

\$Millions Saved

Dr. Tucker's Work Honored

Legislators commended the results of the Steve Holye Intensive Substance Abuse Program and other programs created by psychologist and Assistant Warden, Dr. Susan Tucker, in a House Concurrent Resolution (HCR3), signed by the Speaker on February 25.

The HCR3 authors pointed to multi-million dollar cost savings to the state because of shorter incarceration times of those offenders who participated in the psychological programs designed and delivered by Tucker and her team at the Bossier Sherriff's Office, Medium Correctional Facility, located between Benton and Plain Dealing, Louisiana. Dr. Tucker



Psychologist Dr. Susan Tucker. (Photo by B. Waters)

has been working on reducing the rates through her comprehensive, innovative, and evidenced-based programs, to improve lives, families and community safety.

The legislators also noted that, while the programs were effective in shortening sentences of certain offenders, these efforts also helped offenders reintegrate into their families and communities and lower the risk of repeat offenses.

Cont pg 4

Still Working on \$1.9 Billion Deficit

Reg Session Begins on 14th

Legislators are plugging through a host of bills the floor aimed at somehow staving off the most dire possibilities in budget cuts, as the special session debates reach the decision points before adjourning on March 9.

Among bills to be considered currently is measure which would levy additional tax on cigarettes, a repeal of certain corporate income tax deductions, an increase on excise tax for certain alcoholic beverages, a change to middle and upper income tax brackets for calculating individual income tax, and a measure, HB61 to dedicate tax proceeds to the Stability in Higher Education Fund.

Pending final passage are measures to add a one-cent sales and use tax (HB62), to increase sales tax on telecommunications services (HB72), and to

Cont pg 3

Moody's Set to Downgrade 8 Universities

Moody's Investors Services has put eight Louisiana public universities on a list to be reviewed for downgrade, and impacting the organizations' ability to borrow money and to sustain brand. In their February 22 news release, Moody's also noted that the budget cuts currently being proposed will "limit the

Cont pg 3

Also in this Issue

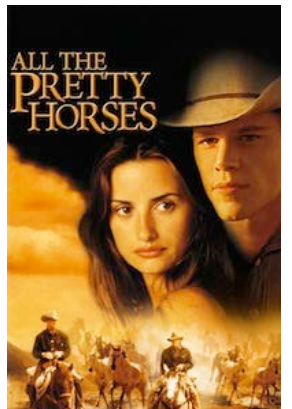
Governor Says He'll Focus on Corrections – Pg 4

Dr. Coulter Helps Understand Common Core – Pg 6

Dr. Rizzuto on TEDxLSU Pg 7

Dr. Andrews' Stress Solutions Pg 7

Dr. Burstein's Review Pg – 16



APA Regional Meeting, SEPA convenes in the Big Easy

Southeastern Psychological Association Meets in New Orleans –March 30 to April 2



The Southeastern Psychological Association, known as SEPA, a regional group of the American Psychological Association (APA), will hold it's 62nd Annual Meeting March 30 to April 2 in New Orleans at the Sheraton.

Psychological scientists, psychologists and students from around the state will participate, including those from Louisiana State University, Louisiana Tech, Loyola, Northwestern State University, Our Lady of Holy Cross College, Southeastern Louisiana University, Tulane, University of Louisiana Lafayette, University of New Orleans, and Xavier University.

Presentations and invited addresses include the Rosecrans Invited Address II by Oscar Barbarin, PhD, previously at Tulane and now at the University of Maryland. He will speak on "Paradoxes in the Development of Boys of Color," and give a workshop, "Socio-emotional Development of African American Boys and Young Men."

Cont pg 9

Wall of art in the Spotted Cat Music Club, New Orleans, the "Quentessential Jazz Club of New Orleans." SEPA is to be held in New Orleans later this month. The Spotted Cat is located in the Fauborg Marigny.

(Image by Muriel Areno.)

Editorial Page – Opinions

A Real Applied Psychologist *by J. Nelson*

SEPA is in New Orleans at the end of the month, and SWPA in April. We have quite a showing of psychology research from around our state. Reviewing some of what people are researching reminds me of how large and complex a field psychology is and how much information there is to stay aware of—at least to know about, if not to actually know.

We are a species that likes to study itself. Psychology ranks either 4th or 5th every year in most popular undergraduate major, the APA publication manual has been on the bestseller list for years, and there is a journal for just about any topic imaginable.

In their 2015 knowledge industry report, Elsevier found that relative to the total world output, the U.S. produces a particularly high volume of research in psychology, with 3.6% of the total publications. This gives us over 19,000 articles per year. If we combine psychology and social sciences, at 8.6%, then those two give us over 65,000 articles a year.

Adding to that volume is our typical fog index which is high, and even higher now days when subspecialties use the jargon in their silo and those in other psychology silos can't understand it. I've noticed—I'm sure others have—that we seem to be reinventing the wheels more than usual.

It's no small task to stay up to date in our field, especially if you aim to be a generalist or effective in applied areas. (Being a generalist is akin to being a fox, rather than a hedgehog, in the terms used by

Phillip Tetlock. Of the two cognitive types, the fox, who knows a little about a lot of things, is better at predictions than the hedgehog, who knows a lot about one thing, his or her silo.)

I try to be a good generalist and applied psychologist. I'm delighted with my five journals that come with my membership in Association for Psychological Science (APS). I'm convinced that by reading all the abstracts and then a selection of the articles, and scanning PubMed and other online sources and blogs, I can stay 10% up with psychological science.

Who can apply all of this wonderful information we generate and make a difference?

One fine example is Dr. Susan Tucker. I ran into Susan in 2010 after I'd started the *Times* and we have been reporting on her work since. She was working as the Assistant Warden at Forcht Wade Correctional Center in Keithville and later moved her work to the Bossier Sheriff Facility.

Dr. Tucker, despite the many challenges, is able to apply psychological science in a truly comprehensive way—her innovations have been recognized nationally and her results continue to be impressive.

This has not been luck. She designed a core, evidenced-based, intensive therapeutic program and added numerous ancillary programs tailored to the individual offender, and she recognized the true underlying problems, such as a 70 to 80 percent substance abuse problem. She drew in family and community and designed around systems, individual needs and family units. One of the most basic of human needs, to be a good father to your child, inspired the "Read to Me, Daddy Program," a shining example of innovative ideas in her programs.

The most recent news is that the programs are resulting in major savings. The proper psychological treatment of offenders benefits the state's bottom line, saving millions and millions of dollars in prison costs.

The less invisible benefits, and perhaps the true savings, are in human lives and the quality of one person's existence, some who would surely have become lost forever.

The Psychology Times

Member, Louisiana Press Association

Published monthly
by Nelson News, LLC.

psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com

Publisher: Julie Nelson, PhD

Journalism Consultant:
Robert Holeman,
*Editor (Ret.), The Coushatta Citizen,
Winn Parish Enterprise.*

Columnists/Reporters:
Shane Lowery, MS, Intern
Dr. Susan Andrews, Dr. Alvin Burstein

Cartoonist: Jake Nelson-Dooley

Photography: Yael Banai, M. Dooley, Tom Stigall,
Britney Waters

Social Media: Jamilah Muhammad

We welcome ideas for news, features, Letters to the Editor, photos, and other material related to psychological community of Louisiana. Editorials and commentary reflect the opinions of this newspaper. Columns and Letters to the Editor express the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of *The Psychology Times*. All materials copyrighted by J. Nelson unless otherwise noted.

Subscriptions are free. To subscribe go to the *Times* at
<http://thepsychologytimes.com/>



Corrections & Clarifications

Other than typos, we had no corrections/clarifications for February's issue.

We were contacted by a reader who said that we did not make clear an issue in our investigative article, "The Secret Life of Board Complaints," October 2015. The reader said we needed to clarify the complaint about Dr. Pellegrin having a dual relationship: That Pellegrin "liked" a Facebook photo or photos, posted by a paralegal *who was employed in the office of opposing council*. The reader said we did not make that point clear. We apologize for any confusion it caused our readers.

Please send corrections or clarifications to the *Times* at
psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com

Special Session Ends March 9, Regular Session Begins March 14

continued

repeal of the deduction for federal income taxes on state returns.

A measure to review certain state contracts and identify those that can be discontinued and report the results of a review to the Budget Committee today was previously passed.

The special session, called by the Governor, must end by March 9. The regular session then convenes on March 14.

The regular session of the Legislature begins on March 14, addressing the continued problems of the state, following the financial decisions now being considered in the special session. Some of the bills filed include the following:

The lawmakers will consider HB152, which would create the La. Postsecondary Education Board of Trustees as a single governing board for public postsecondary education and abolish the Board of Regents and the management boards of the postsecondary education systems, and transfer all work to the new Board of Trustees. Currently there are the Board of Regents, Board of Supervisors for the various University systems, and a board of for Community and Technical Colleges.

HB75 would require a 15 percent reduction in all state professional, personal, and consulting service contracts.

HB 104 would require a student to repay TOPS award amounts if he fails to meet the requirements for maintaining eligibility or fails to complete his academic degree or skill/occupational training within certain specified time frames.

HB75, would require all public school teachers (including charter schools) and teachers of scholarship (voucher) recipients in nonpublic schools participating in the voucher program to take the state assessments aligned to the state content standards prior to administering such assessments to students.

HB102 and HB101 address theater safety. HB102 creates the crime of possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon on the premises of a motion picture theater, and HB101 would create the crime of operation of an unsafe motion picture theater.

HB 151 would prohibit local governments and state agencies from developing sanctuary policies that assist illegal aliens in evading U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Laws.

HB94 would allow for the use of nonhuman primates as service animals.

HB 103 would eliminate nomination by legislators of students for free tuition to Tulane University and granting of such free tuition.

HB61 would authorize retirees of the Teachers' Retirement System of La. (TRSL) to return to work as a school psychologist in a critical shortage area without reduction of retirement benefits.

Two measures would strengthen open meetings laws. HB 81 would require Requires each public body that has a custodian of public records to make the identity and contact information of the custodian available to the public.

And, HB162 will prohibit members of certain public bodies from engaging in communication with a quorum of the members of the public body unless such communication is contemporaneously visible or audible to the public.



Above, the 2015 Senate. The legislature is in special session now to deal with the budget crisis and will start another session this month.

Moody's May Downgrade 8 Universities

continued

universities flexibility to adjust revenue or expenses, ...”

The eight universities and are:

Louisiana State University: A1 (Debt)

University of New Orleans Research and Technology: A2 (Debt)

University of Louisiana at Monroe: A2 (Issuer)

LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans: A3 (Debt)

Louisiana Tech University: A3 (Debt)

Southeastern Louisiana University: A3 (Debt)

McNeese State University: A3 (Debt)

Southern University System: Baa2 (Issuer) Baa3 (Debt)

“While the credit impact will be distinct for each university,” wrote Moody’s, “public universities in Louisiana operate in a very challenging environment.

“Louisiana's four-year universities have endured a severe 47% decline in operating appropriations between 2010 and 2014 compared to a median of 9% for our rated US public universities. To mitigate those cuts, universities without a solid brand in the region may have exhausted pricing power by increasing tuition by an average of 52% since

FY 2010 compared to the US average of 13%.”

Governor John Bel Edwards released a statement following Moody’s announcement.

Edwards said, ““Over the last eight years, Louisiana’s higher education institutions have faced the largest disinvestment in the country,” said Gov. Edwards. “Now, faced with the largest budget deficit in our state’s history, further cuts will be necessary if the legislature will not work with me to bring in additional revenue. We cannot continue to chip away at funding for higher education and expect them to have the ability to invest in our children’s education. This announcement should serve as a wakeup call for anyone who thinks we can simply cut our way out of this crisis, and I am hopeful this will bring folks to the table to work with me to avoid making these cuts that will have a negative long-term impact on higher education in this state.”

Moody’s wrote, “The action reflects looming state funding cuts, including an unexpected contraction in state scholarship aid. Funding cuts implemented more than halfway through FY 2016 limit the universities’ financial flexibility to adjust revenue or expenses, as spring term enrollment and student charges have been established. The uncertainty for FY 2017 state funding may adversely affect enrollment, as decisions on the state budget, including scholarship availability, will coincide student choices for fall 2016.”

Dr. Susan Tucker's Programs Commended; Millions in Savings

continued

"I am very proud of our program and that we accomplish two goals which save taxpayer money but also provide rehabilitation to the substance abuse incarcerated offenders as well as their families," Dr. Tucker told the *Times*. "With successful completion of our intensive treatment program, certain offenders can earn up to one year off their sentence. This is a significant savings to the public," she said.

Fifteen hundred offenders have graduated from the nine-month program and an additional six hundred have graduated from the six-month program since it was moved to Bossier, after the Forcht Wade Correctional Center was closed due to budget cutbacks in 2012.

The Resolution authors noted that Tucker's Substance Abuse Program has awarded more than five hundred thousand days of "good time credit" to offenders and saved the state nearly \$13,000,000 during the January 2013 to December 2015 time period.

Another group of offenders have earned credits of nearly 50,000 days credit, saving the state more than \$1,000,000. And, those successfully participating in the Family Recovery Program earned 75 days of credit. Over time the program has awarded 55,000 days of credit, a \$15,000,000 savings in reduced incarceration time.

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED," the authors wrote, "that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and recognize the Steve Hoyle Intensive Substance Abuse Program for its success in shortening the sentences of certain offenders, while better preparing those offenders to reintegrate into their families and communities without a return to substance abuse and incarceration."

Tucker has previously explained in an interview what she views as the basis of the program's success: the innovations, the comprehensive approach, and the evidenced-based methods. "The philosophical approach to our treatment," Dr. Tucker explained, "includes focusing on the thinking patterns, emotional reactions, and behavioral events that often lead to self-defeating patterns and eventually to criminal activity. We utilize psychological assessment instruments to illuminate areas of concern, including low cognitive ability, personality disorders or features, mood disorders, and thought disorders. We individualize a treatment program for that offender and he works closely with his assigned counselor to meet the goals of that treatment plan."



Bossier Sheriff Julian Whittington (L), Dr. Tucker, licensed Clinical Psychologist and Program Director, and Seth Smith, Chief Of Operations, Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections. Dr. Tucker is holding award from the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard. Her programs were recently honored by the legislature. (Photo by Deputy Josh Cagle, Bossier Sheriff's Office)

Louisiana is 1st in Incarceration Rate Governor Edwards Says He Will Make Corrections a Priority in 2017

Gov. John Bel Edwards told attendees at the American Correctional Association Winter Conference, held in New Orleans last month that reducing the state's prison population will be a top priority in 2017.

"We can substantially reduce the incarceration rate here while improving public safety," he said, as reported in an article by Elizabeth Crisp of the Advocate. "I believe we have a lot of work to do," Edwards said. "Having the highest incarceration rate isn't leading to safer streets and communities."

Louisiana has the highest incarceration rate in the nation, according to the U.S. Bureau of Justice. The more than 38,000 people in Louisiana's jails and prisons costs the state about \$350 million per year, said the report.

According to Governing.com and the Bureau of Justice data, Louisiana has the highest rate, with 867 imprisoned for every 100,000 citizens. The next highest is Mississippi with 686,

then Alabama with 648, and Texas with 648. Maine is lowest with less than 150 per 100,000.

Psychologist and Assistant Warden at the Bossier Sherriff's Office, Medium Correctional Facility, located between Benton and Plain Dealing, Louisiana, Dr. Tucker, has been working on reducing the rates through her comprehensive, innovative, and evidenced based programs to improve lives, families and community safety.

The effective and creative treatment approach is achieving a significant reduction in recidivism, from an expected first year rate of 18 percent to only 3 percent. The Center has earned state and national recognition for its achievements, including from the Vera Institute of Justice who said the program "...should be a model for the nation." Last year, Tucker's work was honored by the Ash Center for Democratic Government and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

One of the most successful of her programs, the Steve Hoyle Intensive Substance Abuse Program, is based on the fact that a large percentage of offenders have addiction problems. Dr. Tucker has explained that research indicates between 70-80 percent of offenders have a substance abuse history or problem and only 15 percent actually receive intensive treatment.

"Rather than simply 'warehousing offenders' who will eventually be released into our communities," Dr. Tucker said in a previous interview, "we are focusing on offering intensive treatment, skill development, and educational opportunities, as well as post release support and care."

Dr. Tucker was recently commended by the legislators for her work (see story this issue, page 1) and the related cost savings of \$15 million dollars by earned "good time credits" through participation and successes in the psychological programs designed by Tucker.

RAND Study Finds Need for Psychotherapy and Follow-Up Care for Military Members

A RAND Corporation study, requested by the Department of Defense, has found that more needs to be done to engage servicemen suffering from PTSD and/or depression and provide them with psychotherapy and follow-up care.

The study, “Quality of Care for PTSD and Depression in the Military Health System: Phase I Report,” was released in February. Researchers reviewed records of 14,576 active-duty service members diagnosed with PTSD and 30,541 who were diagnosed with depression from January 2012 to June 2012.

The authors said that the military had become more vigilant in providing follow-up to individuals after the members were released from mental hospital care, and that the Military was performing well in this area with evidence of significant improvements.

Army research had found that post-hospital release times were especially vulnerable periods for suicide by soldiers. The suicide rate for soldiers in this group was 264 per 100,000, compared to a comparable national suicide rate of 13 per 100,000 people.

The researchers found that now, 86 percent of the group had a follow-up session with a mental health specialist within seven days after discharge.

However, the researchers also found that only one-third of patients newly diagnosed with PTSD, and less than a quarter of those with depression, were engaged to participate in minimum established levels of psychotherapy and medication management.

While most of the patients received at least one psychotherapy session, most did not meet a standard of four sessions. And, only 45 percent of those with PTSD and 42 percent of those with depression, had their medication progress reviewed within 30 days after diagnosis.

The study found variation in the quality of care provided for PTSD and depression, but no military branch or region consistently outperformed or underperformed relative to the others. Also, researchers also found no consistent patterns of variation in the quality of care by patient characteristics, such as age, gender, pay grade, race-ethnicity or deployment history.

However, the average profile of a patient in the military with PTSD or depression was a male, 34 years old or younger, non-Hispanic white, and married.

The study can be found at www.rand.org.

State Lost 3 Billion Fed \$ Says Governor Edwards

By failing to expand Medicaid under the previous administration, Louisiana lost over \$3 billion in federal health care funds, Governor Edwards wrote, in his Executive Order to expand Medicaid published in the February *Louisiana Register*. He said that with this Medicaid expansion, Louisiana could realize additional State General Fund savings of nearly \$100 million through FY2020.

The Executive Order explains that the increased Federal Medical Assistance Percentage, or FMAP, under Medicaid expansion requires the federal government to provide 100 percent of the funding for new enrollees through 2016, 95 percent in 2017, 94 percent in 2018, 93 percent in 2019, and 90 percent thereafter. Opponents to expansion said that the expansion will eventually be too expensive and cause other problems. The expansion helps cover those in the gap between Medicaid and federal ACA support.

Medicaid Audit Says Bayou Health Program is Saving \$\$

In a February 18 report of the state Medicaid program, reviewing data from February 2015 to January 2016, the Wakely Consulting Group estimated that rates paid to the new Bayou Health Managed Care Organizations were 6.7 percent to 11.2 percent lower than if the Department of Health and Hospitals had served the same people in a fee-for-service program, such as the previous program. The amounts of savings were estimated to be from \$250 million to \$437 million, said Wakely.

Estimated savings were calculated by comparing capitation payments from DHH for the Bayou Health prepaid population to estimated costs for that same population if they had been enrolled in the fee-for-service program.

Using various assumptions and formulas, the economists at Wakely estimated that the managed care organizations used \$3,453,271,000 for the 2015 period and compared this figure to the estimated fee-for-service costs of \$3,702,886,000. This indicated a savings of at least \$249,615,000.

In the Executive Summary, authors noted, “This report compares MCO capitation rates to estimated costs for those same members if they had been covered by traditional FFS Medicaid. Managed care organizations achieve programmatic savings by promoting efficient use of the health care system and eliminating wasteful or inefficient spending by placing an emphasis on preventative care, managing chronic patients, and detecting and treating serious illnesses early. To develop comparable FFS costs for 2015, we used rate setting information underlying the 20131 and 2015 capitation rates.”

American Board of Medical Psychology



The Specialty for the Coming Integrated Care Models in Primary Care Centers and Hospitals

Medical Psychologists are post doctorate trained and licensed psychologists with training in psychopharmacology, behavioral medicine, and health psychology. A medical psychologist is more than a psychopharmacologist and clinical psychologist and they are prepared for the mainstream healthcare system.

They have passed a national oral and written examination and have completed a preceptorship.

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

www.amphome.org

Dr. Coulter Helps Dispel Misconceptions about Common Core at NASP

In a featured presentation at the National Association of School Psychologists, held in New Orleans last month, Dr. Alan Coulter helped attendees see the misconceptions about the national furor over Common Core, and the role for psychology in helping children who may be left behind in all the various debate.

Coulter is Director for Education Initiatives at the Human Development Center, LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans (LSUHSC), Director of the APA-accredited School Psychology Internship, and the Principal Lead for the TIERS Group. TIERS is Teams Intervening Early to Reach all Students.

“The level of misunderstanding by the public of the issues related to Common Core State Standards,” Dr. Coulter explained to the *Times*, “surpasses almost any other issues—even the difference between a psychiatrist and a psychologist.”

“The federal government did not invent the Common Core State Standards,” he said, despite the fact that many believe this. Common Core State Standards, or CCSS, were developed by The National Governors Association and the National Association of Council of Chief State School Officers, he said. “They developed the CCSS in response to a request of the majority of governors, including Governor Bobby Jindal,” Coulter noted.

“The federal government did not mandate the Common Core. States had options and 45 states simply adopted CCSS,” he said.

A third common misunderstanding is the belief that Common Core is a curriculum. “The CCSS is not curriculum,” explained Coulter. No curriculum materials were mandated by the federal government. There is no national curriculum.”

Panel presenters at the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) conference also pointed to a fourth misunderstanding—The federal government did not

mandate any specific achievement measure. Rather, the federal government funded two efforts by consortia of states to develop a measure of achievement aligned to CCSS, explained Dr. Coulter.

The invited presentation titled, “Bracing for the Common Core Crash: Preventing More Children Left Behind,” included co-presenters Mark R. Shinn, PhD, from National-Louis University, Kimberly Gibbons, from St. Croix River Education District, Minneapolis, MN, Dr. Michelle Shinn, Principal & Executive Director for Student Services, Lake Forest, IL, and Dr. Robert H. Pasternack, former Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education.

Dr. Coulter said, “This event was quite an honor for me and my colleagues.” The national association rarely if ever invites a panel for two years in a row, and this was Coulter’s and his colleagues’ third presentation in as many years. It appears likely that the five will be invited back again.

The panel focused on how Common Core could inadvertently set conditions that could leave more students behind, and pointed out that school psychologists must be aware of risks and ensure advocacy for research-based practices, noted the program authors.

Dr. Coulter is also concerned with assessments. “My issue was one of the need for comparable assessments across states as measures of equitable accountability for results and use of public funds,” Coulter explained. “When 45 states had adopted one of the two newly developed measures, there was a chance of having a broad representation of state performance.”

“However,” he said, “given the growing hysteria about CCSS in states, some had withdrawn to develop their own state specific measures. The result will be a ‘Tower of Babel’ of accountability test scores,” he explained.

“It’s a pity that the politics of hysterical contagion have overridden rational decision-



Dr. Jim Tucker (L), McKee Chair of Excellence at the School of Education, U. of Tennessee, with Dr. Alan Coulter, Director for Education Initiatives at the Human Development Center, LSU Health Sciences Center, at the recent National Association of School Psychologists last month in New Orleans. (Courtesy photo)

making about responsible accountability,” he said. He explained that Psychology has the expertise and the technology to ensure equitable and meaningful accountability of public school to the public. But, he also feels that Psychology continues to be largely unsuccessful in helping to shape public support for the use of this expertise.

Dr. Coulter said the conference was well attended and reviewed. “The National Association of School Psychologists meeting in New Orleans was one of the organization’s most attended annual meetings. I heard repeated compliments about what a hospitable environment NOLA was for such a meeting. Almost every session I attended, was packed with psychologists interested in expanding their knowledge and skills.”

Univ. of Louisiana Monroe Online Psychology Program Named in Top National Group

The college assessment service, SuperScholar, has ranked the online Psychology program at the University of Louisiana Monroe in the top group of programs nationally. The program, reviewed for accreditation, affordability, student satisfaction, academic reputation and other factors, earned the 29th position nationwide.

Dr. Jack Palmer, Psychology Graduate Admissions & Assistantships Director for the department said, “It has been a great year for the online Psychology programs at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Our online undergraduate program in Psychology has been ranked 29th in the nation—Best Online

Bachelor’s in Psychology Degree Programs 2016. Even better,” Palmer said, “our graduate program in Psychology has been ranked 10th in the nation—Top Online Psychology Master’s Programs.”

Last year, the program was ranked 17th nationally in Best Value Colleges by OnlineU.org. And, AffordableCollegesOnline.org gave the program 28th in their list of most affordable online psychology programs in the nation, said the ULM news release.

“I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to all of our faculty who contributed to the success of these online programs,” Palmer told the *Times*.

Science and Education

Dr. Rizzuto Featured at TEDxLSU

Dr. Tracey Rizzuto, Industrial-Organization Psychologist and Associate Director of the School of Human Resource Education & Workforce Development at Louisiana State University, was featured in a select group of scientists and professionals who shared their work and insights at the TEDxLSU event held February 28.

Dr. Rizzuto spoke on her work as a psychologist and academic researcher for the Baton Rouge Area Violence Elimination, called BRAVE, a program where her efforts and those of others have combined to reduce the crime rates in two, high crime Baton Rouge areas, by 30 percent in the last two years.

According to the press release by LSU, the TED producers search year-round for “presenters who will inform and inspire, surprise and delight. Presenters run the world's most admired companies and design its best-loved products; they invent world-changing devices and create ground-breaking media.” The competition is strong and only 12 were chosen to contribute to the popular webcast.

TEDxLSU is the only TEDx event in Baton Rouge, according to LSU. The event was held at the Shaver Theater in the LSU Music & Dramatic Arts Building. TEDxLSU was launched in 2013, and “is a platform to bring local, regional, and statewide communities together; to spur discussion and dialogue about real issues; and to generate big ideas that will move the state of Louisiana forward, forming a better way of life for the people of our great state.”

Dr. Rizzuto’s work with BRAVE has been gaining national attention. In December 2015, Rizzuto and Hillar Moore, III, East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney, traveled to New York City at the invitation of Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, to give a presentation about the work at BRAVE.

Rizzuto and Moore described the group violence reduction in the Baton Rouge community in a presentation titled, “Focused Deterrence and the BRAVE Strategy (Baton Rouge Area Violence Elimination),” at a conference for prosecutors attending across the United States, who shared various information about methods for crime analysis, intelligence



Dr. Tracey Rizzuto, Industrial-Organizational psychologist and Associate Director of the School of Human Education & Workforce Development, speaking at TEDxLSU in February about social connections. Her talk is available online.

gathering and social mapping, as well as other methods, explained LSU in the announcement.

The Baton Rouge Area Violence Elimination (BRAVE) initiative works to reduce and eliminate violent crime committed by juveniles in Baton Rouge’s 70805 and 70802 zip code areas.

Rizzuto is part of BRAVE’s LSU Research Team led by the College

of Human Sciences & Education’s Office of Social Service Research & Development. The LSU group analyzes arrest data from the Baton Rouge Police Department and East Baton Rouge Sheriff’s Office and then helps identify trends and group members who are committing the most crimes.

Dr. Rizzuto uses social network analysis to examine social

structures and dynamics, one of her interests as an IO psychologist and professor. Her other interests include the development of social capital and capacity through technological tools; the development of social capital and capacity through social relationships, such as the power and influence social network structures; and managing workplace changes.

Stress Solutions

by Susan Andrews, PhD

Stress is contagious. Research from St. Louis University suggests that other people’s anxiety and behavior may be harmful to your health. The negative effects of stress, such as increased levels of cortisol, can be triggered by merely observing another person who is acting stressed. Empathy – usually thought of as a good attribute – can be a drain if you watch someone else get negative feedback. Even mice after experiencing light shocks show stress reactions when forced to watch another mouse getting the same treatment. Just like smoke, secondhand stress might even be worse for you than the real thing.

A small study in *Psychological Science* (2014) found that infants show significant increases in heart rate when their mothers felt agitated about receiving negative feedback. The more stressed the mom, the more stressed the baby.

Good Advice: “Put your own oxygen mask on before you help someone else.” If you are dealing with someone else’s stress (like many therapists do), treat your own stress first and treat it after a stressful day by relaxing, meditating, or

Two New Studies on Stress May Surprise

exercising. That way, you keep your sense of compassion but keep your empathy from causing you too much stress.

Women may handle stress better than men because of Estrogen. University of Buffalo (State University of New York) released a study that may explain why females are more resilient than males in responding to stress. The *Molecular Psychiatry* study published by Dr. Zhen Yan indicates that estrogen is protective in the female rat’s brain. It protects their prefrontal cortex. Repeated stress results in the loss of the glutamate receptor in the prefrontal cortex of young male rats but not young females.

By manipulating the amount of estrogen produced in the brain, researchers were able to make the males respond to stress more like the females and vice versa. Previous studies looking at gender differences in response to stress found that men tend to react

with the “fight or flight” response while women were more likely to react with a less aggressive “tend and befriend” response. In other words, women tended to seek social support when stressed. While women may appear to cope better externally, they also internalize stress to a greater degree than men, which leads to more anxiety and depression.

For both men and women, the authors conclude that stress reduction is no longer optional. A rapidly growing body of research has shown stress management to be a vital aspect of good mental and physical health. Now is a good time to take a relaxation break.



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).

Dr. Tramontana to Present at March Hypnosis Conference

Dr. Joe Tramontana will be presenting a workshop for the American Society for Clinical Hypnosis (ASCH) convention to be held in St. Louis, March 11 through 15.

The Workshop title is "Hypnotically Enhanced Addictions Treatment."

Dr. Tramontana has authored *Sports hypnosis in practice: Scripts, strategies, and case examples*, and also *Hypnotically enhanced treatment for addictions: Alcohol abuse, drug abuse, gambling, weight control, and smoking cessation*.

Dr. Tramontana has served as the President of the New Orleans Society of Clinical Hypnosis and presents at the annual meetings of the American Society for Clinical Hypnosis.

He is certified by the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis and the National Association of Sports Counselors. He is a member of the American Academy of Psychologists Treating Addictions, the Mississippi Pain Society, the Southern Pain Society, the American Psychological Association Division for Clinical, Division for Hypnosis, and Division for Exercise & Sports. He is Past President of the Louisiana Psychological Association and has served in a variety of positions. He is also a member of Mississippi Psychological Association.

In 2013 the Louisiana Psychological Association named Dr. Tramontana as its Distinguished Psychologist.

Marriage & Family Therapists Host Drs. Schnarch, Morehouse

La. Assn for Marriage and Family Therapy held its Annual Conference February 11 –13 in New Orleans. The theme was “Creating Passion and Intimacy: Skills for Couple Therapy” and featured David Schnarch, PhD, licensed clinical psychologist and director of the Marriage and Family Health Center in Evergreen, Colorado. Schnarch is founder of the Sexual Crucible Approach® to integrated sexual and marital therapy, and the Passionate Marriage Approach® for couples

He is the author of *Passionate Marriage, Intimacy & Desire, and Resurrecting Sex*.

Joining Dr. Schnarch for the conference was Dr. Ruth Morehouse. Morehouse is a licensed clinical psychologist and certified sex therapist and previously spent ten years as Director of Inpatient and Outpatient Psychological Services at a large inpatient/outpatient family-centered psychiatric facility in New Orleans. She developed and directed their comprehensive Women's Program, which specialized in treating severe eating disorders, sexual abuse, relationship problems and other women's issues.

Dr. Laura Choate Named Distinguished Researcher

Laura Choate, EdD, and Licensed Professional Counselor, was named as the recipient of the 2014, Distinguished Research Award by the College of Human Sciences and Education, announced October last year by Louisiana State University.

Dr. Choate is the Jo Ellen Levy Yates Professor of Counselor Education, Louisiana State University, and also received the 2013 Best Practices Award by the American Counseling Association. She is a former editor of the Journal of College Counseling.

Laura Choate has 15 years of experience as a counselor educator at LSU and 16 years as a Licensed Professional Counselor, the announcement said, and she has written three books and 40 publications in journals and books.

The majority of Dr. Choate’s work is related to girls’ and women’s mental health.

“Based on years of research and counseling literature, her fourth and most recent book, *Swimming Upstream: Parenting Girls for Resilience in a Toxic Culture*, is a guide to help parents teach their daughters to resist negative cultural messages. The book contains the strategies that parents need to



Dr. Laura Choate at LPC board meeting. She was honored as a distinguished researcher.

prepare their daughters with the life skills they need to resist destructive cultural influences.”

Dr. Choate teaches in the Counselor Education program in the School of Education. She also serves as Chair of the LPC state board.

STRESS MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR WOMEN LIVING WITH MS: COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL METHODS IN A GROUP SETTING



BEGINNING FEBRUARY 2016

Group treatment

The intention of this group is to foster development of specific strategies and practices that have been shown to reduce fatigue and improve mood in individuals living with multiple sclerosis. Topics that will be addressed include social functioning (communication and assertiveness), fatigue, anxiety, relaxation, pain management, and cognitive impairment.

Women are invited to participate, and it will be led by clinical psychologist, Melissa Dufrene, PsyD. Participants will be asked to practice skills outside of sessions and to monitor their progress.



Discover new strategies for coping with your symptoms

More than a support group

Professional assistance for working towards your goals

Openings are currently available

Call for more information

ALGIERS NEUROBEHAVIORAL RESOURCE

3520 General Degaulle #3044 New Orleans, LA 70124

504-636-6120

8 Weekly Sessions Wednesdays 5:45-6:45pm

SEPA in New Orleans, March 30-April 2

continued

Other featured speakers are Pam Imm, PhD, community psychologist from South Carolina, speaking on prevention in community settings, and Paschal Sheeran, PhD, Professor in the Social Psychology program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill who will speak on health psychology.

Louisiana State University Psychology Professor, Julia Buckner, PhD, will present a continuing education workshop, “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.

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, from

Akula Foundation; Theresa Wozencraft, PhD, and Emily Sandoz, PhD, both from the University of Louisiana Lafayette, and Megan Alsop, PsyD, from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology at Xavier University. Presenters will review the development and application of “Reminiscence Therapy” groups in over 100 nursing homes and following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2006.

Janet Matthews, PhD, Professor Emerita from Loyola, will also participate in a special tribute to

Dr. Ray Fowler in, “Eminent Psychologists of the Southeast Series: A Special Symposium in Honor of Raymond D. Fowler.”

Lillian Range, PhD, Psychology Professor at Our Lady of Holy Cross College, will participate in the Luncheon for SEPA Past Presidents. Dr. Range served as president in 2007.

The conference will showcase psychological research from around the state, grouped below by affiliated organization.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY — PSYCHOLOGY

Spatial Location in Auditory Distraction: The Case of Cross-Modal Stroop

by Dr. Emily Elliott, LSU Psychology Professor in Cognitive and Brain Sciences, will co-present with Danielle Lutfi-Proctor

What Underlies Individual Differences in Auditory Distraction Effects?

by Dr. Emily Elliott, Jenna Zeringue, Corey McGill, and Juan Ventura

RSVP Search: Typicality Effects in an Atypical Visual Search Task

by Dr. Megan Papesch, Assistant Professor, with researcher Juan Guevara Pinto

Test Enhanced Learning: Strategy Change and Conscientiousness

by Juan Ventura, Peter Delaney, and Yoojin Chang

Cont next pg



View of the Mississippi River at New Orleans. The Southeastern Psychological Association will meet in New Orleans starting on March 30.

Fotolia

SEPA in New Orleans, continued

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY — PSYCHOLOGY CONT'D

The Role of Attention Deployment in Mistaken Eyewitness Identifications

by Dr. Sean Lane, Professor, and Daniella Cash, Lindsey Bernard, Hannah Stintson, Chelsea Cockburn, Olivia Ogden and others

Jury Decisions, Victim Attractiveness, and Negative Pretrial Publicity

by Daniella Cash and colleagues from Florida Southern College

Effects of Source Monitoring and Commitment Effects on Mugshot Exposure

by Daniella Cash and colleagues from Florida Southern College

“The Attention Deployment and the Mugshot Exposure studies focus on eyewitness identification, which is a topic that I have enjoyed studying throughout my academic career,” said Daniella Cash. “Mistaken eyewitness identification is one of the top contributors to wrongful convictions and there are many factors that can cause an eyewitness to be inaccurate. By better understanding how different factors impact witness memory it can be possible to reduce misidentifications.”

Inter-Organizational Resource Based Collaboration Network

by Dr. Tracey Rizzuto, Associate Director and Professor in the School of Human Resource Education and Pallavi Singh

In 2015 Dr. Rizzuto was granted the Mary Ethel Baxter Lipscomb Memorial Endowed Professorship in the College of Human Science and Education, and provided three-years of project funding. “This past April, I applied the first year of funding,” Rizzuto said, “to the delivery of a data-driven multisector event designed to forge strategic and mutually beneficial ties connecting non-profits in the Baton Rouge community to like-minded businesses and government agencies. The event was called the Baton Rouge (BR) Choice Collaborative.”

The effort extended Rizzuto’s previous and ongoing work funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Justice (Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation).

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY — HUMAN RESOURCE EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY



Fotilia

Relationship between Features of LGB Identity and Authenticity

by Sarah McConnell and Dr. Guler Boyraz

Examining the Factor Structure and Construct Validity of the MEI-R.

by Dr. Melanie Lantz and Michael Garza

Paranormal Beliefs of Latvian and American Students: Support for Motivational-Control

by Dr. Jerry Tobacyk, Dr. Mary Livingston, Elizabeth Dixon, and Quinn Warner. Co-presenters are Arturs Utinans, Gunta Ancane, and Vinita Cauce from Riga Stradins University.

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: that societal stressors can threaten one’s sense of personal control and that internalization of paranormal belief is one method for persons to re-establish a sense of control—even if illusory.”

LOUISIANA TECH
UNIVERSITY
CONT'D

Self-Stigma toward Counseling: Internet Online
and Office Settings

by Dr. Mary Livingston, Christopher Coleman, Dr. Guler Boyraz,
and Dr. Jerry Tobacyk, and Margaret Hindman from the University
of Arkansas.

“This is one part of a larger project looking at various types of
online counseling and computer security concerns,” Dr. Livingston
said. “This piece focuses on self stigma in seeking help and online
counseling.”Online counseling is usually studied as a unitary
phenomenon; little research has examined the public’s
differentiating attitudes about the various types of online
counseling—face-to-face, video, chat, and email counseling.”

“Results indicated that individuals who have self-stigma toward
face-to-face counseling also hold negative attitudes toward online
forms of counseling.”

“Findings indicated that online counseling might reduce self-stigma
associated with seeking counseling. It appears that greater
anonymity associated with online counseling may appeal to
individuals who have self-stigma associated with seeking help,”
said Dr. Livingston.

LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY

Financial Stress, Coping Behaviors, and Satisfaction with College
Experience

by Maria Bruyn and Dr. Charles Nichols

Effects of Song Valence and Autobiographical Memory Valence on
Mood

by Kim Ernst, from Loyola University, and Alexandria Lake from New York
University.

Effects of Well-known and Lesser-known Nonprofits' Requests on
Donor Intentions

by Kim Ernst and Ally Keene

How Meta-memory affects Emotion and Repetition

by Dr. Tanya Karam-Zanders, Assistant Professor, Amanda Boudreaux, and
Courtney Foret-Chiasson

“Research suggests that memory accuracy does not benefit from repetition of
negatively arousing information to the same extent as neutral information,”
noted Dr. Karam-Zanders, and “a potential explanation for such a discrepancy
involves meta-cognitive awareness.

While Karam-Zanders and her team are still collecting data her results
suggest that neutral information benefits more from repetition than emotional
information. “Completion of this and future studies will likely shed light into the
nature of that difference,” she said. “My co-authors are very bright and
talented undergraduate students at NSU graduating in May.”

NORTHWESTERN
STATE
UNIVERSITY

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY
&
THE NEUROPSYCHOLOGY
CENTER OF LA

Cognitive Rehabilitation and Its
Effects on a Geriatric West Nile
Encephalitis Survivor

by Julia Hussey, Traci Olivier, and
Dr. Darlyne Nemeth

SEPA in New Orleans, continued

OUR LADY OF HOLY CROSS COLLEGE

Help-Seeking Behaviors of African American Christians in the South

by Lillian Range, PhD, Professor of Psychology Education at Our Lady of Holy Cross College, and Ashley Ojo and Tara Payne.

Trauma in New Orleans Adults: Does Age Make a Difference?

by Dr. Range and Anna MacLellan

Emergency Medical Personnel: Burnout, Depression, Anxiety, and Fear Seeking Treatment

by E. Joy Hutchinson and Lillian Range

Dr. Range is a Past President of SEPA and Professor Emeritus at The University of Southern Mississippi. “I am proud of these research activities of my students, and look forward to these presentations to the scientific community.”



College Students' Attitudes towards Intrauterine Insemination (IUI) Based on Maternal Age, Marital Status, and Sexual Orientation

by Dr. Sara Sohr-Preston, Assistant Professor at Southeastern.

Examining Potential Bias against Prospective Adoptive Parents due to Age, Sex, Marital Status, or Sexual Orientation

by Olivia Moreno, Dylan Zepeda, Holly Kliebert, and Dr. Sohr-Preston

Student Biases and Potential Effects on Faculty Rating Websites

by Karen Phung and Dr. Sohr-Preston

Predictors of Parenting Self-Efficacy in Parents Attending College

by Heather Conn and Dr. Sohr-Preston

“In 2015, my students and I collected data regarding undergraduate students' attitudes toward assisted reproductive technology (ART) and infant adoption,” said Dr. Sohr-Preston. “Participants viewed vignettes about fictional adults seeking to become parents using either intrauterine insemination (IUI) or adoption.”

“No evidence emerged for bias based on parental age or sex. However, both sets of results suggested that participants were more positive in their appraisals of prospective parents in an opposite-sex marriage than those listed as single or in a same-sex marriage.”

Dr. Sohr-Preston said that the findings of differences suggest that “... while single adults and same-sex couples have increasing options for becoming parents, they may still face subtle bias or covert prejudice regarding their ability to parent.”



Fotilia

SOUTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY



THE CHICAGO SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY AT XAVIER

Performance Differences for Children on Repeat Administrations of a Sustained Attention and Inhibitory Control Task

by Dr. Matthew Holcomb, Professor, and Melissa Ulbricht, and Jonathan Lichtenstein from Dartmouth Medical School and Laszlo Erdodi from University of Windsor.

SEPA in New Orleans, continued

Behaviorism Isn't Dead: Research in a Behavioral Approach to Cognition

by Dr. Emily Sandoz, Assistant Professor of Psychology, and Madison Gamble, Garret Cantu, Nolan Williams, and Gina Boullion

Hassles Experienced at Work by Emergency Medical Technicians

by Dr. Theresa Wozencraft, Associate Professor, and Alecia Vaughn

Effects of Cell Phone Distraction on a Pair Cancellation Tasks

by Dr. Theodore Scott Smith, Grant Chaisson, and Chelsea Shaeffer

Social Identity Theory and Victim Blame in the United States-Iraq Conflict

by Emily Broussard

Assessing Vignettes Depicting Sexual Scenarios for Perceptions of Consent

by Sara Gibson and Dr. Amy Brown, Assistant Professor at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Assessing Media Print Images to Elicit Self-Objectification in Viewers

by Casey Bevens and Dr. Amy Brown

Prior Exposure to Sexual Violence Awareness Education and Gender Impact Bystander Attitudes and Intention

by Jada Horton, Holland Campbell, Dr. Amy Brown, and Casey Bevens

Assessing the Hypothetical Effectiveness of Two University Condom Administration Policies

by Cristian Rivera and Dr. Amy Brown

(Not) Talking about Death: Implications for Terror Management Theory

by Dr. Brooke Breaux, Assistant Professor of Psychology at U. of Louisiana Lafayette, Dylan Richard, Dr. Laurie Robinette, Kylie Garber, Mark LaCour, and Dylan Harrell

How Does Thinking About Religion (And Other Factors) Influence the Way People Talk About Death?

by Dylan Richard, Kylie Garber, and Dr. Brooke Breaux.

“The members of my Cognition and Psycholinguistics (CaP) Research Lab,” said Dr. Breaux, “were dedicated to their research efforts last semester.” Dr. Breaux said. Her team of two masters students and two undergraduates, and colleague Dr. Laurie Robinette began work on their "Talking About Death" project. “... we started collecting and analyzing pilot data to explore some of the language that people actually use to talk about the topic of death and dying and how this language related to Terror Management Theory.”

Recent graduate Kylie Garber said, “The research we are conducting about death is definitely catching people's attention.” And, “Hopefully it will provide insight on the best ways to speak about death in order to promote positive coping. It is very rewarding to be apart of a research project with that kind of potential.”

Dylan Harrell said efforts have “... provided valuable groundwork on the ways individuals talk about death aside from using the words ‘death’ and ‘die.’ Being in this lab provides a fresh perspective on why better understanding the cognitive or psycho-linguistic aspects are important to consider in research.”

Dylan Richard, said, “Conducting this research is beneficial because it is allowing me and other students to use our critical thinking skills and our individual creativity in order to construct a sound experimental model while also exploring topics that we are passionate about.”

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA LAFAYETTE



Fotilia

Mark LaCour, Graduate Assistant, is also on the research team. "In our lab, we are combining research on conceptual metaphor theory with terror management theory—the idea that physical experiences in the world affect not only the way we speak about death but also the way we think about it."

“Because many of our lab members, especially the principal investigator,” Mark said, “work (or have worked) with a local organization for bereaved children, this research has helped us explore the ways in which our linguistic practices affect the grieving process and we hope to share our findings with others who are grieving or attempting to console someone who is grieving, whether in a professional role or a personal one.”

Priming Prepositions: Attempting to Replicate and Extend Boroditsky's (2000) Findings

by Iesha King, Dustin Dronet, and Dr. Breaux.

“At first, this project was very challenging for me to grasp an understanding of,” said researcher Iesha King, “but over time I began to see its true essence ...” And, “It is very important for us to understand the conceptual connection between abstract and concrete stimuli and why we subconsciously use these instances interchangeably.”

Dustin Dronet, said, “Metaphoric structuring is the idea that we use spatial objects to talk about abstract ideas such as time.” He said, “I am currently developing stimuli and surveys as a means to re-norm our stimuli that we had previously used. Its very rewarding to see the results that we receive.”

XAVIER
UNIVERSITY

The Effects of Gender and Parenthood on Career Competence Judgments

Aliyah Jones, Zaharra Withers, and Assistant Professor, Dr. Katherine Eskine

The Effects of a Multimedia Meditation Video on Self-reported Executive Functioning and Procrastination-related Behavioral Traits

by Efehi Edomwonyi, Chinyere Okafor, and Dr. Katherine Eskine, Xavier

The Effects of Music on the Cognitive Abilities of Patients with Dementia

by Zaharra Withers and Dr. Katherine E. Eskine

Not So Reality Television: The Media’s Effect on Cognitive Dissonance

by Abigail Maristela

Parental Selection of Collateral Witnesses in High Conflict Custody Evaluations

by Hannah Lubman, Courtney Wineland, Sara Mermer, and W. Michael Nelson

Psychometric Properties of the ABAS-II with Adults Diagnosed with Intellectual Disability

by Rachel Holden, W. Michael Nelson, Kathleen Hart from Xavier University; and others

Effectiveness of Seven Challenges Program for Adolescents with Substance Disorders

by W. Michael Nelson, Caroline Sawyer and others

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Enhancing Effectiveness of Teenagers’ Supervised Driving Practice

by Yinan Zhao, Laura LaFleur, Megan Zeringue, and Dr. Robert Laird, Professor, all from University of New Orleans.

“The presentation is based on Yinan Zhao’s Master’s Thesis and is one of the first analyses of the data from our three-year longitudinal ‘Teen Driving Project’ which was funded by the W. T. Grant Foundation,” said Dr. Robert Laird, UNO Professor of Psychology, Associate Chair and Undergraduate Coordinator.

Researchers has focused on parent-teen relationships and negotiations around driving and they hope to understand factors in how families negotiate this risky venture to make driving safer for teens.

“This first analysis sought to find predictors of more extensive driving practice during the learner’s permit stage, which is a presumed to linked to safer driving subsequently. Results showed that the adolescents’ enjoyment of driving, and motivation to drive were the strongest predictors of both the amount of driving and of driving in different conditions …” said Laird.

“Future analyses will test whether more extensive driving practice during the learner’s permit stage is linked with safer driving during later,” said Dr. Laird.



People

Dr. Lane Appointed Associate Dean LSU Graduate School

Dr. Sean Lane was appointed as the new Associate Dean of the Louisiana State University Graduate School. He started on January 4.

He has served as Professor in Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Department of Psychology and has also served as Psychology Associate Chair, and as cofounder of the Office of Applied Cognition.

He and his research group has had several major research areas. These are eyewitness memory, memory errors, education/learning/teacher expertise, experience- based (implicit) learning, and medical cognition. In these main areas the researchers push to undercover the often puzzling and counterintuitive findings regarding the quirkiness of our minds. Although Sean works in all these areas, he has long-standing interests in the topics of eyewitness suggestibility, eyewitness identification, and beliefs about eyewitness memory.

His insights for applied settings come from his varied background. Before coming to LSU, and after starting a doctoral program in applied experimental as a professor at the U. of Nevada in Las Vegas, Dr. Lane worked in Silicon Valley. It was during the booming dot com era. “I primarily did research in human factors,” he said in a previous interview. And, “...was the Director of a User Experience group that included User Interface Designers, Graphic Designers and Information Architects.”

In 2014 Dr. Lane and his team presented research on some of the complex cognitive science behind lies and deception, at the conference of the American Psychology–Law Society. Lane and his team delved into the convoluted nature of humans and their lies, how memory affects lies and truth, and the nuances of detection.



Dr. Sean Lane and Dr. Mary Lou Kelley, Louisiana State University psychology professors. Dr. Lane recently became Associate Dean at the LSU Graduate School.

Dr. Rizzuto SIOP Consortia Chair

Dr. Tracey Rizzuto is the Consortia Chair for the 31st annual conference of Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP), to be held in Anaheim, California this April.

Rizzuto is Associate Director in the School of Human Resource Education & Workforce Development at the College of Human Science & Education at Louisiana State University. She holds the Mary Ethel Baxter Lipscomb Memorial Endowed Professor of Human Resource, Leadership, & Organization Development. She is an industrial-

organizational psychologist who focuses on social networks and large system change. Dr. Ruzzuto was previously with the LSU Psychology Department and led the IO program.

She explained to the *Times* that she is serving a three-year term as the SIOP Consortia Chair, and currently in the second year.

According to a February LSU press release, the consortia are preconference training opportunities designed for students in industrial-organizational psychology programs, and also for junior faculty. The development



Dr. Tracey Rizzuto
(Courtesy photo.)

activities help students build relationships with others in the field and build knowledge, and the Junior Faculty helps new professors prepare for challenges in tenure and career decisions, explained the LSU press release.

Ψ We Remember

Dr. Samuel D. Thomas

Dr. Sam Thomas, a psychologist practicing in the Shreveport–Bossier area passed away in 2014, on July 15. Dr. Thomas was born in 1936 and according to the memorial he “lived a long and happy life.”

He earned his PhD in psychology from the University of Southern Mississippi and worked for the State of Louisiana, the Veterans Administration Hospital, was in private practice, and was employed by the Joint Commission for Accreditation of Hospitals, according to the memorial writings.

Born in Booneville, Mississippi in 1936, Sam was also a long time member of the Antique Auto Club of America and he was recognized as a Master Restorer of Automobiles and Scooters. He was awarded one hundred thirty-eight trophies for his excellence in restoration projects.

Married to “the love of his live,” wife Frieda Loewer Thomas, Sam has two children and six grandchildren. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Blanchard, Louisiana.

Dr. Mary Ellen Matthews

Dr. Mary Ellen Matthews died on April 11, 2015, having moved to New Orleans in 2014 where she was able to spend some “long-awaited quality time” with her two beloved granddaughters. She was born on September 14, 1948.

Dr. Matthews was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, graduated in French and spent time in Nice, France, where friends and family say she learned to be a phenomenal baker and cook. After raising two children she returned to school and earned her PhD in clinical psychology from the University of North Dakota. She worked for many years in both private practice and in the community, retiring from Steven’s Community Medical Center in Morris, Minnesota, in 2014. She was licensed in Louisiana in May 2014.

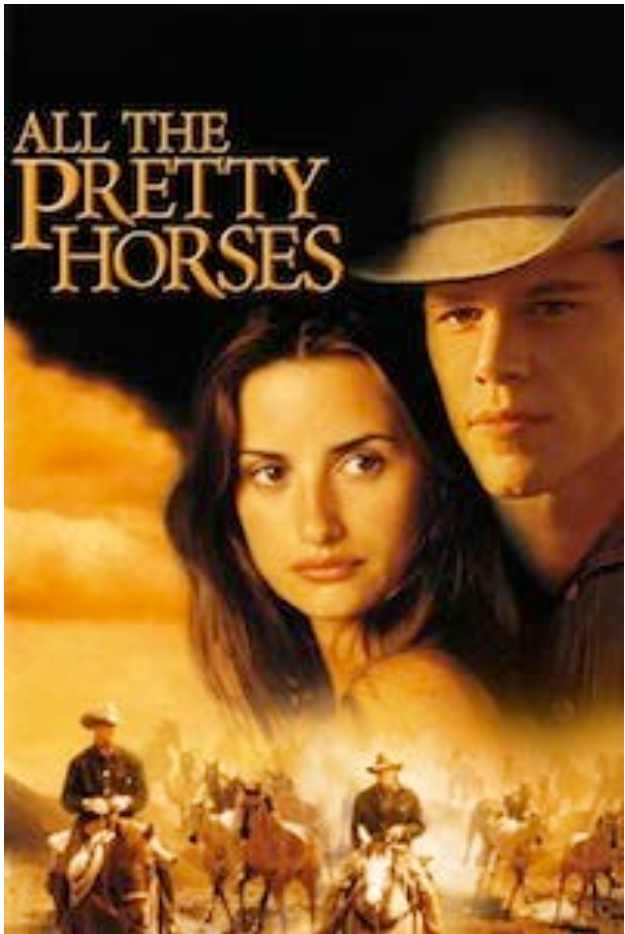
Memorial writers say that “Princess dresses were sewn, flowers were planted, cookies were made, and a Mardi Gras was experienced before her sudden passing on April 11.”

Friends and family note that Mary Ellen will be remembered for her fantastic sense of humor, intelligence, independence, capable and creative hands, and most of all, her kindness.

A Shrink at the Flicks

All The Pretty Horses

by Alvin G. Burstein



I have been addicted to oaters ever since *Shane* and *High Noon*. Being, in addition, a fan of actor Matt Damon and author Cormac McCarthy, I decided to take a belated look at *All The Pretty Horses*.

The movie begins with striking scenes of a vanishing West and herds of wild ponies. It takes us quickly to the dilemma of Damon as John Grady Cole, whose grandfather's money-losing ranch is being sold despite Cole's life-long wish to continue a cowboy life. He and his pard, Lacey, riding purloined horses, light out for Mexico where they hear there are still huge ranches. En route, they meet up with a young teen-ager who gets them embroiled in legal difficulties when the youngster tries to recover his stolen horse and gun, killing a Mexican officer in the process.

The boy disappears and Lacey and Cole ride off, ultimately finding a large *ranchero* where Cole and Lacey's bronco breaking abilities earn them jobs. Cole gets involved with Alejandra, the beautiful daughter of the *ranchero's* wealthy *patron*. The family, outraged by the impropriety and having heard of the earlier difficulties, have the two Americans arrested.

Cole and Lacey find themselves in a Mexican prison reunited with the impulsive teen-ager and in the hands of a sadistic *Capitan*. Imprisoned, they helplessly look

on while the officer has the boy shot. Cole gets badly injured in a knife fight with another prisoner, losing sight of Lacey. After he recovers, Cole learns that he has been bailed out. Alejandra has persuaded her family to do so by promising never to see him again—attesting to her love.

Cole, unable to persuade Alejandra to break her vow and marry him, kidnaps the sadistic officer and uses him as a hostage, enabling Cole to recover the horses that had been taken from him and his two companions. He leaves *el Capitan* to an uncertain future with a former prisoner, and rides back to Texas to be reunited with Lacey.

Psychologically, the story revolves around three sets of loyalties. The first is the one between the three cowboys. The second is between the two lovers, Cole and Alejandra. The third is between Alejandra and her family, especially her father. Alejandra reinstates the Oedipal link to her father by disowning her sexual tie to Cole. The film contrives closure by Cole's avenging the death of the teen-ager and rejoining his pard, Lacey. And Cole seems, at the end, satisfied by the bromance.

Maybe all good oaters have that pre-genital quality.

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.



courtesy photo

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.

Up-Coming Events

Southwestern Psychological Association In Dallas April 8–10

The Southwestern Psychological Association will hold its annual convention in Dallas, Texas, at the Omni Dallas Hotel. The theme this year is “Evolutionary Psychology: The Adapted Mind.”

Speakers include David Buss from University of Texas at Austin, who will give the Forensics Psychology Lecture, on “The Evolution of Sexual Morality.” Dr. Buss will talk on standards of morality as fundamental features of human psychology. “They guide people’s behavior, the accolades and punishments they impose on others, and the criteria by which reputations rise or fall. No domain of human conduct is more heavily moralized than sexuality. Moralized sexual conduct includes monogamy-polygamy, incest, age of appropriate sexual debut, fidelity-infidelity, mate poaching, sexual exploitation, prostitution, same-sex sexual conduct, and various forms of sexual treachery.”

Other featured speakers are Dr. Martle Haselton, DR. Hector Garcia, and Dr. Fessler. See the website for more information.

Tam Bao Buddhist Temple Day of Mindfulness April 9

The Annual Day of Mindfulness Day for Mental Health Professionals will be held on Saturday April 9 at the Tam Bao Temple, 975 Monterrey Blvd., in Baton Rouge.

Registration typically begins at 8 am and the day concludes at about 5 pm.

The Mindfulness Day is an annual event. Past training in mindfulness techniques have included meditation and mindfulness, guided sitting meditation, and mindful lunch, as well as a variety of presentations for applying mindfulness.

Southern Society for Philosophy & Psychology To Meet March 10-12

The Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology will hold its annual meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, from March 10 to March 12.

Invited Speaker is Jerome Wakefield from New York University speaking on, “Taxonomizing DSM-5: Health, Justice and Virtue as Psychiatric Organizing Values.” Also invited is Scott O. Lilienfeld, from Emory University, speaking on, “The Mother of All Biases: Confirmation Bias and Erroneous Claims in Everyday Life.”

Among a variety of offerings is also a symposium, “The Metaphysics of Science: Beyond Reductionism and Antireductionism,” and also a Contributed Symposium, “The Phenomenology of Shame,” among many other offerings.

Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists to Hold Conference In Baton Rouge, April 16 and 17

The Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists are scheduled to hold a training conference on April 16 & 17, in Baton Rouge, according to their website.

The group met in January for two days of continuing education including, “Gestational and Lactational Psychopharmacology: The Pain and Pleasure,” by Dr. Robert Nevels. Also, Daniel Dowd, PharmD, spoke on “Genetic Markers and Personalized treatment in Psychiatry.”



Fotilia

Private Practice Style Office for Rent

Baton Rouge
off South Sherwood near Interstate 12

We have an office building uniquely designed for single therapists, arranged in an attractive setting along with other professionals. The office is perfect for privacy — it has a designated, private waiting room for your clients only, and a separate exit door so your clients do not cross paths.

\$695/month. Includes utilities, fax, and alarm system.

email: drj@drjulienelson.com

Up-Coming Events

Louisiana Group Psychotherapy Society to Hold Institute in April

The Louisiana Group Psychotherapy Society will hold its Spring Institute on April 1 and 2 in New Orleans. The featured speaker is Mollyn Leszcz, MD, co-author of Irvin Yalom's *The Theory and Practice of Group Psychotherapy*, 5th Edition.

The topic will be "Maximizing & Sustaining Your Effectiveness in Group Psychotherapy." Dr. Leszcz is Professor and Vice Chair, Clinical, Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto and Psychiatrist-in-Chief at Mount Sinai Hospital. He was awarded the 2009 Anne Alonso Award for Outstanding Contributions to Psychodynamic Group Therapy.

The Institute will be held at the Hampton Inn, Convention Center in New Orleans.



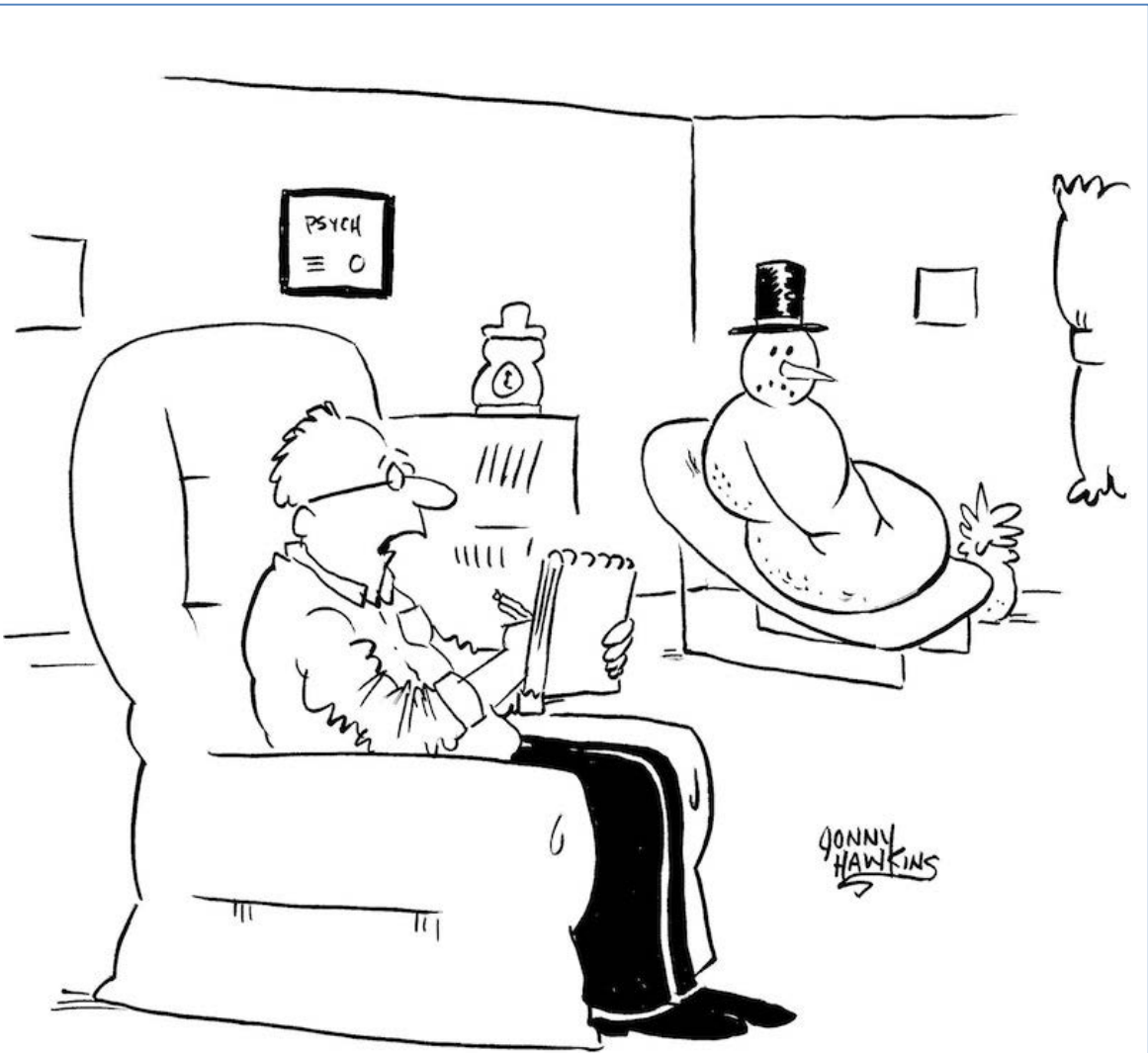
UNO biopsychologist, Dr. Gerald LaHoste will deliver the keynote address on epigenetics at the Louisiana Psychological Association meeting this May.

Division of Psychoanalysis Meets April 6-10 in Atlanta, Georgia

Division 39 of the American Psychological Association, Psychoanalysis will meet for its spring conference in Atlanta April 6 to 10. The Theme is "Hot & Bothered—Coming Together Without Falling Apart." The conference is the 36th Annual Spring Meeting and will take place at the Westin Hotel. Francoise Davoine, PhD, will give the Keynote address, "The Failure of Memory: War, Psychosis, Racism, Sex." The Saturday Keynote is by Gideon Yago, writer and reporter, who will speak on "Hearts and Minds: The Mechanics of Contemporary Psychoanalytic and Popular Culture." The Sunday Keynote will be presented by Nancy McWilliams, PhD, ABPP, and on "Psychoanalytic Reflections on Limitation: Aging, Dying, Generativity, and Renewal."

Louisiana Psychological Association To Host UNO Biopsychologist Dr. Gerald LaHoste in May

The Louisiana Psychological Association will hold its annual convention and business meeting May 20 and 21 in New Orleans. Dr. Gerald LaHoste, University of New Orleans Biopsychology and genetic researcher, will deliver the keynote address on epigenetics in health and behavior.



"You are cold and distant."

The Psychology Times

Your community newspaper

Winner of 42 Louisiana Press Association Awards

The *Times* is a free, community newspaper. Subscribe at thepsychologytimes.com

The Psychology Times

The *Psychology Times* is provided as a **community service** for those in the practice, teaching, and science of psychology and the behavioral sciences in Louisiana, and related individuals and groups.

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

The *Psychology Times* is **not affiliated** with any professional group other than the **Louisiana Press Association.**

None of the content in the *Times* is intended as advice for anyone.