was deferred after a very close vote.

**Dr. Robert Mathews Retires.** Chair of the Louisiana State University Psychology Department and co-founder of the cognitive psychology program, Dr. Robert Mathews, retired from LSU, where he made his home for nearly 40 years.

**Snake-Bit LSBEP Election Finally Concludes.** Votes for a five-year position on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists were publically counted in a snake-bit election that included three rounds of ballots having to be sent, and a fourth round threatened by the state board. Dr. Constance Patterson won with 116 votes, Dr. Joe Comaty was second with 77, and Dr. Robin Chapman received 20. The hotly-contested election was fraught with both clerical errors and behind the scenes concerns of possible election tampering, together making it one of the strangest elections in memory.

**Emails Point to Behind the Scenes Tensions In LSBEP Election.** A release of emails from the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, the Louisiana Psychological Association, and Boards & Commissions pointed to a list of complaints from medical psychologist Dr. Joe Comaty

about the another candidate’s suitability, his concerns about certain actions of individuals and groups opposing him, and the security of the election being conducted by LPA.

**By the Numbers: Political Actions Committees.** Contributions from 2011 to 2013 were calculated for the major political action committees. LA Academy of Medical Psychologists PAC—\$325,000; LA State Medical PAC—\$285,000; LA Psychological Association PAC—\$22,000; Licensed Professional Counselors PAC—\$12,000; and Louisiana Political Action for Candidate Election (Social Work)—\$5,000.

**Exemption of Psychologists, Others From ABA Law Not Working.** The 2013 efforts by a community task force to exempt psychologists from having to obtain an additional license seems to be failing. This appears due to the requirement and wording in the law that assistants and line technicians must be supervised by someone licensed as a behavior analyst.

**Medicaid to Cover Applied Behavioral Analysis Services.** Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals announced that Medicaid will cover Applied Behavioral Analysis services for persons who meet the guidelines.

**Behavior Analysis Board’s Costs are \$37,000.** The psychology board found they would be charging the ABA board 15% of its budget or about \$37,000 per year.

**CMS Rejects Louisiana’s**



The year was full of presentations. LSU professors Dr. Sean Lane presented research about lies, at the American Psychology-Law Society held in March. LSU Professor Dr. Mary Lou Kelley was a contributor to “Science of the Spill Seminar Series.” Here, Drs. Lane and Kelley look over materials at LSU Psychology Department.

**Hospital Privatization Plan.** Federal officials at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services declined to qualify the plans for privatization of six state-owned hospitals that serve the uninsured and poor. Governor Jindal said he would appeal.

**Tulane Psychology Rolled Out New “Behavioral Health 4+1.”** Tulane Psychology introduced a new program in Behavioral Health developed to provide students with training needed for basics of Behavioral Health.

**\$3.3M Grant to Tulane.** The National Institute of Mental Health granted Tulane University \$3.13 million to study the causes of Major Depressive Disorder.

**Red River Institute Conference.** Mary Alice Olsan, Executive Director of the 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, were featured presenters at Red River Institute.

**Author/Psychologist Looking for Information about “Evil.”** Dr. Marilyn Mendoza, author of *We Do Not Die Alone*, asked for those who have had first-hand experience in the therapy room with “evil.”

**Dr. Kelley in “Science Of Spill.”** Dr. Mary Lou Kelley, Louisiana State University Psychology Professor, presented “Psychological Impact of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill,” in “Science of Spill Seminar Series,” in Conjunction with the Swine Palace World Premiere of “SPILL.”

**Bookshelf: Eating Disorders and**

**Obesity: A Counselor’s Guide to Prevention and Treatment** by Dr. Laura Choate.

**12 Years a Slave-- Psychology at the Movies.** Guess Columnist Dr. Alvin Burstein reviews the highly acclaimed Best Movie.

## JUNE

**Legislature Ends:** Bills for school specialist, provisional licenses, “Telehealth,” counselor/MFT interns title changes, language for Marriage & Family Therapists in diagnosis, and tweaks to the behavior analysis act all passed. An art therapy licensure study group was created after strong debate about new license category. The mandate was removed from the suicide prevention training bill.

**La. Researchers Presented at Association for Psych-ological Science (APS).** Dr. Michael Cunningham, Tulane Professor of Psychology and African & African Diaspora Studies at Tulane University, chaired an Invited Symposium at APS. University of Louisiana Lafayette researchers Elizabeth Jeffery, Dr. Hung-Chu Lin, Dr. Valanne MacGyvers, Dr. Robert McFatter, Phillip Richard, Janna Bourque, and Ashley Schaff presented also. University of New Orleans researcher Farrah Golmaryami, and authors Dr. Paul Frick, Laura Thornton, and Annie Crapanzano presented. Developmental psychologist Dr. Patricia Sirois from the Tulane University School of Medicine, Louisiana State University’s Catherine Lemieux, Tulane doctoral student David Doyle, and Amy Luthanen from Xavier University presented.

**“What I Did on My Winter Vacation.”** Dr. Yael Banai

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The Psychology Times

2014

COMMUNITY AWARD

# INNOVATION

Dr. Megan Papesh

“Imagination is more important than intelligence,” said Einstein. This year our Innovation Award recognizes a creative application of findings that have far-reaching usefulness. Louisiana State University scientist Dr. Megan Papesh uncovered the cognitive and perceptual psychology behind face and photo matching accuracy, and then applied the findings to methods in security. Later in the year we found her working with the national notary association to apply the research. So much information lies dormant, it was wonderful to see Papesh’s innovations grow legs and be put to good use by others around the country. For her innovations in development and application of cognitive psychology, and also for its dissemination, she has our esteem.



# 2014 Year In Review

Continued

reported on her school psychology work in the Alaskan Bush with photos of the coastal wilderness.

**82 Applications So Far to Behavior Analyst Board.** The board received 82 applications for Behavior Analyst, 7 applications for Assistant BAs, and 340 applications for line technicians.

**CYA or Interfering with the Election: What is the Psychology Board Doing?** The *Times* publisher reviewed activities of psychology board after they took up a complaint voiced in the campaign rhetoric of one of the candidates and elevated it to the state Ethics Administration. It was the first time any can remember that the regulatory board became engaged in an election or appointment process.

**Dr. Andrews Teams Up with Dr. Paul Harch to Study Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy.** New Orleans neuropsychologist, Dr. Susan Andrews, teamed up as the co-investigator with Dr. Paul Harch, an LSU Medical School hyperbaric medicine physician, to study hyperbaric oxygen therapy for traumatic brain injury in veterans.

**Violence Prevention Group Welcomes New Steering Members.** The Louisiana Coalition for Violence Prevention added Industrial-Organizational psychologist Dr. Mky Bonner, school psychologist E. Francoise Parr, and licensed clinical social worker Carmen Weisner to their steering group.

**National News: No Rigid IQ Cutoff in Capital Cases Says US Supreme Court:** In a 5 to 4 decision the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states must not use a rigid cut-off score on IQ tests in death penalty.

**National News: Illinois Passed Prescribing for Clinical Psychologists.** RxP for psychologists passed in Illinois. Critics point out that training requirements equal those for physician's assistants.

## JULY

**No Conflict of Interest, Said State Ethics Board.** Members of the Louisiana Board of Ethics found nothing in their Code that applied to the questions posed to them by the state psychology board regarding Dr. Constance Patterson's qualifications to serve on the board. One Ethics member asked, "Why did you bring this to us?"

**Psychology Board Refused to Disclose Its Rationale.** Dr. Tom

Hannie asked the psychology board to explain the basis for comments they made during a presentation in which they defended their objections to an appointee. The board members declined to explain the basis for their view citing attorney-client privilege.

**Dr. Lee Matthews Named 2014 Distinguished Louisiana Psychologist.** The Louisiana Psychological Association named Dr. Lee Matthews Distinguished Psychologist for 2014.

**Psychology Times Took Home 11 Awards at Louisiana Press Association.** *The Psychology Times* took home 11 awards at the Louisiana Press Association Convention, including a sweep its division for Investigative Reporting.

**Media Psychologist and UN Representative Speaks to La. Psychologists.** United Nations representative and New York psychologist, Dr. Judy Kuriansky, led participants at LPA in exercises and explained her global efforts to help traumatized youngsters.

**Advisory Committee for Specialists in School Psychology.** An advisory committee includes Dr. Steven Welsh, Dr. Carmen Broussard, and Dr. Lucinda deGrange.

**Member of CPT Panel Says "Everything In Healthcare Will Change."** Dr. Antonio Puente presented his views about the sweeping changes coming to healthcare, speaking at the Louisiana Psychological Association Convention. He told the *Times* that the current changes in the health care industry would be the most significant ever seen.

**Tulane's Behavioral and Genetics Lab Finds Family Violence Leaves Genetic Imprint on the Children.** Dr. Stacy Drury, Dr. Melissa Middleton, and Dr. Kate Humphreys found that domestic violence and trauma in families leave the young children with shorter telomeres. Dr. Drury is the Director at Tulane's Behavioral and Neurodevelop-mental Genetics Laboratory.

**UNO's Dr. Weems Finds Programs for Test Anxiety May Be Great Prevention.** Dr. Carl Weems, Professor at University of New Orleans, found anxiety intervention programs may fit very well into school settings. The study appeared in *Prevention Science*. Students taught behavioral strategies did not feel the stigma of mental health programs.

**ULM Dr. Kopera-Frye Looks at Issues for Custodial Grandparents.** University of Louisiana Monroe Professor Dr. Karen Kopera-Frye studied issues



The psychology board asked the Ethics Board what they thought about problems with recusals for the top candidate in the election. Above, psychology Chair Dr. Rita Culross waits to speak.

for custodial grandparents, with colleague Dr. Pamela Higgins Saulsberry, professor of social work. They presented at the Educational Leadership Conference of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education.

**Dr. Papesh's Work in Spotlight.** The work of LSU cognitive psychological scientist, Dr. Megan Papesh, was highlighted in the science writing of the *Los Angeles Times* and the *New York Times*.

**Dr. John Boutee' Dies.** Slidell psychologist Dr. John M. Boutee' passed away at age 60.

**Gone Fishing: The Louisiana Bayou Country: Where the Road Goes All the Way Down to the Sea.** Dr. Tom Stigall went down to the sea by way of the bayou country, Houma and Cocodrie, and returned with photos of our fascinating state.

**Freedom Summer – 50 Years Later, A Fourth of July Feature.** *Times'* publisher looked at letters sent to her father, Gordon Nelson, during the turbulent civil rights era.

**Forrest Gump-- Psychology at the Movies.** Guess Columnist Dr. Alvin Burstein reviews the popular 4-star movie.

**Stress Solutions:** "10 Stress-Free Minutes a Day Keeps the Doctor Away," by Susan Andrews, PhD.

## AUGUST

**Rumors Flying In Delayed LSBEP Appointment.** A long delay in the Governor's appointment of a new psychology board member had rumors flying. One rumor circulated that the Governor was intending to

appoint Dr. Comaty due to "pressure from the Department of Health and Hospitals." LPA asked members to support the democratic process and write the governor.

**Louisiana Psychology Experts Present at American Psychological Association (APA).** Tulane's Dr. Bonnie Nastasi, Dr. Charles Figley, Dr. Stacy Overstreet and research team members Ilana Elias, Shereen Naser, Sarah Kurash, Sarah Golberg and Paulette Carter, MSW. Also from Tulane were Dr. Paul Colombo, Dr. Edward Golob, Dr. Oscar Barbarin, Jennifer Rious, Xzania White, Dr. Michael Cunningham, and Dr. Aline Hitti.

LaTech's Richard Chambers presented at the Science Student Council Symposium. Others from LaTech included Dr. John Buckner, Dr. Tilman Sheets, Dr. Guler Boyraz, Dr. Lore Dickey, Dr. Sharon Home, Archandria Owens, Aisha Armstrong, Victoria Felix, John Wits, Danita Wynes, Camille Baker, and Brandon Waits.

Dr. ValaRay Irvin, Director at the Southern University Counseling Center, and from Southeastern Dr. Paula Varnado-Sullivan, Kaly Solek, Ashley Rohner, Mary White, and Allison Battaglia presented. Also Dr. Christina Danko, Dr. Anne Ciccone, Dr. Erin Reuther, Dr. Howard Osofsky, and Dr. Joy Osofsky; Dr. Darlyne Nemeth, Dr. Joe Tramontana, Dr. Kelly Ray, and Chelsie Songy. Dr. Karen Kopera-Frye and Dr. Wyndolyn Ludwowski and presented.

**LSU Psych Alums Hold Reunion, Honor Dr. Mathews.** For the first ever reunion of

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# 2014 Year In Review

Continued

Louisiana State University doctoral psychology students, alumni gathered for an event organized by Rich Maples and Dr. Courtland Chaney. Retiring chair Dr. Robert Mathews was honored.

**Dr. Harrison New Asst Dean at Southern University.** Dr. Murelle Harrison, previous Chair of the Psychology Department at Southern University, took on the Associate Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

**State Police Honored Dr. Fanning for N.O. Bridge Rescue.** Dr. John Fanning, past-president of the Louisiana Psychological Association, was honored with the "Lifesaving Award" by the Louisiana State Police. He rescued a woman from a N.O. bridge.

**La. Teacher Preparation Programs Leads Nation.** Louisiana Board of Regents said the National Council on Teacher Quality identified the state's teacher preparation program as leading the nation. From 2001 to 2011 Dr. George Noell, LSU Professor and school psychologist, worked with Regents to improve the program.

**Interview with Louisiana Counseling Association President, John Crawford.** Dr. Banai interviewed the new leader of the state Counseling Association who spoke about the upcoming conference and plans for the association.

**Dr. Beard Dies.** Dr. Marcia Beard, New Orleans licensed clinical psychologist, passed away.

**Stress Solutions:** "Is Your Treadmill Keeping You From Losing Weight?" by Susan Andrews, PhD.

## SEPTEMBER

**Gov. Appoints Dr. Comaty.** Medical psychologists maintained their majority on the psychology board when Governor Jindal appointed Dr. Comaty.

**IOM Reviewed Symptom Validity Testing and Social Security.** The Institute of Medicine reviewed testimony from a variety of sources about the value of using symptom validity tests to measure malingering by claimants in Social Security Administration disability evaluations. The review followed a 2013 report by the Office of Inspector General saying that the Administration should update its policy. Louisiana neuropsychologists Dr. Michael Chafetz and Dr. Kevin Bianchini were among those presenting at the Institute.

**Dr. Patterson and Dr. Frick to Lead Science, Academic, Practitioner Think-Tank.** The Louisiana Psychological Association and the Association for Psychological Science teamed up to support an academic-research



The first ever reunion of Louisiana State University doctoral psychology alums was organized by Rich Maples and Dr. Courtland Chaney. Above (seated) Mike Dooley, Dr. Ed Chandler (standing left) and Dr. Randy Lemoine.

think tank to renew connections between practitioners and psychological scientists in the state. Tulane's Dr. Constance Patterson and UNO Chair, Dr. Paul Frick, will co-facilitate the group.

**LSU's Dr. Matson Named in "Most Influential Scientific Minds."** LSU Professor and Distinguished Research Master, Dr. Johnny Matson, was named as one of the "Most Influential Scientific Minds of Our Time," by Thomson Reuters. Matson's works ranked in the top 1% most cited in the field of psychology and social science.

**Robin Williams' Death Points to Rising Suicide Rates.** Experts share their views about the rising suicide rate for white, male boomers. President of the American Association of Suicidology, Baton Rouge psychologist, Dr. William Schmitz, Jr., Kansas licensed psychologist Dr. April Foreman, and Dr. Frank Campbell, Licensed Clinical Social Worker and former Executive Director of Baton Rouge Crisis Intervention Center, and also Past-President of the Am. Assn for Suicidology, spoke with the *Times*.

**Changes in the LPC Board.** Mark Reynaud, LPC, LMFT, stepped down from his service on the Board and the MFT Advisory Committee. Mr. Earl Augustine was appointed Member-at-Large.

**DHH Telehealth Task Force Works on New Law.** A law that greatly expanded the ways practitioners can work with patients through electronic means of communication, Act 442, took effect in August and a DHH supported task force looked at changes. The *Times* spoke with

Representative Scott Simon who authored the bill.

**Stress Solutions:** "What do Obesity, Chronic High Stress, Heart Disease, Diabetes, Hypertension, and Depression have in Common?" by Susan Andrews, PhD.

**Dr. Ed Chandler- "Aha Photo and Glass."** Dr. Ed Chandler's award-winning photography is showcased in feature *Gone Fishing*.

## OCTOBER

**UNO's Dr. Weems Finds Katrina Kids Can Adapt.** A new study from University of New Orleans psychological scientist Dr. Carl Weems and his team of researchers found evidence that children can adapt to stressful events if, when followed by similar experience, there is a more positive outcome. Weems and colleagues Justin Russell, Donice Banks, Rebecca Graham, Erin Neill, and Brandon Scott produced the naturalistic study, the first test of "reconsolidation theory" outside the laboratory.

**Emails Point to LAMP in Recent LSBEP Appointment, Not DHH.** Public documents released by government officials indicated that the lobbyist for the Louisiana Academy Medical Psychologists Political Action Committee, Bud Courson, and LAMP leader Dr. James Quillin, were likely the key to the appointment of Dr. Joe Comaty to the psychology board. Almost 40 letters in support of Dr. Constance Patterson seemed to have little influence

## The Psychology Times 2014 COMMUNITY AWARD INVOLVEMENT

**Dr. Constance Patterson, Dr Paul Frick, Dr. Alan Kraut, and LPA**

One of the most important problems in health and mental health is the science-practice gap, the divide between research literature and applied interventions. The gap is everywhere and believed to be responsible for the finding that a large proportion of clinicians do not use evidenced-based treatments.

This year's award for Involvement goes to the co-facilitators of the LPA Academic-Practitioner Think Tank, Tulane's Dr. Conni Patterson and UNO's Dr. Paul Frick. They've taken on a huge but important task in trying to reduce the science-practitioner gap in Louisiana.

We also appreciate the Executive Director of the Association for Psychological Science, Dr. Alan Kraut, and those in the Louisiana Psychological Association, for funding memberships that help support this effort.

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# 2014 Year In Review

Continued

compared to the two men listed in an obscure interdepartmental email.

**Tulane, LSU, LaTech, Loyola in U.S. News' "Best Colleges."** U.S. News & World Report included Louisiana schools in its Best Colleges rankings.

**Performance Enhancement: Helping People Go from Good to Great.** The *Times* examined performance enhancement and how practitioners can help bolster human potential. Included were sports performance experts Dr. Joe Tramontana, Dr. Karen Slaton, and Dr. Tony Melito, master career counselor, Michele Waguespack, M.Ed., LPC, management consultant Dr. Laura Wolfe, and licensed industrial-organizational psychologist Dr. William ("Gig") Costelloe.

**Applied Behavior Analysis Board Asks Ethics Administration about Accepting Donations.** The ABA Board asked the Ethics board about accepting donations, grants, or gifts. Ethics dismissed the issue as not under its jurisdiction.

**Dr. Carol Goodheart Speaks at LPA.** The Louisiana Psychological Association hosted Dr. Carol Goodheart, former President of the American Psychological Association and author of *A Primer for ICD-10-CM-Users: Psychological and Behavioral Conditions*.

**Dr. Rachal New President of LAMP Regional.** Dr. K. Christopher Rachal, Associate Professor of Psychology at Nicholls, is the President of the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists.

**Changes to Continuing Education in Place Now for Some Psychologists; Emeritus Reporting Still Fuzzy.** The new Rules for psychologists' continuing education, now called continuing professional development, are in effect for some.

**OBH Encouraged More Participation from Addiction Commission.** Members of the Office of Behavioral Health met with the Louisiana Commission on Addictive Disorders to encourage greater involvement of commission members with the Louisiana Behavioral Health Advisory Committee. Included were Dr. Kashunda Williams, Dr. Susan Austin, and Dr. Susan Tucker.

**Packed House at LCA Convention.** The Louisiana Counseling Association hosted Dr. Samuel Gladding, author of over 41 books, at the annual convention in New Orleans where over 1,000 participants attended topics about humor and wellness.

**Tulane's Dr. Hoerger to Study How Patients Cope with Cancer Decisions.** Tulane's Dr. Michael Hoerger will study the different ways that people cope with cancer and how to reduce the emotional burden of a terminal prognosis.

**LSU's Dr. Rizzuto Presents in D.C.** Louisiana State University's Dr. Tracey Rizzuto presented about community development to the Alliance for Children and Families Neighborhood Revitalization Conference. Rizzuto and colleague Dr. Mary Ellen Brown reviewed Baton Rouge programs funded by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Justice.

**Dr. Overstreet is New President-Elect for National Society.** Dr. Stacy Overstreet, Tulane Chair of Psychology, is the new president-elect for the Society for the Study of School Psychology, a select national society for professionals in school psychology.

**Dr. Dohanich Receives 2014 President's Award.** Psychology professor Dr. Gary Dohanich was honored by Tulane for Graduate and Professional Teaching.

**Dr. Cunningham Talks about Kids, Slavery Lessons in Classrooms.** Dr. Michael Cunningham spoke to *The Root Magazine* about what to do when slavery lessons cause Black youngsters to feel uncomfortable in the classroom.

**Northwestern's Dr. Lindsey Promoted.** Dr. Cynthia Lindsey was promoted to full professor of psychology at Northwestern State University.

**Louisiana Group Psychotherapy Society Hosts Dr. Pickering.** The Louisiana Group Psychotherapy Society featured Dr. John Pickering, a clinical psychologist and practitioner of Zen Buddhism and meditation for over 40 years, on *Mindfulness*.

**My White Plume-- Psychology at the Movies.** Guess Columnist Dr. Alvin Burstein reviews the classic movie.

**Stress Solutions:** "Salmon and Sardines for Stress Reduction," by Susan Andrews, PhD.

## NOVEMBER

**Tulane's Dr. Barbarin to Work on White House Educational Initiative; Work Featured in APA Monitor.** Dr. Oscar Barbarin, Psychology Professor and Endowed Chair at Tulane, is working with the Advisory Commission

# The Psychology Times 2014 COMMUNITY AWARD MEDIA

## Dr. Janet Ruscher

"How are we as psychologists to regard a discipline that succeeds primarily in speaking to itself?" This was a 1995 comment by Gergen, repeated by Sommer in his 2006 APA article about getting the word out. He also quoted novelist Doris Lessing, who said, "It is one of the paradoxes of our time that ideas capable of transforming our societies, full of insights about how the human animal actually behaves and thinks, are often presented in unreadable language."

Twenty years later it is, sadly, still true. So, we were a little awed that Tulane's Dr. Janet Ruscher took on what can only be viewed as a Herculean task, of teaching and motivating those in psychological science to communicate in plain talk in her column, "Speaking of Science" for the Association of Psychological Science *Observer*. The Media Award acknowledges that for an idea to make a difference it has to reach people in a meaningful way and Ruscher is tackling this at the source.



Dr. Janet Ruscher  
(courtesy photo)

on Early Childhood Education, part of the White House Initiative on African American Educational Excellence. Barbarin's work was also featured in *APA Monitor*. Barbarin's research sheds light on the origins of what underlies a disproportionately high rate of poor school adjustment for African-American and Latino children, a group he calls "boys of color" or "BOC."

**School Psychologists & School Specialists Gather in Lafayette.** School psychologists and school specialists attended the annual conference where Dr. Frank Sansosti, Dr. Debra Duhe, Dr. Howie Knoff, and Dr. John Simoneaux, Dr. Constance Patterson, and Dr. Bonnie Nastasi were among the presenters.

**Dr. Papesh Helps National Notary Association.** The National Notary Association embraced research from Louisiana State University's Dr.

Megan Papesh to help it's members develop their understanding of a key scientific finding: matching faces and photo IDs is very difficult. Over 2,900 notaries took an online test of matching skills developed by Dr. Papesh.

**Marriage & Family Experts Look at Rising Rates of "Never-Married."** The *Times* interviewed marriage and family therapists: Dr. Matt Morris, Associate Professor of Counseling at Our Lady of Holy Cross College in New Orleans and President-Elect for the Louisiana Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Mark Reynaud, LPC, and Dr. Molly Govener. Ms. Heather Doss, chair of the Louisiana Commission on Marriage and Family, also commented.

**Psychology Board Plans Its 2015.** The state psychology board will hold a Long-Range Planning meeting in November.

Cont next pg



# 2014 Year In Review

Continued

**LSBEP Declines Interviews with Times Until It Develops Policies Manual.** The psychology board says it will be developing a media workgroup to develop procedures for how to respond to questions from the media. Until then officials said the board will not answer media questions. They will respond to public records requests.

**School Specialists Advisory Committee Meets.** The Licensed Specialist in School Psychology Advisory Committee met to review implementation of the new credential for school psychology specialists. Members of the Advisory Committee are Dr. Carmen Broussard, Dr. Lucinda DeGrange, and Dr. Steven Welsh.

**Medical Psychology Advisory Committee Met.** The advisory committee for medical psychology met and discussed Act 136 and Act 137.

**Open House Held for “Free Indeed Home.”** The Louisiana Coalition Against Human Trafficking held the open house for the “Free Indeed Home,” the first home in Louisiana for survivors of child sex trafficking. This marked another step for Dr. Rafael Salcedo, licensed psychologist and wife Beth Salcedo, licensed speech-language pathologist and Executive Director of the Home, in their on-going efforts to rescue children from sexual exploitation.

**Dr. Sean Ransom in Behavior Therapist.** Dr. Sean Ransom,



Dr. Joe Tramontana (L) awards Dr. Lee Matthews Distinguished Psychologist for 2014 honor. If your name was Matthews (Lee, Janet) or Mathews (Robert) it seemed likely you'd be on the *Times*' front page in 2014.

Louisiana Medical Psychologist from the Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Center of New Orleans and faculty associate at Tulane University School of Medicine, provided a down-to-earth view about being a prescriber for a special issue of *Behavior Therapist*.

**Dr. Ruscher Encourages Better Communicating about Psychology in APS Observer.** Dr. Janet Ruscher, Tulane

Dean and previous chair of the Tulane Psychology Department, continues her column for the Association for Psychological Science *Observer* focusing on ways to communicate to the public about psychological science.

**Bookshelf: Integrating Clinical Hypnosis and CBT: Treating Depression, Anxiety, and Fears,** by Dr. Robin A. Chapman.

**Dr. Ehrhardt Presents at the Psychoanalytic Center in N.O.** Dr. Walt Ehrhardt presented “An Objective Relations Primer on Aggression in Couples,” at the New Orleans-Birmingham Psychoanalytic Center.

**Gone Fishing:** “The Galapagos Islands,” and a celebration of Darwin’s voyage was provided by Dr. Susan Andrews, with photos and narrative.

## The Psychology Times 2014 COMMUNITY AWARD COURAGE Dr. Oscar Barbarin



Dr. Oscar Barbarin  
(courtesy photo)

In his elegant and honest research about “Boys of Color,” Tulane’s Dr. Oscar Barbarin is looking at real and solvable problems and how to shed light on the origins of what underlies a disproportionately high rate of poor school adjustment for African–American and Latino boys.

Science requires that we look at facts as they are, without fear or bias, and this then supports the needs and rights of all those in our society. Dr. Barbarin and his team at Tulane are helping to discover the underlying psychology of these and other issues that could improve youngster’s social and educational outcomes. His willingness to explain the complexity of issues for Boys of Color and to educate and inform policy and decision-makers earns Dr. Barbarin our admiration and the *Times*’ 2014 Courage Award.

### DECEMBER

**LSBEP Plans Sweeping New Discipline Category.** The psychology board plans on new category of discipline for “inappropriate” or “unprofessional” behavior, including cursing and behavior that is disparaging of others in the profession.

**Beleaguered Higher Education Bracing for More Cuts.** A \$171 million mid-year budget shortfall prompted some in higher education to begin to brace for more cuts despite the Governor assurances of a mid-year fix.

**School Violence Training Highlighted.** With record attendance Dr. Debra Duhe presented a daylong workshop developed by the National Association of School Psychologists at the recent Louisiana School Psychological Association conference.

**“Holiday Blues.”** Guest Editorial column by Drs. Janet



# 2014 Year In Review, continued

and Lee Matthews looked at ways to cope with holiday stress.

**Psychology Board to Remove Emeritus Designation from Law.** The psychology board said it will remove the Emeritus designation from the Psychology Practice Act in upcoming 2015 legislative session.

**Magellan is Out: DHH to Integrate Behavioral Health Services into Medicaid Managed Care.** The Jindal administration says it will not renew its contract with Magellan. DHH said it plans to integrate specialized behavioral health services into the benefits coordinated by Bayou Health.

with Magellan. DHH said it plans to integrate specialized behavioral health services.

**Three to Run for LSBEP Spot.** Three candidates offered to fill an upcoming position on the psychology board: Koren Boggs, PhD, Beverly Stubblefield, PhD, and Jesse Lambert, PsyD.

**Telepsychology Task Force Offers Guide.** The psychology board offered guidelines on the practice of telepsychology to conform to Act 442, the new telehealth law.

**Invisible Forces Behind Health Care.** The *Times* looked at the some of the social system behind health care decisions and finances in the US.

**How Much Do You Know About ...?** Dr. William Schmitz, Jr., psychologist and President of the American Association of Suicidology, and Dr. April Foreman, expert in suicide prevention, offered a quiz on suicide prevention basics.

**Art Therapy Task Force Reports.** The task force established to study licensure for art therapists distributed a draft of a report. The members did not agree on an overall, unified direction.

**Christmas Bookshelf:** Christmas reading ideas were offered by Donna Thomas, Ph.D., Marilyn Medoza, PhD, Bill McCown, PhD, Kim E. VanGeffen, Ph.D., John Fanning, PhD, Michael Chafetz, PhD, and Judith Stewart, PhD.

**New Professors at Centenary:** Dr. Jessica Alexander and Dr. Dennis Poepsel joined the Centenary College Psychology Department.

**New Faculty at Tulane.** Dr. Julie Alvarex rejoined the Tulane psychology department as Senior Professor of Practice in Psychology. Dr. Sarah Gray also joined the Tulane faculty as Assistant Professor.

**Stress Solutions:** "Chronic Stress Can Harm Your DNA," by Susan Andrews, PhD.

**Gone Fishing:** Our photographer, Dr. Tom Stigall, captured the beauty of the West's mountains and canyons in a holiday photo special.



## THE UNIVERSITY of NEW ORLEANS

### Tenure-Track Assistant Professor in Biological Bases of Psychopathology/Developmental Psychopathology

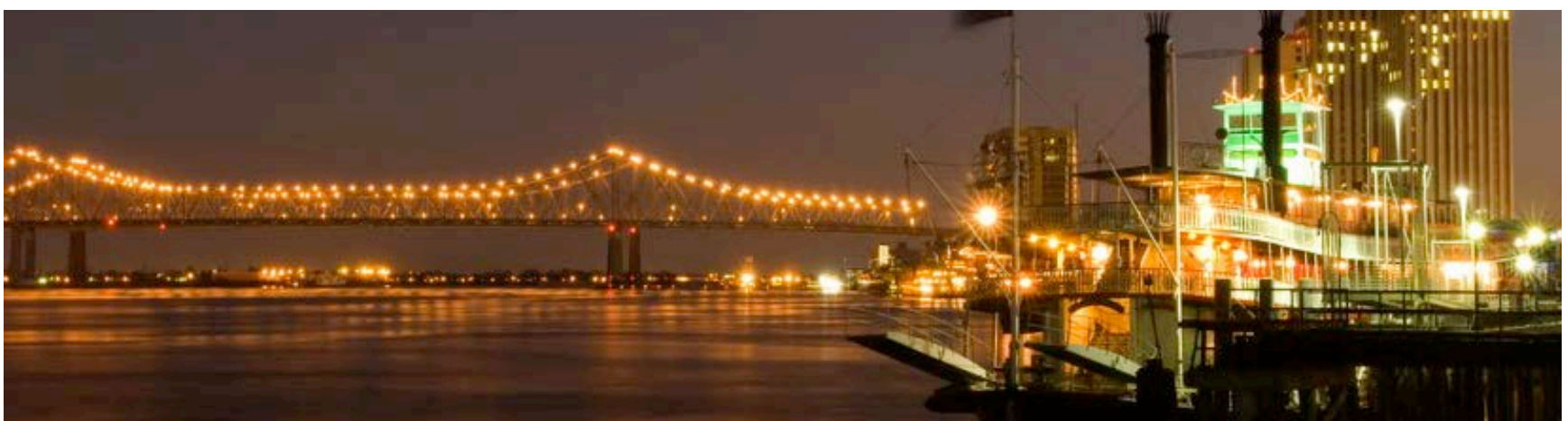
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We are particularly interested in candidates who have strong potential for externally funded research and whose area of research complements existing research programs in the department. For example, candidates with a biopsychology research emphasis studying the etiology, prevalence, onset, or trajectory of behaviors and stressors associated with childhood psychopathology are particularly encouraged to apply. This position comes with dedicated research space with a turn-key biosafety certified and climate controlled chemistry laboratory that includes, a -80 freezer, biosafety cabinet, microbalances, microscope, pipettes, Millipore ultrapure water system, Biotek plate reader and washer and other equipment necessary for conducting a variety of biological assays. In addition, EEG, MRI, immunological, and molecular genetic data collection equipment are available in collaboration with other laboratories in the department, university, and with community partners.

Minimum qualifications include a PhD in psychology or closely related field. Review of applications begins Dec. 1 and continues until the position is filled. Applicants should submit (a) letter of application, (b) curriculum vita, (c) research and teaching statement, (d) representative reprints, and (e) three letters of recommendation (enclosed or sent separately by the letter writers). Materials should be sent electronically as a PDF document to [calandr2@uno.edu](mailto:calandr2@uno.edu) or through mail to: Chair, Faculty Search Committee; Department of Psychology; 2001 Geology and Psychology Bldg.; New Orleans, LA, 70148. Informal inquiries about the position can be sent to Professor Carl Weems PhD, interim director of the Biopsychology PhD program, and the search committee chair, at [cweems@uno.edu](mailto:cweems@uno.edu). The University of New Orleans is an Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity employer. Women, ethnic minorities, veterans and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

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# Be Careful What You Ask For: RxP and Psychology in Louisiana

by Julie Nelson, PhD

(Editor’s note: The *Times*’ publisher had been asked by a number of people outside of Louisiana to write an article for the *National Psychologist* explaining what happened with Psychology and RxP in Louisiana. The following was published in the *NP* November/December issue, and is used here with permission.)

In 1995 the American Psychological Association (APA) endorsed state legislation for psychologists to obtain prescriptive authority, or “RxP.” Louisiana psychology put forth its first bill that same year and by 2004 became only the second state to pass the legislation. However, the organizational changes needed to fuel a successful political effort also set in motion group dynamics that have changed psychology in Louisiana, splitting the community and causing the erosion of the state’s psychology practice act.

Here is a review of some of what has happened in Louisiana.

### The emergence of the RxP subgroup

Some have said that APA chose Louisiana as a testing ground for RxP. It is a small state and therefore relatively inexpensive to wage a political battle. It is also highly political. *Fortune* currently places Louisiana as #2 in the most corrupt states. Locals say, “For \$1 million you can pass any law you want.”

Some of the needed money for RxP came from APA. By 2009 APA had given the Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA) various grants totaling \$527,000. More money was needed, however, and also people.

“The [LPA] leadership had come to believe that having a cadre of psychologists well trained in psychopharmacology would also mean that there would be a nucleus of psychologists personally invested in and committed to advancing prescriptive authority legislation,” wrote an early leader, Dr. Tom Stigall, in “The struggle in the states,” a chapter in M.T. Sammons’ edited book on prescriptive authority, published by APA.

One key to developing this cadre was the shared experience of training. LPA partnered with the California School of Professional Psychology to create a Baton Rouge campus. In 1999 a group of 35 psychologists graduated with masters in psychopharmacology, a shared vision, purpose, and each loyal enough to contribute \$2500 a year to the goal of RxP. They would come to be referred to as “the Class.”

Members of the class assumed key positions in LPA and on the state psychology board. The expensive and politically savvy firm of Courson & Nickel replaced the long-time, more conservative lobbyists. A new Political Action Committee, the “Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychology” (LAMP) replaced the older PAC. Leaders emerged whose style was consistent with the mission and the political culture and older leaders were pushed out.

In-group, out-group differences became salient. At the annual convention LAMP discussions were restricted to devotees. The LPA

newsletter was terminated. Non-LAMP psychologists were edged away from decision-making. “If you weren’t in the Class,” one officer said, “you were voted off the island.”

The strategy worked. By 2004 RxP was passed in Louisiana. Medical psychologists, “MPs,” were now official.

But other organizational goals had almost completely vanished. In 2008 LPA spent \$153 on public education campaigns but \$72,000 on lobbying. One insider reported, “When we went to APA, we were rock stars. Here, at home, nothing was going on.”

But by 2009 the momentum carried the community over an edge.

### Act 251: LAMP and medicine create a “New, hybrid profession”

In 2009 LAMP leaders secretly negotiated with the state medical board to pass a bill, Act 251, which repealed the 2004 law and created a “new, hybrid profession,” as described by LAMP leader, Dr. James W. Quillin, PhD, MP.

Act 251 transferred the medical psychologists (MPs) from the psychology board to the medical board. MPs would no longer need to hold a state psychology license. Medicine would regulate the psychology practice of the MPs. While Act 251 provided for an advanced certificate, doing away with the consultation clause for experienced MPs, it also placed them under medicine as “mid-level providers.”

Several national groups registered concerns. These included APA Board of Educational Affairs, the Interdivisional Healthcare Committee, Committee for the Advancement of Professional Psychology (CAPP), and Academy of Medical Psychology (AMP).

Conflict broke out in LPA over both the specifics of Act 251 and because rank and file members had been deceived by MPs who held leadership positions in both LPA and the psychology board. When LPA members discovered the bill by accident—“Who let this slip pass LPA?”—it was by then too late. Eventually it was discovered that the lobbyists for Act 251 were paid from LPA and APA funds.

While two surveys confirmed that about 70 percent of LPA members were concerned about Act 251 and wanted some type of remedy, motions passed for this goal have made no progress.

The more heated debates that marked the 2009 to 2011 time frame have cooled to a cold war.

Most MPs have dropped from LPA. In 2013 LAMP formed a new regional organization to match their PAC. LPA is forming new alliances in the larger Louisiana community.

MPs continue to hold three of the five positions on the psychology board, even though only 5 percent of licensed psychologists are dual licensed as MPs. In 2011 the board voted to qualify MPs to supervise psychology interns, even when the MP did not hold a state psychology license. The decision has been called “bizarre” by a past board chair and the Executive Director of the Association for State and Provincial Psychology Boards said, “Louisiana is playing with fire.”

The MP Chair during that 2011 decision, Dr. Joe E. Comaty, PhD, MP, was recently reappointed to the psychology board, despite considerable opposition from the community. LAMP’s influence appears to be the main reason for Comaty’s appointment.

The continued political influence of LAMP is not surprising. In the 2011–2013 time frame contributions to LAMP were \$324,771 while contributions to the LPA PAC were \$22,115.

Sources at LPA say that there is little to be done about Act 251 because of this.

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RxP in Louisiana created a new and strong identity group with many unintended consequences. The bleeding over of norms from the political culture, such as the tolerance for deception and ends—justifying—means, are inconsistent with the foundational values of psychology, both the profession and the science.

Perhaps in Louisiana the LPA parent group was naive in its understanding about what group dynamics could emerge from this type of effort. Perhaps the identity and boundaries for the parent group, the state association, were too fragile in the first place to support this type of organizational change. Perhaps it was simply the typical corrupting influences of power.

Whatever the reasons, states considering RxP should be careful. If in pursuit of prescriptive privileges organized psychology loses, or worse yet willingly gives up, the values of openness and truthfulness, we will have lost what makes us most worthy to serve others in our society.

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# Up-Coming Events

## Assn of Family & Conciliation Courts-La Chapter To Hold 5<sup>th</sup> State Conference January 30-31

The Louisiana Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC-LA) will hold its 5<sup>th</sup> State Conference on January 30-31 at the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at LSU in Baton Rouge. The theme of this year's conference is "Current Issues in Family Court: Interdisciplinary Perspectives."

The conference will include presentations by Renee McCarthy, LCSW, Leslie Todd, LCSW, Wendy Edwards, JD, and Lisa Mathews, JD, Dr. Alyson McCain and Dr. Deann Johnson, Yevonne Baran, LPC, Ladonna Ward, LPC, and Pam Guedry, LPC, Todd Gaudin, Judge Pam Baker, Bob Lancaster, JD, Lila Hogan, JD, Cinday Nassar, LPC, and Stacy Marcel, JD.

Jan and Feb

### Dr. John Simoneaux to Present On Suicide Risk and Prevention

Dr. John Simoneaux, owner and instructor for Professional Training Resources, and steering member in the Louisiana Coalition for Violence Prevention, will present on the topic of "Suicide Risk and Prevention" during January and February. He will cover incidence, prevalence, high-risk groups, timing, circumstances, and assessment strategies and clinical management, and other issues.

Workshop dates are January 30 in Kenner, February 6 in West Monroe, February 13 in Lafayette, and February 27 in Baton Rouge. For more information go to the PTR website.

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The *Times* offers information, entertainment, and networking for those in this Louisiana community.

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