

Special Session Expected this Month

State Grapples with \$1.9 Billion Deficit

The state faces a \$1.9 billion deficit for the 2016-2017 fiscal year and a current state services shortfall of \$750 million, the Governor's Office said in a January 19 press release. The Governor says he will call a special session this month to begin dealing with the state's bleak financial outlook.

"There are considerable reasons to believe the numbers will get worse," the new Governor, John Bel Edwards, said in press conference after the Joint Legislative



Committee on the Budget met last month.

"I don't have a handle on how much worse," Edwards said, indicating that the shortfall for state services was "bare bones" and not due to inflated numbers.

The continued economic crisis in the state is considered by most to be related to the historic low price for crude oil and Louisiana's dependency on that price.

With oil tumbling from \$125 a barrel in 2012 to as low as \$37 this past December, the network of oil and gas revenues, oil industry jobs, and slowed production, is taking a toll many did not expect.

"This is not the budget plan I want to bring in my second week in office, but these problems are bigger than our state has ever seen,"

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Henke First in LSBEP Election Returns

Dr. Amy Henke has captured 62 percent and Dr. Leah Crouch, 38 percent, of votes from the licensed psychologists casting votes in the election for a seat on the state psychology board, the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP).

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Fotolia

What Are You Doing On Mardi Gras?

In late January we asked a variety of community members what they were going to be doing for Fat Tuesday. Below are some of the interesting answers we received.

"On Mardi Gras day, my friends and I have an early breakfast at my house and then we walk downtown. We've done this for the last two decades. We go rain or shine!" —Michael Cunningham, PhD, Tulane Professor in Psychology, African & African Diaspora Studies, and Associate

Provost for Graduate Studies and Research, Office of Academic Affairs.

"... I won't be doing anything for Mardi Gras day itself. I ride in the Krewe of Iris, which is the oldest women's Krewe in New

Orleans. Iris parades the Saturday before Mardi Gras. So, once Iris is over, I take it easy the rest of the time, probably reading my cozy mysteries at home! I also go to parades all day this coming Sunday

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National School Psychologists, Feb. 10 – 13

Drs. Coulter, Overstreet Featured Speakers at NASP in New Orleans

Dr. Stacy Overstreet and her multiagency partners will be a featured speaker at the Annual Convention of the National Association of School Psychologists. The

Convention will be held next week, February 10 through 13, at the New Orleans Marriott. The theme for the conference

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Dr. Nastasi speaking in November.

Tulane's Dr. Bonnie Nastasi Helps Bring Psychology to the Global Community

In 1989 the United Nations held the "Convention on the Rights of the Child," and called for the promotion of child well-being worldwide, including the physical, psychological, and spiritual. The Convention members said that protection of children was the responsibility of governments and of all adults, and they called on the scientific and professional community to promote learning, development, and the general protection of children across the globe.

Tulane's Dr. Bonnie Nastasi, Professor in the Department of Psychology, has been at the forefront of this movement for decades. She and her international colleagues have taken up the goal of helping children around the world, much of what began with the "Promoting Psychological Well-Being Globally Project," a brainchild of school and

educational psychologists meeting at a conference of the International School Psychology Association.

From that beginning, a multi-year research project involving 12 countries emerged, in Brazil, Estonia, Greece, India, Italy, Mexico, Romani, Russia, Slovak Republic, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, USA (Boston, Puerto Rico, New Orleans). The work has taken Nastasi from the streets of New Orleans, to the shores of rural Sri Lanka, to the slums of Mumbai, India.

Her work to protect and promote the well-being of children worldwide has spanned the globe and over twenty years. She told the *Times*, "Doing work in another country, and especially cultures so different from

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Editorial Page – Opinions

How Much is \$5,000,000? *by J. Nelson*

The Military Psychologists, Division 19 of the American Psychological Association, did their own investigations of the accuracy and quality of the Hoffman Report, and came up with a long list of criticisms.

Buried in the list the military guys objected to the fees they say are now being paid to Hoffman. They say that the initial deal was to be \$400,000, then that went up to \$800,000, and now it has soared to \$5,000,000.

If true, this confirms that indeed, Mr. Hoffman is a member of the cultural group we call “lawyers.”

I have sympathy for the psychologists in APA who probably did try to shape the fee-seeking behavior of Mr. Hoffman. No chance without major rehab.

A man phones a lawyer and asks, “How much would you charge for just answering three simple questions?” The lawyer replies, “A thousand dollars.” The man exclaims, “A thousand dollars! That’s very expensive isn’t it?” The lawyer nods, “It certainly is, now what’s your third question?”

These lawyer jokes are funny because most of us know they are true. I’ve actually had an attorney charge me for my phone call asking to set up a phone conference. Then, when I pointed this out, they charged me for that phone call also.

And of course all of us have had the experience of trying to shape a lawyer’s fee into some type of lump-sum payment. Can’t be done, even with applied behavior analysis. I’ve tried framing with, “I want *one hour* of your time, only.” I go for my hour, and then get the bill for three hours, because he had to think about something or other.

I’ve had to deal with an attorney who encouraged me to stiff the health care people, after a sibling died, but at the same time, tried

to pad his own fees. What is the difference between a lawyer and a leech? When you’re dead, the leech stops sucking your blood.

What are we going to do?
Sue the attorney?

After complaining in an editorial a few years ago, about the psychology board hiding behind the false issue of attorney-client privilege, a reader sent me her favorite joke—99% give the rest a bad name. There’s even a joke about lawyer jokes: How many lawyer jokes are there? Three. The rest are true.

What accounts for this universal feeling about attorneys—other than the paradoxical work role of being charged with protecting moral justice and at the very same time being encouraged to obscure and bend the truth?

It’s their culture.

I had the honor of reporting on some of what Dr. Bonnie Nastasi has worked on in the area of helping children in other cultures. I enjoyed her views and principles and found them comfortingly close to much of my work in organizations, where culture and subgroup culture is very important.

So I have to wonder why APA leaders felt the need to hire a Chicago lawyer with political aspirations, to deal with bitter and entrenched subgroup differences that were obviously chronic and unresolved, and which Hoffman and his team clearly did not understand.

Even a bad organizational psychologist could have done a much better job for them, because psychological problems require psychological theory, and appropriate diagnoses and interventions.

We need to start using psychologists and just say no to attorneys. It’s hard, because they’re everywhere—in government, in politics, in the courts. They’re all over the hallowed halls of democracy. A slip-type observation by Sandra Day O’Connor says it —“There is no shortage of lawyers in Washington, DC. In fact, there may be more lawyers than people.”

It looks like Hoffman has proved that he is a lawyer, by charging \$5,000,0000. (And there wasn’t a single frequency table or 2X2 in his report.)

How much money is \$5M? At an hourly fee of \$100, \$5M is 50,000 man-hours, or 1,250 weeks of full-time work, or 24 years. Rounding for someone making \$100K per year, it’s 50 years.

You can split it up between professionals, assistants, helpers, — anyway you want, the figure is still absurd.

If APA has a mission to promote the science and practice of psychology, I hope they’ll start at home.



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Corrections & Clarifications

We have no corrections/clarifications for last month’s issue. Please send corrections or clarifications to the *Times* at psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com

State and National News

\$1.9 Billion Shortfall continued

Gov. Edwards said in a January press release. “The challenge before us is one we must address collaboratively and comprehensively in order for our state to prosper again. The sharp drop in oil prices, while significant, only contributes to a fraction of the problem our state faces. What I offer is a responsible plan to stabilize our state’s budget shortfall and minimize severe cuts in the next three months that would deeply hurt our citizens, hospitals, public schools and universities.”

Gov. Edwards will call the legislature into a three-week special session this month to address the crisis, his office said.

For the short-term, the Governor provided a list of revenue options identified to cover the \$750 million budget hole left in the last six months of this fiscal year. The options for the current fiscal year include using the state’s Rainy Day Fund and redirecting some BP oil spill payments to the state.

The Governor will also recommend cutting 10 percent from discretionary state funds. Governor Edwards told each of his cabinet members to submit proposals for a minimum 10 percent reduction.

Longer term solutions may include changes to income tax brackets, cuts in federal income tax deductions, and raising the tobacco tax. Sources have also talked about an increase in sales taxes, a tax on telephones, and an increase in internet sales taxes.

“It is now more important than ever for our state’s leaders, citizens, and stakeholders to come together to solve this problem. The last eight years of bad budgeting and annual cuts to vital services have left us in a fragile position. There is no sugar coating that fact,” Gov. Edwards said.

“We must fix this or continue catastrophic cuts that would result in our hospitals closing, universities and community colleges filing for bankruptcy, the erosion of the TOPS scholarship program and severe reductions to our public K-12 schools. We can do better for our working families, students and businesses than we have in the past. My administration welcomes all constructive engagement in this process. Together we will meet this challenge, stabilize our budget, and build a solid foundation for our state’s future.”

The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana (PAR), an independent research group, recently wrote, “Higher education is about to endure its worst-ever single-year cut in overall financing, and that’s according to the best-case scenario,” PAR officials noted.

If the Louisiana Legislature does not raise taxes over the next couple months, a cut of \$131 million will come out of the budget for higher education before June 30th, with the bigger cuts going to those with more funding, according to Jay Dardenne, the Governor’s chief budget architect.

In a January 26 response, higher education officials listed proposed cuts at each university, warning that some cuts are large enough to bankrupt certain programs, and completely change the way the universities function.

The state will also face serious shortfalls in state healthcare funding, which some say will be helped by federal money for Medicaid expansion, at least initially.



Dr. Amy Henke at a recent presentation. Henke received the highest number of votes in an election for a seat on the psychology board.

LSBEP Election Results continued from page 1

The position to be filled by either Henke or Crouch is that of outgoing medical psychologist, Dr. Marc Zimmermann, who completes his term this June. The final choice between the two candidates will be made by the Governor.

The election was the first in recent years without a member of the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologist (LAMP) seeking a position on the board. The LSBEP has routinely been composed of three medical psychologists in the five members, despite the fact that medical psychologists make up only about 5 percent of all licensed psychologists and are not required to hold a state psychology license.

In the current election, Dr. Henke received 183 votes, Dr. Crouch, 113 votes, and 27 of those casting votes, abstained.

President of the Louisiana Psychological Association, Dr. Lacey Seymour, reported the results to the Office of the Governor in a letter

Gov. Edwards Signs Medicaid Expansion

On January 12, just one day after he took office, Governor John Bel Edwards signed an executive order to expand Medicaid, creating health coverage for nearly 300,000 Louisiana citizens.

The Medicaid expansion, set to begin by July 1, 2016, will cover uninsured adults who have income at or below 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, which is currently \$16,242 a year. This coverage will include the people who fell between the cracks of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) eligibility and state Medicaid eligibility.

According to the state’s Legislative Fiscal Office, 298,000 uninsured adults will be eligible for Medicaid under the new expansion. Also, 224,000 adults who now have private insurance will be eligible, according to the Fiscal Office.

Insured people moving from private insurance onto the state’s rolls was sighted by the Jindal

on January 25, obtained from the president.

In the letter, addressed to Ellen Palmintier, Director at Boards and Commissions, Seymour asked that the Governor appoint the individual with the top number of votes. She wrote, “As per our current policy, we respectfully request that the Governor appoint the psychologist who obtained the majority of the votes in the election. Therefore, we urge Governor John Bel Edwards to appoint Dr. Amy Henke.”

By law, the Governor may appoint either nominee on the list provided by LPA.

Sources in the community have said they are curious about the absence of a LAMP member on the list to the governor, which usually results in the appointment of that individual.

Last year an effort was pushed by the LAMP dominated psychology board to remove the wording from the psychology practice law. The law currently gives the Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA) the right to construct the “list” from which the Governor makes appointments.

The effort failed because the Senator sponsoring the bill refused to advance it if there were any conflicts over the substance of the legislation. The LSBEP dropped the effort to delete LPA’s role in the “list.”

LAMP is known to be a political powerhouse. The group donated more money to legislators in 2014 than any other political action committee in healthcare, including the much larger state medical group, for that same year.

Dr. Amy Henke is a clinical psychologist with the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center and Children’s Hospital in New Orleans. She is a member of APA Divisions for Pediatric Psychology and Health Psychology, and a member and Director for the Louisiana Psychological Association.

Dr. Crouch is a clinical psychologist with membership in the Divisions for Psychologists in Independent Practice, and also for Trauma Psychology. Dr. Crouch is also a member of the Society of Personality Assessment.

administration as one of the reasons for opposing Medicaid expansion. Another reason was that the state could not afford the costs as the percentage paid by the federal government declined. Federal funding of the expansion is 100 percent in start-up years and drops to 90 percent in 2020.

On January 14 Gov. Edwards welcomed news from President Obama that additional federal money was available to the states expanding their programs.

“With Louisiana’s finances in disarray, this is welcome news...” said Gov. Edwards.

With the change in Louisiana, 31 states and the District of Columbia have now expanded their Medicaid programs under the Affordable Care Act.

State and National News

Hoffman Fees Rocket to \$5,000,000

Military Psychologists Object to Hoffman Report and APA Ban

President of the Society for Military Psychology, Division 19 of the American Psychological Association (APA), Thomas Williams, PhD, wrote to the APA Board of Directors in November, and provided a review by the Division’s task force listing factual and procedural errors in the Hoffman Report.

Williams called for corrective actions by APA, which had banned all psychologists’ work in national security interrogations.

The Hoffman Report rocked APA last year when attorney David Hoffman found what he viewed as “collusion” between APA officials, military psychologists members, and the Department of Defense.

Dr. Williams and the Division 19 task force members said that Hoffman’s approach set the stage for “confirmation bias, cognitive dissonance, and motivated reasoning.”

The Division 19 reviewers also said that the Hoffman team did not understand military behavior or the military culture, and that statements by some that would have refuted Hoffman’s conclusions, were “discounted or mischaracterized because they did not correspond with the central conclusions made in the report.”

The task force pointed out that the timeline shows that the 2005 PENS Task Force was attempting to stop abuse in interrogations, not support it. But they said, this evidence was ignored. Also ignored, they said, were thousands of hours of work in interrogations that were conducted without incident, and also with proactive intent to prevent abuse and to report human rights violations.

The reviewers said that Hoffman’s conclusion that the safety roles of military psychologists being viewed as “naïve or intentionally disingenuous,” indicates “... how little the Hoffman team learned about how effective interrogations actually work and the safeguards that are employed.”

“Rather than acknowledge that there could be genuine, honest differences of opinion on how the PENS Report and subsequent APA policy should be written, the Hoffman Report takes differences of opinion and turns them into condemnations. The Hoffman team never acknowledges what it is doing.”

The Division 19 task force members also criticized the APA ban on all interrogations, pointing out that ethics have to do with behaviors, not setting. They called the move reactionary and aggressive, and one which denies psychologists the right to serve in efforts to reduce risks to “our homeland.”

Along with the list of criticisms, the task force said that the fee paid to Hoffman, originally to fall at \$400,000, was increased to \$800,000, “and is now approximately \$5,000,000.”

Medical Psychology Advisory Committee Meets Jan 20

The Medical Psychology Advisory Committee, a committee under the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, announced on Jan. 13 that it would meet on January 20, at the Lafayette Psychotherapy Group, in Lafayette.

The notice included statements the group would review minutes, consider old and new business, and then enter executive session to review Medical Psychology applications and also applications for Advanced Practice. No information was included in the agenda about the substance of any of these topics.



State Medicaid Director, Dr. James Hussey, reports for the HCR 170 committee last month.

New Gov Seeks Solutions to La Healthcare Crisis

On January 7 the Governor’s Transition Committee on Healthcare reported, “The overall state of healthcare in Louisiana is dire.” The group of leaders from medicine and the healthcare industry provided 33 recommendations to the new Governor, including expanding Medicaid. Louisiana ranks at the bottom in health outcomes, in disease treatment, and in disease prevention.

The team suggested the state retool existing DHH Healthy Communities initiative;” increase the statewide telehealth network; and “explore a partnership between DHH and DOE to maximize existing programs.”

The team also said to expand models of delivery for community-based primary care and mental health services and to pursue a “rigorous independent and internal review of the public-private partnerships.” They suggested, “Convene a Health Summit among experts from all healthcare arenas.”

On January 8, members of the study group formed last year in response to the HCR 170 and directed to study the state’s problems, reported their findings.

Dr. James Hussey, Director of Medicaid program with Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), said to the committee that serious problems were being solved, and the state was very close to matching the “benchmarks” of other states.

During his report, he said that the state was working on its program of Applied Behavior Analysis for Autism Spectrum Disorders, noting that the state now had 82 providers for 958 patients, and had treated nearly a 1,000 individuals for about \$10 million. He also pointed to the state’s ADHD Task Force, and to a focus on ADHD/Stimulant misdiagnosis and misuse of medications.

Hussey noted that the Medical-Behavioral Health integration “went live on” December, 1 2015, and that DHH was coordinating Medicaid Eligibility with the Department of Corrections and Pre-Release Programs.

He also said there was better linkage to local community services, and the work on Health Homes care for people with chronic conditions, with a starting date of July 2016.

American Board of Medical Psychology



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Reflections on Sandy Hook

An Analysis of the Findings from CCFRP

by Dr. Yael Banai

[Editor's Note: This article concerns the findings in reports by the Office of the Child Advocate regarding the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary. The reports were by the State of Connecticut. Dr. Yael Banai is a member of the Louisiana Coalition for Violence Prevention, and a contributing reporter to the Times. Her PhD is in Educational Psychology and she is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist. She is past president of the Louisiana School Psychological Association.]

On the morning of December 14, 2012, armed with two powerful handguns and three rifles, one of which was a Bushmaster AR 15 (a military assault rifle), after having pumped four rounds into his mother's face as she slept, 20 year old Adam Lanza shot open the locked entrance doors of the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newton, Connecticut. Responding to the commotion, the school psychologist and the principal ran towards the sound and were shot dead on the spot by the gunman. Lanza proceeded to the first grade classrooms. Before he put one of the pistols in his mouth, he slaughtered 20 defenseless six-year olds and four adults. The entire rampage took 8 minutes.

Directed by the Connecticut Child Fatality Review Panel, the Office of the Child Advocate prepared two reports on the massacre which were published this past November, one of which focuses on a review of the circumstances which led to Lanza's act of mass murder at Sandy Hook Elementary. The authors chronicle Lanza's educational and medical histories and observe that all along the way there were "red flags" signaling disaster. However, they are quick to point out that they did not conclude that those factors, either singly or together, added up "to an inevitable arc leading to mass murder....In the end, only he and he alone, bears the responsibility for this monstrous act."

Among the several "red flags" in Lanza's history are significant failures of the educational and mental health systems to coordinate their efforts to compose and enact a thoroughgoing, comprehensive set of interventions, both educational and therapeutic, to address Lanza's significant needs, particularly in terms of social interaction and unmet behavioral and emotional concerns.

Reviewing Lanza's special education classification and IEP [Individual Education Plan] history, which included services that begun in the "Birth to Three" category in New Hampshire, it appears to this aging school psychologist that the evaluation teams consistently missed correctly classifying this young man. Despite a reported history of early seizure activity, behavioral dyscontrol (repeated temper tantrums including head-banging), a suspected "sensory integration disorder" and significant speech-language deficits which required that his mother act as interpreter for the examiners during his preschool evaluation, Lanza's earliest classification which continued through to middle school was Speech Language Impairments, for which minimal services of speech and articulation therapies were offered once or sometimes twice a week.

Although Lanza's difficulties were significant enough for his mother, Nancy, to quit her job to be at home with him full time, it did not seem that she pushed for additional assessment, except when the Connecticut evaluators deemed that his speech difficulties did not interfere with his educational progress and withdrew services. An independent evaluation was sought and speech services were resumed.

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Jim Canfield, LSPA "Founding Father," Dies January 1, 2016

James Eugene "Jim" Canfield, a "Founding Father" of the Louisiana School Psychological Association, died January 1, at the Southeast Louisiana War Veterans Home in Reserve. He was 68.

Canfield's long career included work as a district-level school psychologist for the Louisiana public school system and then serving as a School Psychological Services Consultant for the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE).

In his work he advised legislators and leaders in the LDOE and with the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education about the best practices of school psychology for children and school systems. He also helped state leaders, including serving on boards and committees, to design policies regarding assessment for students with disabilities.

He was a key figure and founder of the Louisiana School Psychological Association (LSPA) and served as the first president, and then again for a second term.

In 2013 Canfield was honored with LSPA President's Award, and named "Founding Father." Long-time friend and colleague, Robert Hinton, LSPA member and school psychologist, said that Jim was a key figure in the school psychology community.

"Jim was very instrumental in getting our state association going in 1980," said Hinton. "He was able to take what was broken from the different parts of other groups and put them back together. He later served as president."

"Jim and I were in graduate school together, 40 years ago, and we stayed friends all the years," Hinton said. We hunted, fished, and hung out together for 40 years."

Jim's health declined in the last year, but he was very independent and productive for much of this time, going into the Veterans home at the end, explained Hinton.

Current President of the Louisiana School Psychological Association, Amber Boykin, told the *Times*, "The passing of James Canfield and the subsequent regaling of tales from our early years as an organization has given me pause to really stop and contemplate where we began, what we have accomplished, and where do we want to go from here."

"Although I did not know James personally, I have a great appreciation for him and his unquenchable determination to see this organization established so that school psychologists in the state of Louisiana had and continue to have a collective voice and opportunities through our annual conferences to collaborate and grow professionally," Boykin said. "Each member of the organization must honor his memory and thank him for paving the way for us today."

Jim Canfield was born in Bastrop, Louisiana. He was a veteran of the United States Navy and served with distinction as a Navy Corpsman with the First Marine Division in Vietnam. He was a graduate of Northeast Louisiana University and took graduate studies at Louisiana State University. He is survived by his children, James Blake Canfield and Brittany Comeaux, and grandchildren Audrey Canfield, and Hudson, and Holland Comeaux.



Fotolia

Reflections on Sandy Hook, continued

by Dr. Yael Banai

However, it should be noted that during this period, Lanza was diagnosed (according to his mother’s report) with a “sensory integration disorder.” He was observed to resist participating in group activities, to speak and interact with peers on a very limited basis, and to engage in “repetitive behaviors.” Somehow the evaluation team apparently did not consider inviting a school psychology consult. No consideration or evaluation of the possible presence of an Autism Spectrum Disorder (which surely would have been signaled at a minimum by the “sensory integration disorder”) was apparent.

What consistently struck me throughout this review was a persistent minimizing of the magnitude of this young man’s difficulties both through misclassification and restricting his IEP recommendations to speech language and occupational therapy concerns. (Clearly the commission authors thought so too.) Although Lanza appeared to attend elementary school with noted supports in speech and OT (occupation therapy), and participated in the usual age appropriate activities such as soccer, his condition markedly deteriorated in his early adolescent/middle school years to the extent that Mr. Lanza (who was separated and eventually divorced from Mrs. Lanza) requested an evaluation through the Yale Child Study Center.

By far the most comprehensive evaluation to this point, identifying both an Autism Spectrum Disorder as well as Anxiety and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder with possible attendant Depression, the Yale evaluators recommended extensive mental health and special education supports as well as mediations to ease Lanza’s obsessive compulsive symptoms. Presciently, the Yale evaluator noted that should appropriate and extensive therapeutic interventions not be implemented, a deteriorating spiral of functioning was predicted with a poor outcome.

Lamentably, Mrs. Lanza did not accept the Yale conclusions and terminated a brief attempt at medication (Celexa for three days) due to side effects which the consulting psychiatric nurse did not conclude were due to the mild dose of the medication. Mrs. Lanza terminated the relationship with the center and sought consultation with a “community psychiatrist” who ultimately provided her with the necessary documentation for provision of “hospital homebound services” through the school system.

However, as the commission authors noted, these services were woefully inadequate, primarily consisting of speech/language services proffered once per week. Lanza’s classification by that time had morphed into “Other Health Impairments.” Given his diagnoses which may or may not have been shared with the school system (for example, the commissioners noted that the Yale Child Study evaluation was neither referenced in the educational record, nor did it appear in his file) this seems entirely inappropriate on



Fotolia

so many accounts. Although it should be pointed out that an IEP is not driven by a classification but rather should be crafted from the child’s listed strengths and needs in the evaluation, a classification does often signal to staff a level of intervention. Clearly, given the information in the commission’s report, Lanza could have been classified both as a student with Autism and Emotional Disturbance. Doing so would have given a clear signal to the school that a significant level of intervention was necessary.

Throughout his life apparently, Mrs. Lanza sought to insulate Adam from the “slings and arrows” of daily life, which had the damaging effect of isolating him from the outside world—and permitted him to indulge in his worst proclivities. As time wagged on, she also tended to treat him as a confidant. As the report notes, it was a dynamic of mutual dependency. Mrs. Lanza’s hypervigilance and micromanaging of his life coupled with the rejection of the psychiatric advice of the Yale Child Study Center had the effect of unwittingly sabotaging opportunities for her son to get better.

Other red flags lay in Lanza’s growing obsession with violence, as exemplified by his writings in middle school. One project, called the Big Book of Granny, chronicled the adventures of a homicidal shotgun toting grandma—who at one point says “lets hurt children”—while at the same time abuses her son and cohort. In the end, the son shoots Granny in the head with a shotgun. In seventh grade, Lanza’s teacher at the private school where he was placed for a year observed that his writings were so graphically violent that “they could not be shared.” Indeed, Lanza returned to public school upon mutual agreement that he withdraw from the private school setting.

Finally, one must wonder what on earth Mrs. Lanza’s thought process was to continue to allow her son access to high powered weaponry. (Apparently, “firearms and target shooting were a pastime for the Lanza family.”) Despite his deteriorating condition and virtual complete withdrawal to his “lair” in the basement with blacked out windows, Lanza had unfettered access to the guns, which included the Bushmaster XM-15, capable of sustained

bursts of fire of 45 rounds per minute. After having found a compliant psychiatrist who, contrary to the advice of the Yale Child Study, recommended homebound services, Lanza consumed his days with online gaming (“Call of Duty” seems to have been a favorite as well as “School Shooter”) as well as participating in chatrooms dealing with mass murder.

Completely unaddressed was also Lanza’s Anorexia Nervosa. At the time of his death, at six feet tall, he weighed 112 pounds and was “aneorexic to the point of malnutrition and resultant brain damage.” It seems that even in this Mrs. Lanza was oddly compliant. Pediatric well visits had ceased in late adolescence, shortly after the termination of services with the Yale Center. It would appear that in catering to his disabilities as opposed to obtaining treatment for them, Lanza spent his days indulging his whims, spiraling ever downward into the rage that exploded in the only place (Sandyhook Elementary) he had ever been marginally happy.

For some years now in my practice as a school psychologist, when encountering students with serious behavioral issues, including depression, one question I routinely ask the parents is whether or not they have weapons in the house. In Lanza’s instance I would have immediately thought, given the depression, of the possibility of suicide. As the drama unfolded, not only did he engage in a hideous school shooting, but began his rampage with matricide, also a fairly rare occurrence. And had he at that point, turned the weapon on himself, we would have never heard of him. Lamentably, he only resorted to this eventuality after having decimated 20 first-graders and their teachers. That Nancy Lanza not only allowed but promoted Lanza’s access to military style weapons (or, frankly any weapons) is, in a phrase, an appalling lack of judgment.

The OCA report rightly points out the missed opportunities in this case. To say that there were “red flags” here seemed to me a gross understatement.

Among the documents investigators discovered in the Lanza home, one speaks saliently to this issue. In what possibly was her last act in life, Nancy Lanza had written a check to Adam—a Christmas gift—for the purchase of a handgun. Blind to the last.

Dr. Nastasi Brings Psychology to Global Community

continued

my own has been an amazing experience,” she said, “and has changed the way I think about cultural competence in the US as well.” For example, she explained, the work has helped her “think more deeply about what constitutes culture and how we can best assess and honor the culture of others.”

“Sri Lanka especially feels like my second home,” she said. “I could imagine living there. It is a place I found peace.”

Nastasi and her colleagues have worked to create and develop interventions that address the complex goals of children’s well-being, while at the same time dealing with the issues involved in exporting psychological science developed in the US, to other countries. And, she has authored numerous articles, books, and book chapters on the topic.

In one of her most recent books, Nastasi and colleague Amanda Borja, describe many of the findings and experiences of their global efforts: *International Handbook of Psychological Well-Being in Children and Adolescent; Bridging the Gaps Between Theory, Research, and Practice* (Springer, 2016).

Also recently published is her co-authored text, *Mixed methods research and culture-specific interventions: Program design and evaluation* (Sage, 2016). She is working on two edited texts, *International handbook on child rights and school psychology*, and *Handbook of School Psychology in a Global Context*, both to be published by Springer.

In a keynote presentation to the Louisiana School Psychological Association this past November, Nastasi explained that the World Health Organization has found that 20 percent of children worldwide suffer from mental health problems and at least 5 percent of these are severe. Access to services ranges from 20 to 80 percent but access is not sufficient in any country, she explained. The risks to children are many—war, ethnic conflicts, poverty, illnesses, lack of

education, disasters, Dr. Nastasi told the school psychologists.

At the same time, Nastasi cautioned that research psychologists and psychological practitioners must be careful in “... exporting theories and practices developed in the United States to other cultures and contexts.”

The development of interventions for people across the globe is hampered, Nastasi says, by the tendency for those with the best knowledge to apply existing theories and techniques without fully considering differences in cultures and contexts.

Exporting our knowledge is more challenging than it might seem, she notes. Evidence-based practice is often confused with the search for the ‘one-size-fits-all,’ Nastasi says, and confusion comes with the Western method of randomized controlled trials as the benchmark, which places “emphasis on internal validity at the expense of external validity.”

She and her colleagues set out to resolve some of these issues

when they developed the “Participatory Culture Specific Consultation Model” and methods, supporting the development of culture-specific programs for use in the global community.

Nastasi and colleague Asoka Jayasena applied their culture-specific methods in a program to support psychological well-being in youngsters in Sri Lankan school systems, a project spanning almost two decades and which included interventions before and after the 2004 tsunami.

Nastasi and Jayasena illustrated the steps in “An International Partnership Promoting Psychological Well-Being in Sri Lankan Schools,” published in the *Journal of Educational and Psychological Consultation* in 2014.

Sri Lanka is a small island south of India in the Indian Ocean, with a population of about 20 million. The household income is \$231 a month in the provinces where Nastasi and Jayasena worked, with 70 percent rural and high levels of poverty and unemployment.

While government-funded health care was free for the general population, access was severely limited by a shortage of mental health professionals, Nastasi explained. There were only 20 psychiatrists for the 18 million people in 1995 when Nastasi and her group began their work.

With the goal of promoting psychological well-being of the school-age population, the co-consultants engaged in a research–intervention process using participatory culture-specific system consultation.

Each step required careful efforts where the consultants learned the culture, conducted formative research, and formed partnerships with people in the social systems. The researchers developed culture– and context–specific conceptual models, interventions, and assessments for promoting the psychological well-being of the Sri Lankan youngsters.

The collaborative approach included four main phases, Nastasi has explained in

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Dr. Bonnie Nastasi (center) working with the research-intervention team in Mumbai, India. Nastasi and her colleagues have developed methods for applying psychological science in other cultures. (Courtesy photo)



Dr. Nastasi (far right) with school administrators—the two men, and members of the local research-intervention team— the women in the photo. Third from the left is Dr. Nastasi’s colleague and friend, Asoka Jayasena, who is a teacher educator and educational sociologist. *(Courtesy photo)*

Tulane’s Dr. Nastasi Brings Psychology to Global Community

continued

various articles. These are a participatory process of consultation, a focus on cultural and contextual specificity, and the use of research to inform and evaluate interventions, “and efforts to promote sustainability and capacity building,” she explained.

In Mumbai, Nastasi and her colleagues developed a culturally constructed model for clinical practice to prevent HIV and sexual disease transmission.

Nastasi and her colleagues attributed much of the program’s success to the capacity for a partnership-based approach.

While extremely rewarding, the work was also at times challenging, she said.

“Especially initially adjusting to the different environment and culture—e.g., the food, the climate,” she said.

“In Mumbai especially, we were conducting work in slum communities—I was overwhelmed initially by the level of poverty, the sanitary conditions, the number of people living on the streets (including children),” she explained, “and by the sheer number of people in the metro area of Mumbai.”

“That took some adjustment,” she said.

“The experience made me wonder,” she said, “if we can ever solve the world’s poverty...” She explained that the scope of need for children, women and families seemed at times, overwhelming.

“The other challenge in Mumbai was the relative status of men and women, even at a professional level. I had not encountered gender discrimination of that magnitude since my early career in academia in the US. That was a huge adjustment, but a female colleague (and later friend) from Mumbai was an enormous help in figuring out how to manage gender relationships professionally.”

The projects in Sri Lanka and Mumbai have concluded, and Dr. Nastasi has moved to new projects, while staying connected.

“I spent 2.5 months of my sabbatical in the Fall 2015 in Sri Lanka—exploring possibilities for the future,” she said. While working with international colleagues on book projects, she also initiated work on another text, this one on supporting the “... psychological well-being of adolescents in the context of ‘Child-Friendly Schools,’ a concept taken on in multiple countries by UNICEF.” This work is to be published in English by Springer first, and then translated to local language for Sri Lanka, she said.

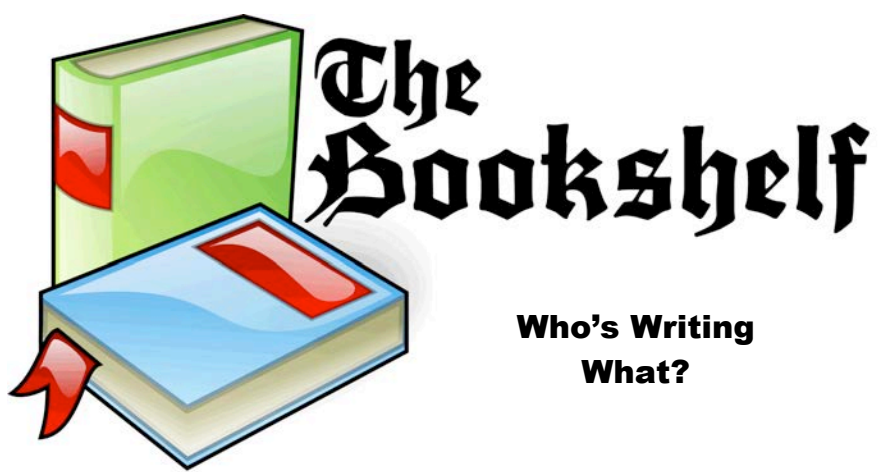
Dr. Nastasi is also working with two charter elementary schools in New Orleans, and directing the work of her doctoral students.

“The most rewarding experiences,” she said, “have been working with colleagues and local participants in research and intervention projects. I have made life-long friends in both places and continue to communicate with them. In both places, I found a place to call home,” she said, and she resides there when she traveled for her work.

“I learned from my interactions with others—both colleagues and local participants—and discovered just how similar we all are in terms of our human qualities and struggles, despite cultural differences.”

“The interpersonal aspects plus my own personal growth were the primary rewards,” she said.

Dr. Nastasi is a past-president of APA Division for School Psychology, past-president of the Louisiana School Psychological Association, President-elect of the International School Psychology Association, past co-chair of APA’s Committee on International Relations in Psychology. She is also the current representative to APA Council for Division 16 (School Psychology), among her other achievements.



Comorbid Conditions in Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

Johnny L. Matson and Michael L. Matson
Editors
Springer, 2016

Dr. Johnny Matson's new offerings in the Springer Autism and Child Psychopathology Series are two more excellent resources for professionals who want to stay up-to-date and comprehensive when it comes to research, theory, and practice in the topic of comorbid conditions.

Comorbid Conditions in Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities, Edited by Johnny Matson and Michael Matson, hit the shelves in 2015.

Comorbid Conditions Among Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, with Editor Johnny Matson, is a brand new 2016 publication.

As is his approach to these complex topics, Louisiana State University Professor and Distinguished Research Master, Dr. Johnny Matson, brings together experts from across the nation and the world, to provide straightforward and thoroughly documented information and critical reviews. The works guide professionals in clinical child, school, developmental psychology, rehabilitation psychology, or educational psychology, providing the information needed to stay current in the newest trends and scientific questions.

Both texts address the critical issue of accuracy in diagnosis, which then relates to the success or the failure of planning and implementing interventions.

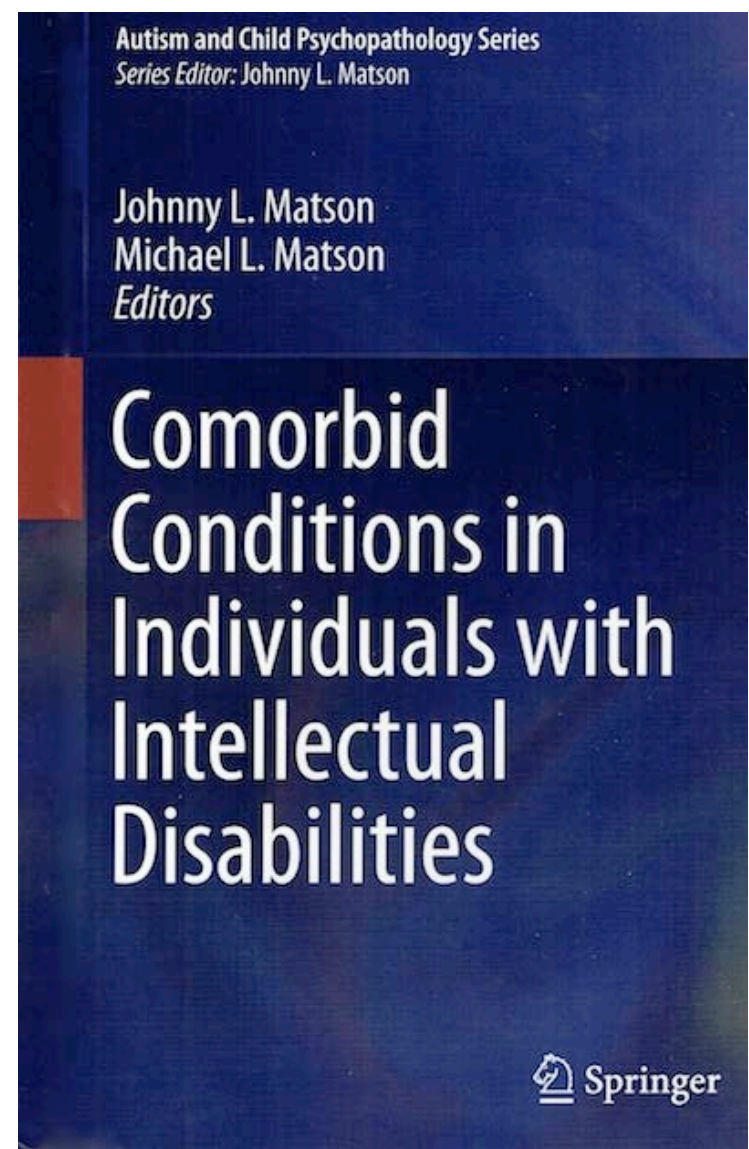
In both areas the field is experiencing rapid and continual change. In the autism area, this is due to the dramatic increase in the prevalence of autism over the last 20 years. Major advances include new approaches and developments in diagnostic concepts and classification. But also, the need for professionals to stay abreast of new scientific developments is fueled by the greater and greater heterogeneity in clinical presentations of individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities, the authors point out.

Co-occurring conditions are central issues for clinicians and essential to the well-being of those receiving care and services.

In *Intellectual Disabilities*, authors note "... symptoms of comorbid conditions may present differently in individuals with ID [Intellectual Disability] compared to those without; however, evidence regarding this is not conclusive. The interaction between ID and comorbid conditions is complex and can present a clinical profile that is not easily distinguishable. The symptoms of comorbid conditions and ID can reciprocally influence one another making diagnosis challenging."

Authors note problems of "diagnostic overshadowing" — when a professional mistakenly perceives behaviors to relate to ID rather than psychiatric conditions. And, the relationship between behavioral phenotypes and related genotypes, pointing out that the knowledge in this area is advancing rapidly, "has a huge impact on accurate diagnosis and treatment," write the authors.

Matson has dedicated his career to helping professionals understand youngsters with disabilities. He is an expert in autism, mental disabilities, and severe emotional disorders in children and adolescents. He has produced 800 publications including 41 books. He is the founding Editor-in-Chief for *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders* (Elsevier), *Research in Developmental Disabilities* (Elsevier), and *Review Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* (Springer).



Michael Matson, MSW, is co-editor for the 2015 text on intellectual disabilities. He received his master's in social work from Tulane University and his bachelors' from LSU. He works in the research and training program of Disability Consultants, LLC. He is the former managing editor of several journals and the author of four books and 15 journal articles.

These newest texts help address the extremely important area of co-occurring conditions in youngsters. Knowledge in this area helps to avoid inappropriate treatment choices or gaps in developing the best and most efficient assistance for the child. Co-occurring conditions is a critical area since these conditions may have a significant impact on the child's functioning, quality of life of the youngster, and the therapeutic efforts of the practitioner and the support teams, explain the authors.

Intellectual Disabilities includes contributors from Louisiana State University, Hilary Adams and Rachel Goldin. Also contributing is Dr. Lauren Rasmussen, Adjunct Professor of Neuropsychology at Louisiana State University.

Johnny Matson and Adams provide the overview, outlining "Scope and Prevalence of the Problem," for chapter one. Following are chapters for Part II on Psychological Disorders, including chapters on "Challenging Behaviors," "Psychopathology: ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorders, and Other Conditions Present in Early Childhood."

The section continues with chapters on "Psychopathology: Anxiety, Depression and Schizophrenia," "Feeding Disorders," and "Sleep Problems."

This leads into Part III on Medical Disorders. Included are chapters on "Epilepsy," "Dementia," "Obesity," and "Pain."

Part IV involves "Motor Movement Problems." Here the contributors cover "Gait and Balance," "An Overview of Cerebral Palsy," and a chapter on "The Relationship of Cerebral Palsy Comorbid Conditions with Participation and Quality of Life."

Johnny Matson and Rachel Goldin point to major trends in the closing chapter, "Current Status and Future Directions." The authors write that researchers have developed multiple scales to measure the presence and severity of comorbid conditions and these are "... developed with an eye to how symptom presentation of a disorder may differ in someone who has ID [Intellectual Disability] versus someone with higher cognitive functioning.

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Comorbid Conditions Among Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Johnny L. Matson, Editor
Springer, 2016

Autism and Child Psychopathology Series
Series Editor: Johnny L. Matson

In the second text, *Comorbid Conditions Among Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders*, Matson brings together experts to present the intersection between Autism Spectrum Disorders and the numerous conditions that can contribute to the complexity of the clinical picture for these youngsters. The authors note that problems occur in conjunction with Autism serve to obscure and complicate diagnosis. The danger is that clinicians can miss appropriate treatments and engage in inappropriate ones, Matson explains.

Contributors include Paige Cervantes and Jina Jang from Louisiana State University.

In Part I and introductory chapters, authors point out that it is important for clinicians to understand the scope and range of comorbidity in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), because of co-occurring disorders exacerbate symptoms of ASD.

Sleep problems co-occur at 66 percent, epilepsy at 7 to 30 percent, gastro intestinal problems range from 9 to 84 percent, the authors point out. ADD/ADHD occurs at rates of 30 to 80 percent, anxiety disorders from 25 to 50 percent, and depression from 1 to 52 percent, note the authors.

The field is experiencing rapid and continual changes due to the dramatic increase in the prevalence of autism over the last years, write the authors. The changes include major advances in diagnostic concepts and classification, fueled by new findings but also because of the “marked heterogeneity in clinical presentation of autism.”

These changes are seen in the severity, type, and number of “core impairments” and also co-occurring conditions.

Part II is “Assessment,” covers “Methods and Procedures for Measuring Comorbid Disorders: Psychological,” and “Methods and Procedures for Measuring Comorbid Disorders: Medical.”

Authors cover disruptive behavior disorders, which include ADHD, conduct disorders, anxiety disorders which then include reviews for social anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorder, and review depression, tic disorders, psychosis, eating and sleep problems, learning disabilities and dysgraphia.

In the chapter on medical conditions, Cervantes and Jang note that appropriate assessment is imperative for these issues, but also often challenging. They cover the available approaches to gastrointestinal issues, cerebral palsy, and intellectual disability.

A final chapter in this section provides, “Methods and Procedures for Measuring Comorbid Disorders: Motor Movement and Activity.”

Part III of the text is “Psychological Disorders.” Seven comprehensive chapters lay out for the reader the fundamental issues in the current scientific questions for “Challenging Behaviors,” “Psychopathology,” and “Feeding Disorders.”

In “Challenging Behaviors,” the authors review problems with aggression, self-injurious behavior, stereotypy and elopement. The authors explain risk factors and when these behaviors are likely to emerge, and review assessment procedures and behavioral interventions.

Psychopathology topics include sections on anxiety disorders and mood disorders. The text also includes a chapter on Feeding Disorders where authors explain the complex skill development involved in feeding. Disorders of avoidance/restrictive food intake, pica, rumination, food refusal, feeding skills problems, and obesity are covered.

Also included are “Sleep Disorders,” “Epilepsy,” and “Gastrointestinal Disorders.”

Authors review the normal sleep patterns and development and the multiple and overlapping factors affecting sleep and interventions.

Authors look at the occurrence of epilepsy and epileptiform abnormalities co-occurring with autism, reviewing the current research and treatment information.

In Gastrointestinal Disorders, the authors note that this is a relatively new area of study and write that the GI symptoms are seen as being part of ASD, instead of being recognized as a separate comorbid condition.

They site prevalence of 9 percent to 91 percent and variability in frequency, duration, severity and type of problem, all contributing to a confused picture. The authors review 2013 and 2014 studies, the Mouse Model Studies by Hsiao, which implicate the immune system and microbiota. Authors also reviewed Campbell’s 2009 work on genetic and environmental risk factors, and the role of microbiota in social behavior.

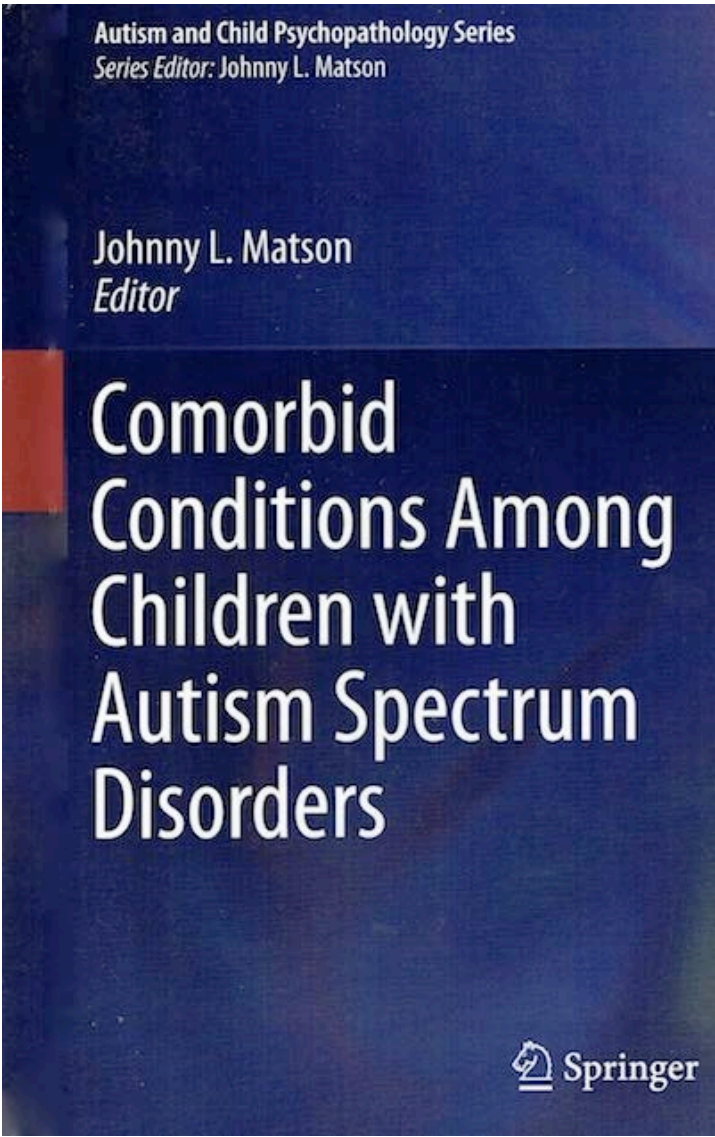
The section concludes with “Intellectual Disability.”

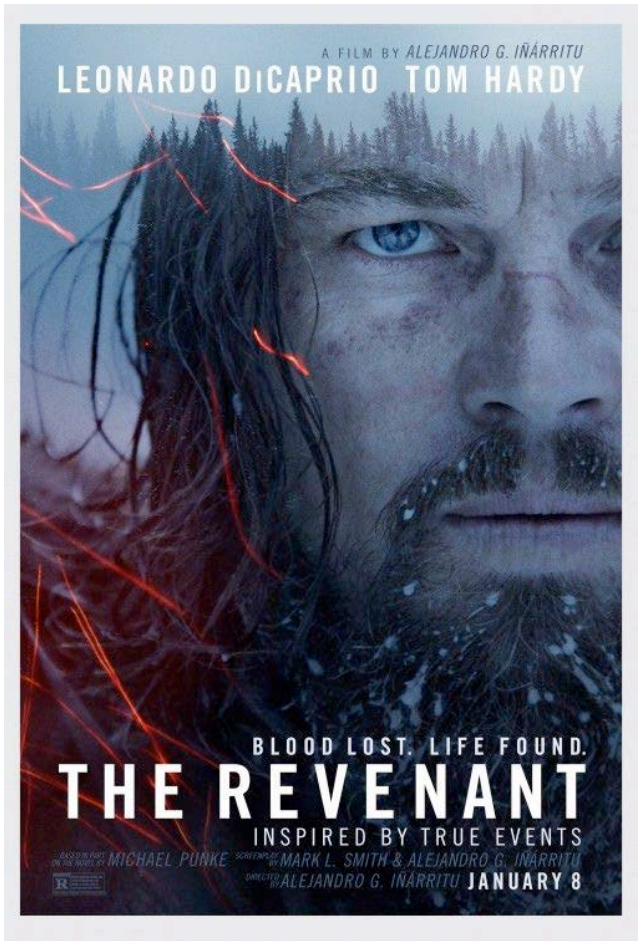
A final chapter in Part IV, “Motor Movement and Activity,” and describes “Developmental Coordination Disorder.”

Dr. Johnny Matson was recently named a member of the research team supported by the Organization of Autism Research, who will study predictors of adult outcomes of those with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The team will study “Comorbidities in ASD: Developmental Trajectories and Predictors of Adult Outcomes.”

In 2014, Dr. Matson was named as one of the “Most Influential Scientific Minds of Our Time.” The honor comes from Thomson Reuters, who use their *Web of Science* platform, a search and discovery environment for the sciences, social sciences, and arts and humanities, along with *InCites*, a web-based scientific evaluation and benchmarking platform, to identify the most highly cited researchers in the world. Thomson Reuters is a multinational corporation serving clients in the scientific information industry.

Matson falls into the group of researchers who published the greatest number of highly cited papers in one of the major fields of scientific endeavor, during the years from 2002 to 2012.





A Shrink at the Flicks

The Revenant

A Review

by Alvin G. Burstein

To say that this film is gripping is an understatement. It confronts us with realities that cry for denial. To what Freud called “the crushingly superior force of nature” the movie adds the human capacity for brutish betrayal and exploitation. And the story unfolds against a backdrop of classic beauty that highlights the gouts of blood and pain it frames.

In a biopic, *The Revenant* takes us back to the antebellum period, but rather than the plantations of the southeast, we follow a hunting party in the northwest. The protagonist, Hugh Glass, is one of the hunters collecting valuable animal pelts while trying to avoid the danger of engagement with sometimes hostile Indians. Glass, having survived injury in a raid by Indians, is horribly mauled by a grizzly bear. Broken and bleeding, unable to speak, barely breathing, his remains are dragged by his colleagues toward their base. Weather, unforgiving terrain and the dangers of more attacks drive them to abandon his crude litter. To assuage their guilt at abandoning a dying comrade, the group agrees to an eventual supplemental financial reward to a pair who are to stay behind with Glass, at least until his death. The group leaves, but all too soon his guardians follow suit, leaving Glass, still clinging to life in a shallow grave, but bereft of the means of survival.

Abandoned, Glass manages to pull himself out of his grave—a revenant—and maimed and crippled, manages to claw his way back to what might be called civilization. The film describes that harrowing trek, often a crawl, of over a hundred miles through an unforgiving wilderness. Few of the details are left to the imagination.

The psychological question posed is that of the motivation fueling Glass’s incredible achievement. Accounts that precede this biopic, and the film itself, suggest that Glass’s burning rage and thirst for revenge on his betrayers powered him. The film elaborates on that speculation by adding two elements to what is, in fact, known about Glass.

First, the film adds a half-Indian son—one Hugh is not known to have had—to the hunting party. The ignominy of Glass’s betrayers is magnified by their killing of the boy as a prelude to their flight. The elaboration may simply reflect a directorial effort to heighten the potential for rage.

But there is more. The film is studded with hallucinated flash backs to Hugh’s married life to a Pawnee woman, the mother of their slain child, though there are no contemporary accounts of such a marriage. One of the flash backs shows her being killed in a military raid on her village, and Glass, to comfort their son, reassuring him that he will never leave him. When Glass crawls out of his grave and discovers his clearly murdered son, this should serve to bring his thirst for revenge to white heat.

However, marring the narrative thrust of the film, in the biopic as in fact, after the gut-wrenching effort to track down his betrayers,

Glass fails to revenge himself. He forgives one of the pair that abandoned him and leaves revenge on the second “to God.”

Perhaps to provide adequate closure, the film ends with another revenant, a hallucinated ghost of Glass’s wife beckons him to follow her.

I think the hokeyness of this ending reflects the movie maker’s feeling troubled by questions about Glass’s motivation.

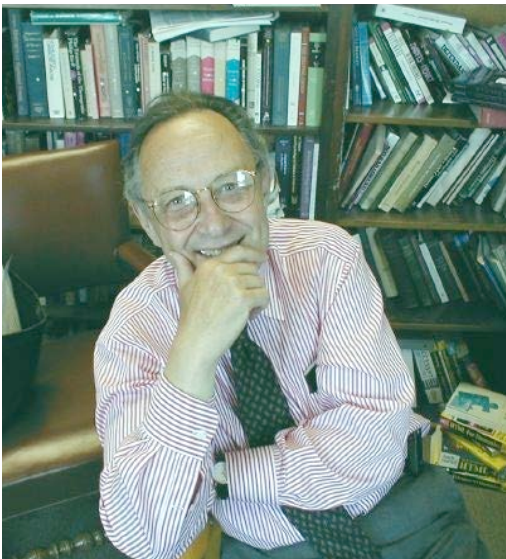
In reflecting on just those questions, I was reminded of Primo Levi’s, *Survival In Auschwitz*. In concentration camps, too, survivors were faced with “crushingly superior” forces that only very few were able to survive. Levi described the *musseleman*, who slumped into helplessly apathetic surrender, and survivors, who held on to *agency*, who managed to invoke control over some corner of their otherwise hopeless situation. A minor callisthenic, a mental ritual, anything to demonstrate their *will*, their control of self, their human selfhood, potentiated survival against overwhelming odds.

Psychoanalysis has paid scant attention to this aspect of what might be called positive psychology. Maybe modern amenities cushion us sufficiently to predispose us to that omission. Maybe Hugh Glass reminds us of agency’s importance.

Guest Columnist,
Dr. Alvin Burstein

Burstein, a psychologist and psychoanalyst, is a professor emeritus at the University of Tennessee and a former faculty member of the New Orleans-Birmingham Psychoanalytic Center with numerous scholarly works to his credit. He is also a member of Inklings, a Mandeville critique group that meets weekly to review its members’ imaginative

writings. Burstein has published flash fiction and autobiographical pieces in e-zines; *The Owl*, his first novelette, is available at Amazon. He is, in addition to being a movie fan, a committed Francophile, unsurprisingly a lover of fine cheese and wine, and an unrepentant cruciverbalist.



courtesy photo

People

What Are You Doing On Mardi Gras?

[Jan. 31]. One of the parades this Sunday is the Krewe of Carrollton, of which I was the Queen in 1973. So, I always like to go to the Carrollton parade. My family had kind of a dynasty in Carrollton. My sister was queen before me and I have a number of cousins who have been queens after me. My father was also the King of Carrollton the year before I was Queen. So between going to Carrollton and Iris, that's enough Mardi Gras for me. [...] ... my plans for Mardi Gras day are not very interesting! —Kim E. VanGeffen, PhD, Past President of Louisiana Psychological Association, 2015 Distinguished Psychologist, New Orleans.

“Nothing for me, except maybe participate in the ‘Mardi Gras Bead Recycling Drive.’ [See following note] I have tons of beads left over from previous Mardi Gras parades that I need to get rid of.” —Addison Sandell, PhD, Psychologist, Natchitoches.

[NATCHITOCHES – Keep Natchitoches Beautiful is getting into the spirit and asking residents to ‘Throw us something mister!’ On Tuesday, February 9th, Keep Natchitoches Beautiful will hold a Mardi Gras Bead Recycling Drive from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Natchitoches Main Street Office located at 781 Front Street.”]

“I'd be happy to give you my Mardi Gras plans as soon as I figure them out!” —Gerald LaHoste, PhD, Professor, Department of Psychology, University of New Orleans.

“I'm in Israel visiting my mother now and won't be back ‘till later.” — Denise Sharon, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor at Tulane University School of Medicine, and Clinical Director at Advanced Sleep Center, past President of the Southern Sleep Society.

“I'm seeing clients on Fat Tuesday. Several people have that day off and therefore it makes it easy for them to schedule a session in their otherwise busy routine.” —Cindy Nardini, MS, LPC, Life Solutions of Alexandria, President’s Award, Louisiana Counseling Association.

“... I may bore your readers to death! My Fat Tuesday likely will consist of catching up on some TV/Netflix, reading a good book, and walking on the treadmill.” —Donna Thomas, PhD, Department Chair, George and Jean Baldwin Endowed Associate Professor, Department of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences, Louisiana Tech University, Ruston.

“Being born and raised in New Orleans and even now living in Baton Rouge, I've been attending Mardi Gras yearly since birth. I have not missed one. My children and I stay at a bed-and-breakfast in uptown New Orleans for the Mardi Gras weekend through Fat Tuesday. Family and friends, many from out of town, meet together for days of food, drink, fun and shenanigans. Each year our crowd seems to get larger. Yes, I am one of those people that are out there by 6 AM. It's one of the most enjoyable times of the year for me. I am usually dressed in a costume ...” [See photo] —Bryan Gros, PhD,



Fotilia

Licensed Psychologist, Past President LPA, Baton Rouge.

“I am afraid that I have no plans for Mardi Gras. It will just be a long weekend at home, probably.” —Rick Stevens, Ph.D., Professor in Psychology, University of Louisiana, Monroe.

“... we are going out of town for Mardi Gras. My wife Catherine just turned 50 this last weekend and we are taking our children to Hawaii for the Mardi Gras break. She is calling this our Hawaii 50 :-)) we usually begin the Mardi Gras break with our children’s Mardi Gras parade at South Downs. Many of the schools are out that week which makes work and childcare a real pain.” — James Van Hook, III, PhD, ABPP, Licensed Psychologist, Baton Rouge.

“Mark and I are doing what we always do... work. :) So that is rather boring for your readers. We may get a king cake to celebrate with the girls and my mom.” —Mkay Bonner, PhD, Licensed Industrial-Organizational Psychologist, Bonner Solutions & Services, Monroe.

“I’ll be working. Veterans with PTSD don’t typically participate in Mardi Gras due to large crowds, excessive noise etc. Their hypervigilance is on overload. We will have a Mardi Gras pot luck luncheon for those working in Mental Health that day.” — Leslie Drew, Clinical Psychologist and PTSD Program Coordinator at Alexandria Veterans Affairs Health Care System, Alexandria.

“My husband (Dr. Michael Apter) and I will be enjoying the festivities from our home in the Fauborg Marigny. On Mardi Gras day, we walk in the Society of Saint Anne parade. Our tribe's theme is a carefully guarded secret, but here's a hint: pink leopard print gloves, fake mink, and re-purposed beanie babies. Sounds crazy, but somehow it works!” —Mitzi Desselles, PhD, Associate Professor, Chester Ellis Endowed Professor, Department of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences, Louisiana Tech University, Ruston.

“I used to march in Krewe of Cosmic Debris every year, but now I costume up early, catch Zulu and Rex, then head into the Frenchman Street frenzy with the artistic locals for the rest of the crazy evening!” — Gail Gillespie, Ph.D., Child and Adolescent Psychologist, Director LPA, CE Chair LPA, New Orleans.

“I’m spending the day with sisters, Lynn and Barbara, who live in Slidell. We are celebrating Lynn’s birthday (Feb 3), and being together as Feb 6th would have been my Dad’s birthday. He passed away last year. We’re going to ‘visit’ Dad at the beautiful Veterans Cemetery in Hammond, then we’re going out to lunch and generally having a ‘sister’ day.” — Katherine Robison, Ph.D., Child Psychologist, Pelts-Kirkhart & Associates, New Orleans.



Uptown on St. Charles Ave. Batman (Dr. Bryan Gros) in a hunting vest, being punched by The Joker, as an unidentified young female (perhaps the Catwoman) looks on. (Courtesy photo)

Fifty Chimps Retiring to *Chimp Haven* in Keithville, Louisiana

*Animal Care Director, Kathleen Taylor,
“It’s our opportunity to give back...”*

“We have begun the process of bringing the retired NIH-owned chimpanzees to the sanctuary,” said Kathleen Taylor, Director of Animal Care at *Chimp Haven*. Taylor has a masters in organizational psychology, and a desire to make a better home for chimpanzees who are released from serving the research goals of humans.

The National Chimpanzee Sanctuary, known as *Chimp Haven*, located in Keithville, Louisiana, will be receiving another 50 chimpanzees from the federal government. These newly “retired” chimpanzees will join the nearly 200 chimps that reside at 13600 Chimpanzee Place, a 200-acre forested reserve just south of Shreveport in the Eddie D. Jones Nature Park.

“This includes not only the 50 who were recently retired,” Taylor said, “but also more than 300 retired in June 2013. We are currently home to more than 190 chimpanzees and over the next few years, with the help of generous donors, look forward to expanding *Chimp Haven* facilities and infrastructure by adding several new large forested habitats and indoor housing for future retirees.”

Taylor, whose undergraduate is in biological sciences also has a master’s degree in psychology, is a member of the American Psychological Association and the Society of Organizational and

Industrial Psychology. On occasion she uses some of what she has learned to help *Chimp Haven* deal with its growing pains.

Taylor is one of a complex group of professionals that care for the chimps and make sure of the quality of life of the animals. “Our goal here is to make sure we are providing more to the chimpanzees than just the basics,” said Taylor. “They can receive good nutrition and good medical care in other places, but here we look at the chimps to improve their well-being overall. We look at the chimps from a holistic perspective, and try to create opportunities for them to live like a chimp in the wild. This is so important to their well-being.”

The newest group chimpanzees, some of the last held for biomedical research by the National Institute of Health, received their ticket to freedom when the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (W&FS) declared last June that captive chimpanzees deserved the same protection as wild chimpanzees. Chimps living in the wild have been on the endangered species list since 1990.

The W&FS decision was said to be a “hard-fought victory”



A chimpanzee living at *Chimp Haven*, one of many “retired” from service in biomedical research. (Photo courtesy of *Chimp Haven*.)



“Candy,” a chimpanzee owned by an amusement park company in Baton Rouge. Changes in the laws could mean Candy may be “retired,” and she could be going to *Chimp Haven*. (Photo courtesy of CLAA.)

by animal rights activists. The change began in 2011 when the Institute of Medicine and National Research Council concluded that chimps were not necessary for most biomedical research. In a news briefing in November, the National Institute of Health Director Francis Collins said it was the end of a controversial era of research on chimpanzees.

Chimp Haven was selected in 2002 by NIH to become the National Chimpanzee Sanctuary. Chimps retired to the Haven are protected from any invasive research or any research that requires them to

be socially separated from their group.

Chimp Haven founder, Linda Brent, points to the critical value of a humane place for these chimpanzees to retire, many who are older and some who are ill. “This really is the only place in the country that provides naturally forested habitats that are four or five acres large, where the chimpanzees can display the types of behaviors that wild chimpanzees display,” Brent has said. “That is just amazing and it’s worked very well for the chimpanzees here.”

Dr. Raven Jackson, *Chimp Haven* Attending Veterinarian

Fifty Chimps Retiring to *Chimp Haven*, continued

said, “We meet within our behavioral management team, we meet within our veterinary team, we meet within our animal care team, and we devise plans for the best options for each and every chimpanzee. It takes a group effort to make sure we provide the best life for the chimpanzees here.”

Chimp Haven has a distinguished board of directors including Katherine Leighty, PhD, from Disney’s Animal Kingdom, and Frans De Waal, PhD, from Yerkes National Primate Research Center at Emory University.

The new federal guidelines have given hope to an animal rights group who filed a lawsuit in

Dr. Patterson Attends CDSPP

Dr. Constance Patterson attended the Council of Directors of School Psychology Programs (CDSPP) in January. The meeting was held in Hollywood, Florida and attendees learned about the new Standards of Accreditation for Health Service Psychology. The Council’s mission is to support the exchange of ideas and information concerning the doctoral training of school psychologists.

Patterson took over the Tulane Director position last year.

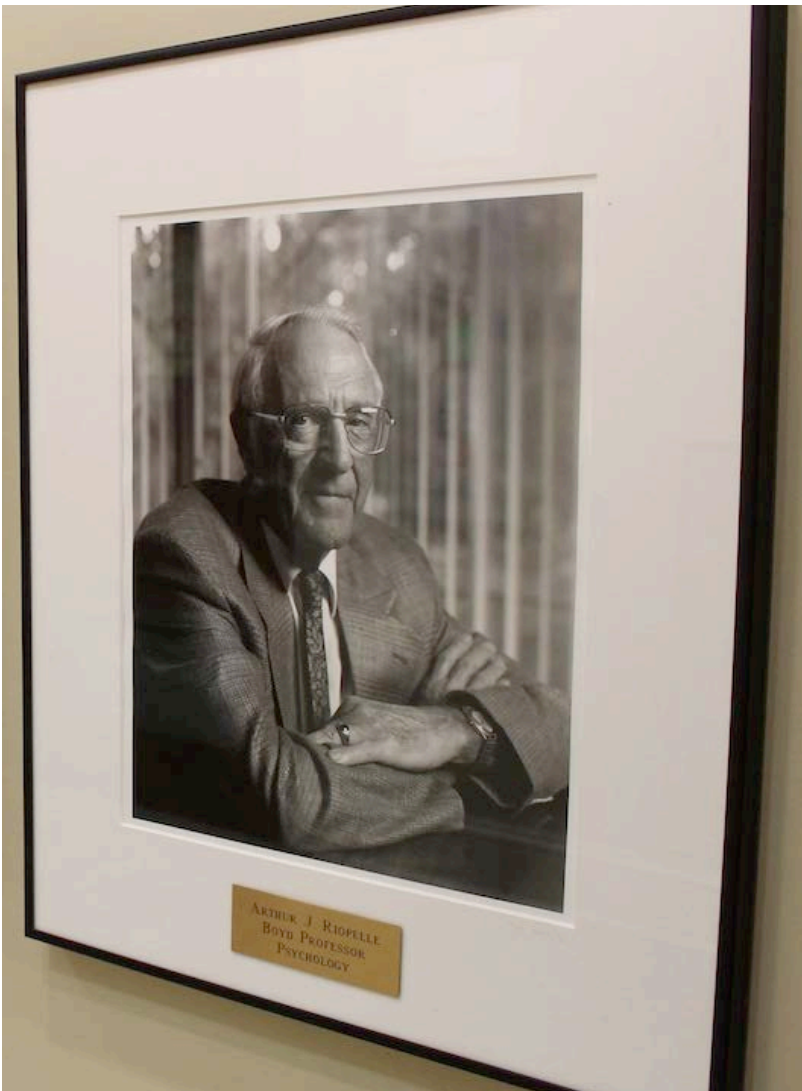
November to free a 50 year-old chimpanzee from her 40 years of solitary life in a Baton Rouge amusement park.

Members of the Animal Legal Defense Fund are declaring that the solitary existence of the chimpanzee, “Candy,” violates the Endangered Species Act. Candy has been alone for 40 years, a condition the animal rights advocates feel is painful and punishing, and treatment has been condemned by world-renowned primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall and comparative psychologist Dr. Roger Fouts.

If the court finds that Candy deserves her freedom, the staff at Chimp Haven has said they are ready to accept her at *Chimp Haven*.

Katheen Taylor feels that seeing the chimpanzees express their true social nature is one of the great rewards of her job as Animal Care Director.

“I wanted to personally thank all those who have supported *Chimp Haven* in the past and those who will give in the future,” she said. “If you have ever seen chimpanzees laugh, play, climb trees, or disappear into the forest just because they can make that choice, you have witnessed the sweet results of *Chimp Haven*’s staff’s hard work and passion. Providing the care and retirement for these chimpanzees who unwillingly gave their lives for our benefit is



A photo of LSU Boyd Professor, Dr. Art Riopelle, a comparative psychologist who lead the Delta Primate Center in the '70s. Some say that Riopelle moved to the academic setting to avoid the trend of biomedical research on primates that began in those years.

true humanity and I am eternally grateful for your support.”

“Over the last 20 years, my understanding and appreciation of humanity

has been deepened through exposure to primates.”

“These chimps have served humans for so many years, and unwillingly at that. Now it’s our opportunity to give back to them,” Taylor said.

LSBEP Selects Dr. Garner As Complaints Coordinator

The Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists announced at their January 22 meeting that Dr. Chris Garner would take on the duties of Complaints Coordinator.

According to the board’s minutes, “Dr. Zimmermann reported that he and Dr. Lambert interviewed 3 very well qualified applicants: Dr. Erica Meyers, Dr. Chris Garner and Dr. Jill Hayes...” The board reviewed the candidates in executive session and afterward Zimmermann and Lambert recommended Dr. Garner to fill the position. The board members agreed by unanimous vote.

According to the state contracts reporting, the consulting contract for the position is \$4,000 per year. Outgoing Coordinator is Dr. Gary Pettigrew, who announced last year that he would be retiring but who agreed to stay on to help the new Coordinator.



Dr. Chris Garner (center) was recently selected by the state psychology board to serve as complaints coordinator. Here, he speaks at a previous conference on panel regarding placebo effects. Dr. Darlyne Nemeth (L) and Social Worker Bob Waggener also spoke.

Up-Coming Events

School Psychologists Gather In New Orleans Next Week cont'd

is “Connect the Dots to Improve School Climate.”

Dr. Overstreet, Chair of the Tulane Psychology Department, will resenat a featured event, “Partnerships to Create Trauma-Informed Schools.”

Co-presenters are Chris Gunter for the New Orleans Health Department, Laura Danna, from Project Fleur-de-lis, Paulette Carter from the Children’s Bureau of New Orleans, and Patrick Bell, of KIPP Believe Primary School, New Orleans. The group will speak on Thursday, February 11.

Overstreet and colleagues will explain the process of “... a city-led, multiagency partnership to advance trauma-informed approaches in schools, including why a universal approach is needed to enhance effects of evidence-based treatments for trauma and how learning collaborative methodology can be used to establish a universal approach in schools.”

Also in the list of featured speakers is Dr. Alan Coulter, Senior Manager at the Human Development Center, LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, and the Co-Director of the Data Accountability Center, the Principal Lead for the TIERS Group.

Coulter will speak on the panel for “Bracing for the Common Core Crash: Preventing More Children Left Behind,” on Friday, February 12.

Co-presenters are Mark R. Shinn, PhD, from National-Louis University, Kimberly Gibbons, from St. Croix River Education District, Minneapolis, MN.

Coulter and colleagues will show how, “Common Core State Standards have raised achievement expectations but inadvertently created a set of conditions through which more students may be left behind.”



Dr. George Hebert helps school psychologists sign up for the NASP conference, at the November gathering of the Louisiana School Psychological Association. Dr. Katherine Wickstrom (center) and Dr. Carmen Broussard help out. Dr. Hebert’s tie indicates that it was also Veteran’s Day.

The speakers will suggest that school psychologists “... must be aware of these risks as schools implement CCSS, and they must ensure advocacy for research-based educational and behavior support practices.

Dr. Coulter, will also present another topic for the conference, “Charter School

Smackdown: Practical Pros and Cons for School Psychologists.”

Among the numerous other presenters, Dr. Bonnie Nastasi from Tulane will present “Cultural Construction of School Psychological Services: Research, Practice, and Training” and also “School Psychologists as Advocates for Child Rights.”

Professional Training Resources Looks at Impulse Control

Licensed psychologist Dr. John Simoneaux will offer training about Impulse Control Disorders for psychologists, social workers, licensed professional counselors, psychiatrists and others, through his educational organization, Professional Training Resources, based in Pineville.

Simoneaux will cover changes in the DSM-5 approach to disruptive, impulse control, and conduct disorders, and also intermittent explosive disorder, pyromania, kleptomania, and oppositional defiant disorder.

Workshops are offered this month in Lafayette on February 12, and in Kenner, on February 19, in Shreveport on February 26 and in Baton Rouge, on March 18.

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Up-Coming Events

SEPA In New Orleans

Louisiana Presenters Preparing for Southeastern Psychological Association, March 30 to April 2

The Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA), an affiliated regional group of the American Psychological Association, will hold it's 62nd Annual Meeting in New Orleans from March 30 to April 2. The conference will be at the New Orleans Sheraton and will include invited addresses and invited symposiums, continuing education workshops, poster sessions, exhibits, receptions and business meetings of the association.

Among the many offerings, Louisiana State University Psychology Professor, Julia Buckner, PhD, will present "Integrated Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Comorbid Cannabis Use and Anxiety Disorders." Attendees will learn techniques used in this integrated treatment which includes transdiagnostic CBT for anxiety disorders, known as False Safety Behavior Elimination Therapy for cannabis use disorders.

Lee Matthews, PhD, from Grief Resource Center, will Chair a Symposium, "Reminiscence 10 Years after the Hurricanes: Application of Elder Therapy." Participants are Janet Matthews, PhD, from Loyola University; Shiva Akula, MD and Laura Philips, LCSW, Akula Foundation; Theresa Wozencraft, PhD, and Emily Sandoz, PhD, both from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Megan Alsop, PsyD, from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology at Xavier University of Louisiana will be the discussant. Presenters will review the development and application of "Reminiscence Therapy" groups in over 100 nursing homes and assisted living facilities in the greater New Orleans area, the Mississippi gulf coast, and Baton Rouge following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2006.

Janet Matthews, PhD, will also participate in a history symposium, "Eminent Psychologists of the Southeast Series" A Special Symposium in Honor of Raymond D. Fowler," which is a special tribute to Ray Fowler.

Oscar Barbarin, PhD, previously at Tulane and now at the University of Maryland, will deliver the Rosecrans Invited Address II, in a workshop, "Socio-emotional Development of African American Boys and Young Men."

Emily Sandoz, PhD, and Professor of Psychology, will present, "Behaviorism Isn't Dead: Research in a Behavioral Approach to Cognition." She will be joined by Madison Gamble, Garret Cantu, Nolan Williams, Gina Boullion, all from University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Researchers presenting include those from University of Louisiana at Lafayette, LSU, Xavier, Our Lady of Holy Cross College, Southeastern Louisiana University, Northwestern State University, and from Louisiana Tech.

Drs. Jerome Tobacyk and Mary Livingston, and students Elizabeth Dixon, and Quinn Warner, will present a poster, "Paranormal Beliefs of Latvian and American Students: Support for Motivational-Control." Dr. Tobacyk explained, "Our group presentation at SEPA concerns a cross-cultural comparison of paranormal beliefs of Latvian and American students. The theoretical rationale that informs our comparison is Keinan's motivational control model."

Drs. Chaney, Sauley Present Management Training for LSU

Industrial-Organizational Psychologist Dr. Courtland Chaney and IO colleague, Dr. Kerry Sauley, will present the flagship training, "Fundamentals of Supervision," as well as, "Developing Your Managerial Effectiveness," for the LSU Continuing Education Professional Development Program. The programs run through the end of February into the spring. More information is at www.outreach.lsu.edu.



LSU's Dr. Julia Buckner will present a CE workshop at SEPA on therapy techniques to help those with anxiety and addiction. SEPA is in New Orleans this year.

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