

The visible-light image of Tropical Storm Harvey on Wednesday, August 30, 2017 after it made landfall at 4 a.m. CDT just west of Cameron, Louisiana. Louisiana dodged most of the major flooding that came to Houston, in all-time record high rainfall.

(Photo NASA/NOAA GOES)

Psych Board Debt to Reach \$400K for 2018

According to Boards and Commission budget tracking for the Louisiana Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP), the psychology board is projecting a fund balance of minus \$400,595 for 2018.

This comes after several years of over-budget spending that appears to be due in large part to legal fees. The psychology board is self-funded, and it operates with income supported by license fees and other service fees.

Based on the budget and financial tracking provided at the Boards & Commissions website, the LSBEP stayed approximately within budget for most years and carried a “fund balance” of around \$100,000, which appears to function as a savings reserve.

For 2014, the board took in \$262,582 and spent \$249, 517. The fund balance was \$144,709.

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Dr. Christian Oldenburg (L) and Dr. Michael Chafetz at a conference in Stockholm, Sweden, where Chafetz was an invited speaker. Dr. Oldenburg is President of the regional society and organized the conference.

(Photo courtesy Dr. Oldenburg)

Louisiana Dodges Most of Harvey

Hurricanes

On August 28, the President approved Gov. Edwards’ Federal Emergency Declaration request for Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, and Vermillion Parishes and ordered Federal assistance to supplement state, tribal and local response efforts due to the emergency conditions resulting from Tropical Storm Harvey.

But Louisiana appears to have been mostly spared, even though rain gauges showed up to 22 inches in some areas. There was some major flooding in the southwest area, but then mostly moderate flooding or minor elsewhere.

In Texas the rainfall topped records with over four feet of rain being reported and deaths have edged up over 60. Estimated loss in property damage continues to climb and USA Today reporting that the \$190 billion loss would make it the most costly natural disaster in modern history.

The property loss, along with the psychological impacts, will be the most significant for many. The average person in the US does not have \$500 in savings, and when the flood victims say they’ve “lost everything,” they mean it just that way.

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Dr. Chafetz Invited Speaker at Swedish Neuropsychological Society in Stockholm, Sweden

Dr. Michael Chafetz, invited speaker for the Swedish Neuropsychological Society in Stockholm, August 22, presented his research and other scientific advancements in the area of disability assessment and malingering.

He also presented his work at the Karolinska Institute, Danderyds Hospital, and Rehabilitation Clinic in Stockholm on August 23.

Chafetz is a board certified clinical neuropsychologist working in independent practice in New Orleans. His research program has involved validity assessment in low functioning children and adults being assessed for Social Security Disability, state rehabilitation, and child protection. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed articles on these topics, challenging assumptions concerning individuals with intellectual disability.

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Editorials and Opinions

Men in Boats

by Times publisher, J. Nelson

One of the bright spots in the Harvey disaster was to see the civilians formally welcomed by Governor Abbott and the FEMA director. The two sounded like they had no fears about men in boats helping rescue people or perform as water taxicabs.

Being a member of the Cajun Navy does not seem to require credentials, does not require a regulatory license, certification, or paperwork. No continuing education, safety tests or CPR certificates. Apparently you don't even have to have a last name ending in "eaux."



David Phung pulling a woman out while standing on the hood of her sinking car.

What is needed is a bass boat, something to haul it with, and the willingness to drop everything and go running off to the center of whatever watery disaster has befallen the rest of us, and put yourself at risk to save a life on those occasions that some misguided soul gets it in her mind to go riding around in a three-foot flood.

Who can forget David Phung?

David, a land surveyor, and his fellows, somehow came across a woman trapped in her vehicle. The video starts out comfortably enough—it looks as if all they have to do is pull her out of the car. But that doesn't work. Then the car starts sinking, and then they can't break the window, and then the car starts to sink faster. We even hear the woman, whom we can't see, say something like, "I'm drowning," as the car is going under.

David jumps into the water, stands on the front hood and somehow rips an opening in the convertible's top as the car disappears into the murky water. He goes under and pulls an arm out and then the rest of her, to the surface. She's gasping. She asks for her dog. *Her dog?* David dives around and finds the dog somehow, too.

The short scene teaches us first—never, ever drive in a flood. Second, it shows us just how many things can go wrong, how little margin of error there might be. And third, we see just how quickly a drowning death could happen.

The civilians like David haven't always been as welcomed the way Governor Abbott invited them in and asked for their help. Even last year in Baton Rouge there were some reports of the civilian boatmen being told to go home by officials.

But it was in Katrina where the reports were that these local heroes trying to aid their neighbors were rejected. Blogger Tom Luongo writes that these "... volunteers were turned away under penalty of jail..."

And it was in Katrina that every available member of our Cajun Navy would have done the most good, a large American city that was not prepared. As the most fatal storm in the last generation, Katrina took so many more lives than any of the other large storms, and the toll was heaviest in Louisiana, with 1,577 of the 1,800 plus. The next most deadly storm, Sandy, was not even close, with 159 dead.

The masculine seems to be in decline in the culture, but not so much when it comes to this civilian, makeshift navy, a collection of boatmen with a share of risk-taking, competence, autonomy and altruism. Ah, who doesn't appreciate the positive masculine.

Sometime since Katrina the Cajun Navy has authorized itself, and gained momentum and popularity. It is now a "well-oiled machine" said one of its members on social media when Harvey hit the Texas coast and Houston. Cajun Navy member Gary Davis posted, "GOD BLESS TEXAS. We got your backs."

Some have remarked on the parallel to Dunkirk, where, if the story is true, the emergence of citizens may have helped to avoid a total defeat in WWII.

When things get desperate, and it seems we are in for a dose of disasters, more heroic men hanging around is much better. It is great to know someone has your back.

[Julie Nelson is a licensed psychologist, journalist, organizational consultant, and publisher of the Times. She also holds other various positions in the community. However, her opinions here are those of her own, and do not represent any group or association. She and the Times receive no compensation other than paid advertizing. Email her at drj@drjulienelson.com. —she welcomes feedback.]

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Corrections & Clarifications

We did not receive corrections for last month's issue. Please send your corrections or clarifications to the *Times* at:
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National Group Petitions Federal Drug Administration to Ban High-Dose Opioids

A group of state officials and health advocates are petitioning the Food and Drug Administration to ban the production of high-dose opioid medications, saying that the pills when taken as directed are a daily dose of 90 milligrams of morphine.

The petition was signed by leaders of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), reported ABC News.

The ASTHO is national nonprofit organization representing public health agencies in the United States and over 100,000 public health professionals these agencies employ. ASTHO members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, formulate and influence sound public health policy and work to guide state-based public health practice.

Parham Jaber, MD, MPH, Assistant Secretary for Public Health in the Louisiana Department of Health, is listed for the Louisiana representative.

The petition was also signed by Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing, the National Safety Council and the American College of Medical Toxicology. Dr. Andrew Kolodny, physician advocate for opioid reform, said, "The existence of these products implies that they're safe. They're not," said Kolodny, founder of Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing and an outspoken advocate for opioid reform.

More than 15,000 people died from overdoses involving prescription opioids in 2015. Various sources report that 80 percent of those addicted to illegal opioids became hooked through a legal prescription

In June Governor Edwards signed measures to help curb the opioid crisis in Louisiana, where more prescriptions are written each year than there are residents in the state. Louisiana ranks #7 in the states with opioid problems.

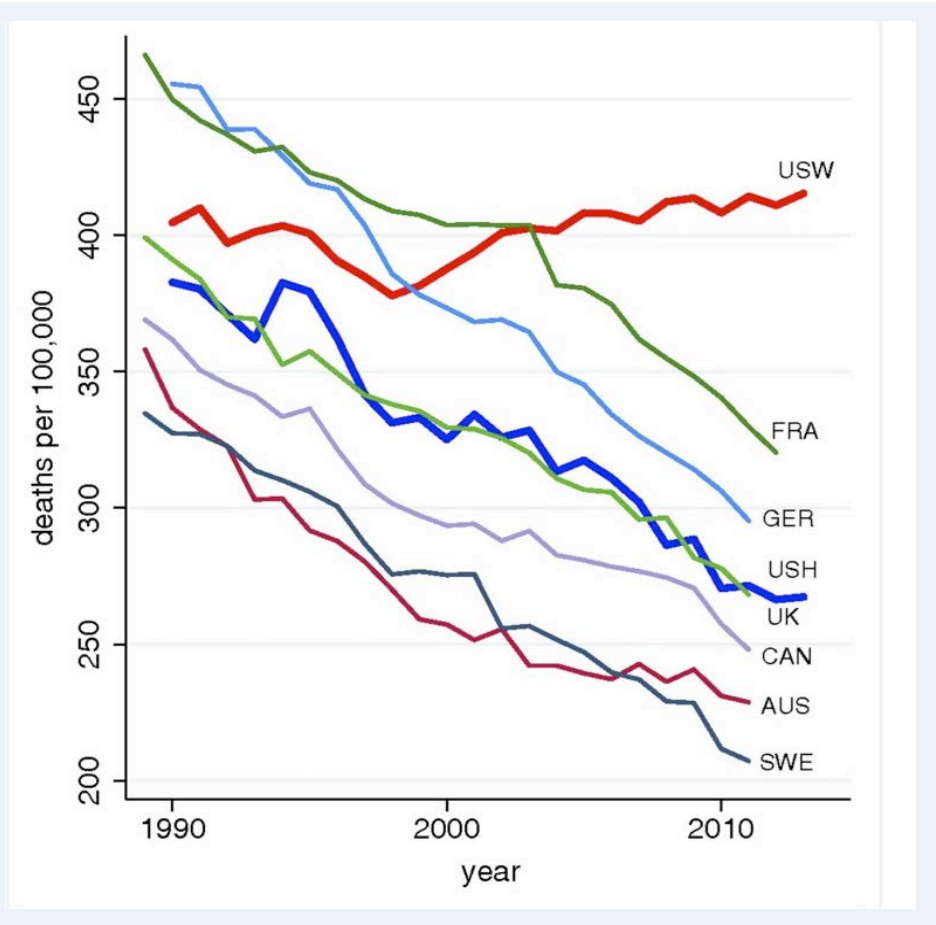
Louisiana lawmakers passed legislation this year to help deal with the problems. Act 76 forced limitations on prescribers of opioids. For acute pain conditions, prescriptions are limited to a seven-day supply.

Act 76 also restricted prescriptions to minors. "... a medical practitioner shall not issue a prescription for an opioid to a minor for more than a seven-day supply at any time and shall discuss with a parent, tutor, or guardian of the minor the risks associated with opioid use and the reasons why the prescription is necessary."

Another new law, Act 82 set up a monitoring program and requirements and continuing education requirements. Physicians must review the patient's record in the Prescription Monitoring Program prior to initially prescribing opioids.

In House Concurrent Resolution 21, lawmakers urged health officials to help undo the attitude changes from drug company marketing that began in 1996, branding pain as a "5th vital sign" and a problem to be medicated aggressively.

Authors of the Resolution point out that the Veterans Health Administration, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, and the Federation of State Medical Boards all embraced the marketing, now resulting in an epidemic of 180 thousand deaths from overdose, from 1999 to 2015, and a quadrupling of prescriptions, according to the CDC.



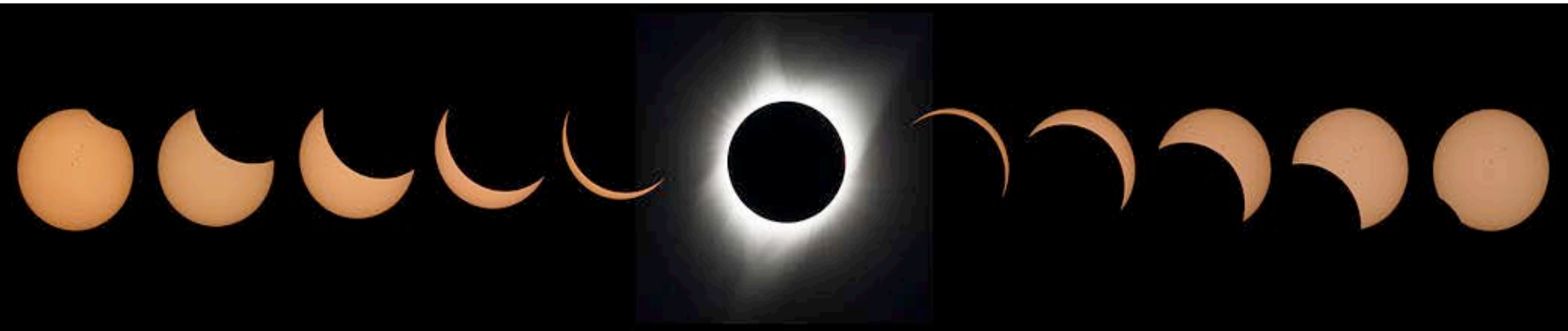
In a now widely publicized study by Anne Case and Angus Deaton, at the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the opioid based deaths are impacting the US mortality rates for whites (red line "USW") in contrast to other countries. (Graph courtesy of PNAS).

Governor Edwards Joins Governors Urging Congress to Stabilize the Health Care Spiral

This week Gov. John Bel Edwards joined Governors John R. Kasich (R-Ohio), Steve Bullock (D-Mont.), Brian Sandoval (R-Nev.), John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.), Tom Wolf (D-Pa.), Terry McAuliffe (D-Va.) and Bill Walker (I-AK) in sending a letter to congressional leaders asking them to follow in the footsteps of American governors who have prioritized the stability and affordability of health care coverage for all Americans. The governors developed a blueprint for reform that should be considered by Congress, said the press release.

"Previously, we have written that changes to our health insurance system should be based on a set of guiding principles that include improving affordability and restoring stability to insurance markets," they wrote. "Reforms should not shift costs to states or fail to provide the necessary resources to ensure that the working poor or those suffering from mental illness, chronic illness or addiction can get the care they need.

"Based on these guiding principles, we recommend (1) immediate federal action to stabilize markets, (2) responsible reforms that preserve recent coverage gains and control costs, and (3) an active federal/state partnership that is based on innovation and a shared commitment to improve overall health system performance. Just as these proposals have brought together governors from across the political spectrum, we are confident they can attract support across party lines in both chambers of Congress."



August marked a rare cosmic event: This composite image of eleven pictures shows the progression of a total solar eclipse from Oregon perspective. On Monday, August 21, 2017, a total solar eclipse swept across a portion of the entire United States, with a partial eclipse visible from Louisiana.

(NASA/Aubrey Gemignani)

“ABLE” Program Reduces Burden on Children and Adults with Disabilities

Gov. John Bel Edwards officially proclaimed August 2017 as #ABLEtoSave Month, raising awareness about the integral role the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act plays in helping individuals with disabilities receive public benefits.

The federal Stephen Beck, Jr. ABLE Act was passed in 2014 and added Section 529A to the federal tax code, which enables individuals with disabilities to save assets without jeopardizing their eligibility for critical public benefits, such as Medicaid and Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI).

The LSUHSC Human Development Center posted that the Louisiana has become the 23rd state to launch an ABLE program. The Louisiana ABLE program, named LA ABLE, will be managed by the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LAOFSA) and the Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority (LATA), the Center noted.

The accounts will be available for Louisiana residents with disabilities. The program allows qualified individuals with disabilities to save up to \$14,000 a year in an ABLE account without jeopardizing their eligibility for certain other benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income and Medicaid. The funds in the account can be used for disability-related expenses that assist the beneficiary in increasing and/or maintaining health or quality of life. More information is available at www.able.osfa.la.gov.

“Thousands of our citizens will be empowered as a direct result of the ABLE Act,” said Gov. Edwards. “It will allow families with children who have disabilities to save for their future expenses, and it will enable working adults to save as well while retaining their vital health benefits through Medicaid or Social Security. Rep. Franklin Foil is to be commended for the work he put into passing this important legislation at the state level.”

Restore Louisiana Task Force Agrees to Increase Funding

At its meeting on Friday, Aug. 18, the Restore Louisiana Task Force unanimously approved Gov. John Bel Edwards’ request to expand the homeowner assistance program to all homeowners who had flood insurance during the March and August 2016 floods.

In addition, the task force unanimously approved the governor’s request to increase grant award amounts to those who are already eligible for both construction work and reimbursements.

The measures, which now go to the governor and then HUD for final approval, could allow thousands more flood-impacted homeowners to apply for awards.

“I want to make certain that the Restore Louisiana program is made available to help as many homeowners as we can,” said Gov. Edwards. “While we can never be fast enough to be satisfied, I have said from the beginning that as more recovery dollars become available, my administration would work to expand the program and benefits to help more homeowners.”

Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Community Development Pat Forbes says the limits were in place because of the state’s need to ensure the program is adequately funded. As grants have been awarded and home inspections and damage assessments have been completed, “It’s clear that there should be enough funds to meet additional unmet needs of affected households,” Forbes said. The measures approved Friday expands eligibility to all homeowners with flood insurance who still have an unmet need after insurance proceeds and increases the percentage of reimbursement, among other changes.

WELL-AHEAD

ABOUT WELLSPOTS WELL-A

MOVING LOUISIANA'S HEALTH FORWARD

Well-Ahead Louisiana is an initiative started by the Louisiana Department of Health aimed at improving the health and wellness of Louisiana residents.

LEARN MORE ▶

WHAT ARE WELLSPOTS ?

BECOME A WELLSPOT

National Healthcare Group Recognizes La Department of Health Well-Ahead Initiative

In an August 22 press release, officials announced that Well-Ahead Louisiana, an initiative of the Louisiana Department of Health, has been honored with the Wellness Frontiers Award from the Healthcare Leadership Council.

Well-Ahead Louisiana earned this recognition for their work to create WellSpots across Louisiana, noted the authors. WellSpots are worksites, hospitals, schools, child care centers, colleges/universities and restaurants that have worked with the Louisiana Department of Health to meet wellness benchmarks and to implement voluntary, smart changes to make healthier living easier for all Louisiana residents.

There are currently 2,267 Well Spots across the state. “Each WellSpot designation is a small step toward improving Louisiana’s health outcomes and reducing the financial and personal cost of chronic disease,” said Melissa Martin, Director of Well-Ahead Louisiana.

WellSpots can be searched on the website, categorized by zip code or area and types, which include child care centers, colleges, hospitals, worksites and even restaurants. For example, in Baton Rouge, Another Broken Egg is a WellSpot. In New Orleans, Blaze Pizza is a WellSpot. Brown Bag Gourmet in Marksville and Blue Line Sandwich Co in Metairie are WellSpots.

Well-Ahead Louisiana is an initiative of the Louisiana Department of Health aimed at improving the health and wellness of Louisiana residents. Well-Ahead Louisiana aims to foster a statewide community-based network that promotes health in all

places and spaces, connecting organizations and residents across the state to the resources that will make healthy living easily accessible. For information go to www.wellaheadla.com

Partners include many organizations and agencies. These include: Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Children's Bureau of New Orleans Healthy BR, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Region VI Field Office, Louisiana Association of Principals, Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum, Louisiana Housing Council, Louisiana Public Health Institute – Tobacco Free Living, Louisiana Restaurant Association, Louisiana State University Tobacco Control Initiative, March of Dimes, Pennington Biomedical Research Center, School Nutrition Association of Louisiana, Smoking Cessation Trust, Southeast Dairy Association, Southeast Louisiana Area Health Education Center, Southern University Ag Center, Tulane Prevention Research Center, and the YMCA of the Capital Area.

“The greatest healthcare challenge our nation faces today is the escalation of chronic illnesses like diabetes and heart disease. The good news is that we can successfully combat this problem through innovative approaches that encourage wellness and healthy lifestyles,” said Mary R. Grealy, president of the Healthcare Leadership Council.

State & National News

LSBEP \$400K continued

And in 2015, the board took in \$263,691 in fees and spent \$275,147. For 2015, the fund balance was listed at \$120,188.

However, in 2016, the board spent \$336,677 while proceeds remained steady at \$265,945. Budget tracking indicates a fund balance of minus \$214,818.

The change in the fund balance from 2015 to 2016 is not clear, based on the tracking numbers as given.

For the current year of 2017, expenses are projected to be \$388,903. Income continues at the same general level, projected to be \$263,265.

The budget figures indicate that board’s projected budget for 2018 will be a fund of minus \$400,595. Expenses for 2018 are projected to be \$327,871 with income again holding steady at \$269,755.

The Boards & Commissions site also provides information and various breakdowns of the budget items, with data from 2010 to the present.

According to the tracking of expenditures from 2014 to 2017, the employee salaries and benefits have increased from \$125,839 in 2014 to \$148,946 in the current year. This amounts to an 18 percent increase.

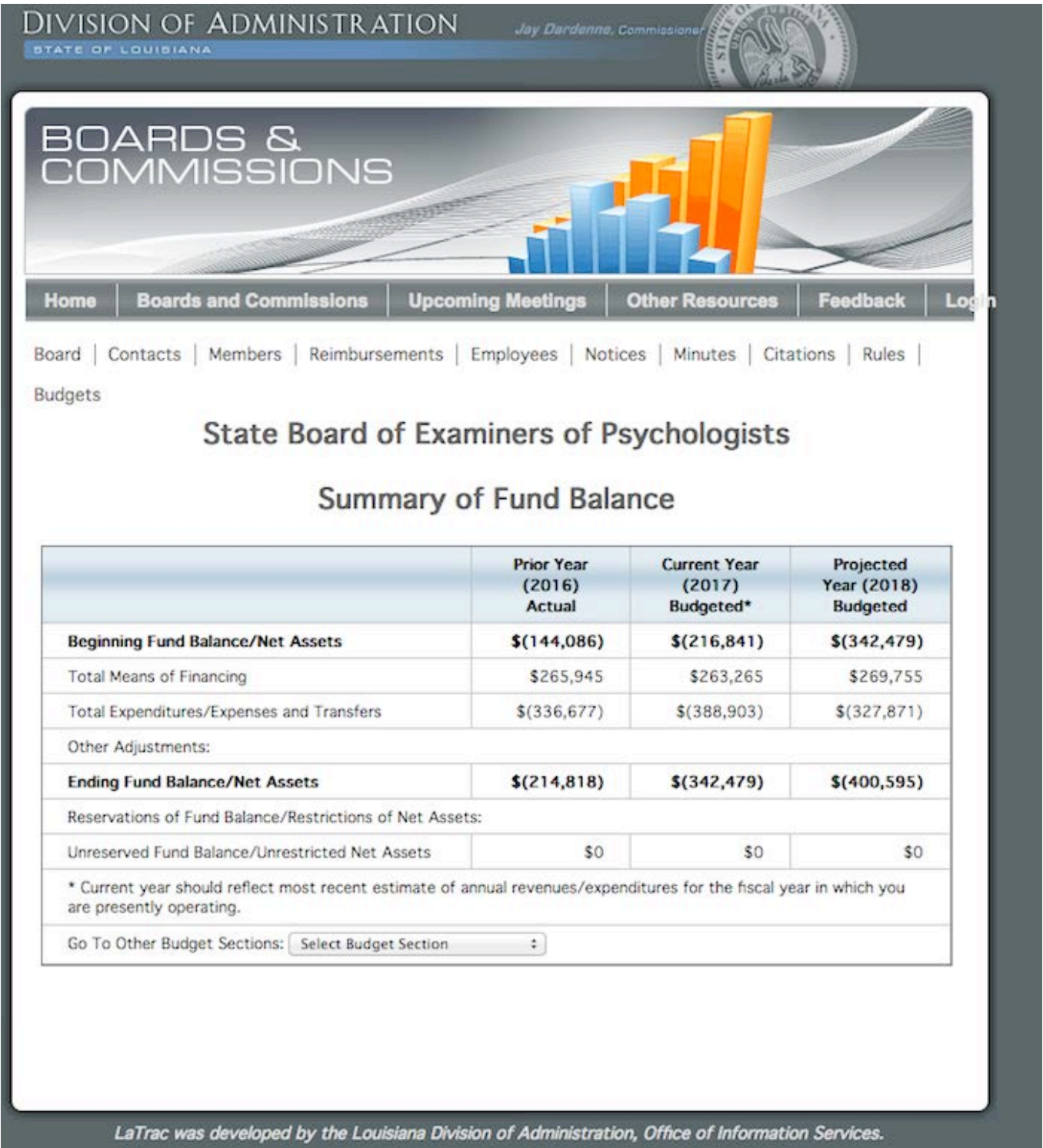
Over this same time, operating expenses decreased from \$66,974 in 2014 to \$57,858 in 2017, a drop of 13.6 percent.

Professional services, another category of expense, has increased from \$56,704 in 2014 to \$135,767 for 2017. This is an increase of 139 percent. For 2018 the total for professional services is projected to be \$182,099, or an increase of 221 percent.

For the budget figures, the professional services category includes four subcategories: Accounting, Management Consulting, Legal, and Other. From 2014 to 2017 all increased, while legal increased the most at 247 percent.

In 2014 Accounting was \$1,331, Management Consulting was \$4,495, Legal was \$37,882, and Other was \$12,996.

For 2017, Accounting is projected at \$9,849, Management Consulting is \$15,600, Legal is \$131,500, and Other is \$25,150.



Screen shot from Boards & Commissions for 2017 and 2018 projection.

This information is available at <https://wwwcfprd.doa.louisiana.gov/boardsAndCommissions/home.cfm>

At the LSBEP regular meeting, held on June 16 at the offices in Baton Rouge, Chair Dr. Darla Burnett reported that she reviewed the bank and financial records.

According to the minutes, “Dr. Burnett also reported that she had reviewed the current financial state of the Board with Ms. Monic, noting the two biggest expenses are employees and legal fees. Dr. Burnett thanked Board Members for waiving their Per Diem and Travel reimbursements in FY 2016-17 to attend Board meetings, committee meetings, and LPA, and recommended, in an effort to remain fiscally responsible, that the Board continue to waive reimbursement and travel in the 2017-18 fiscal year given the anticipated deficit.

“Dr. Burnett further recommended that the Board continue to actively consider revenue development initiatives including review and approval of continuing education programs, inactive status, additional licensure types or registration of psychological assistants, providing continuing

education workshops, and as a last resort, changes to staff.”

The LSBEP called a special meeting July 7, held in New Orleans, and met in Executive Session, apparently to deal with personnel and financial matters.

According to the agenda and minutes, “The Board reviewed and discussed applicant qualifications for prosecuting attorney. The Board reviewed and discussed layoffs. The Board reviewed and discussed qualifications and affirmed the current list of evaluators as approved to perform psychological/neuropsychological evaluations/fitness for duty examinations under LA R.S. Ch. 37 §§ 2356, 2356.1, 2356.2, and 2356.3: [...]”

“The Board reviewed proposals for a contract for prosecuting attorney for the 2017-18 Fiscal Year due to the current financial status of the Board. Dr. Henke reported receiving proposals and vitas from three well qualified prosecuting attorneys. By motion of Dr. Henke, the Board voted to award the contract to Attorney Courtney P. Newton beginning July 7, 2017 – June 30, 2018, in an amount not to exceed \$28,000. The fee schedule should reflect the following rate of pay: \$100 per hour plus travel

and expenses that are preapproved in accordance with Policy and Procedure Memo 50.”

Previously the prosecuting attorney, Mr. James Raines, charged \$250 hour. While unclear, it appears that Mr. Raines may no longer be with the board.

The July 7 minutes also note, “The Board revisited the need to have a second contract for Complaints Coordinator. Dr. Boggs moved to offer a contract not to exceed \$5,000 for an auxiliary Complaints Coordinator to Dr. Joseph Constans for overflow or for matters unable to be handled by Dr. Lambert.”

The board also moved to lay off the administrative assistant. According to the minutes, “The Board continued discussing its current financial status and outlook. Recognizing that the Board could no longer delay action given the current financial state versus the time it will take to recover and/or further develop revenue sources, Dr. Henke, moved that in addition to the recommendations presented in June 2017, the Board temporarily layoff the Administrative Assistant position. The motion passed unanimously.”

State & National News

One Mind Symposium
Held August 23 in BR

One Mind Symposium: A Response to Persons Affected by Mental Illness, sponsored by International Association of Police Chiefs (IAPC), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA-GAIN), and the Capital Region Mental Health Team (CRMH Team) was held Wednesday, August 23rd, at the Renaissance Hotel in Baton Rouge. Over 100 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers, judicial system professionals, mental health professionals, and elected officials were in attendance.

The One Mind Symposium began with opening remarks from State Representative Valarie Hodges, Governor John Bel Edwards, Senator Bill Cassidy, Mayor Sharon Broome, and Chief Louis Dekmar, IAPC's Ascending President. In his remarks, Dekmar emphasized how the law enforcement officers can use calming techniques and then de-escalation techniques, to manage a situation where an individual is aggravated and agitated, and by employing these techniques de-escalate the situation.

The CRMH Team was chosen as hosts from teams all across the U.S., and worked with IAPC and SAMSHA-GAIN to host this interactive symposium. The CRMH Team includes team leader Commander Lawrence E. Callender, HSITFO, Dr. James Hussey from the Assistant Secretary Office of Behavioral Health of the Louisiana Department of Health, Thomas Jarlock from DHH, SSgt Patrick Bedwell from the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office, and State Rep. Valarie Hodges. The afternoon sessions were focused on various programs and techniques currently being implemented and resources available around Louisiana. Point Coupee Sheriff Bud Torres shared Best Practices procedures he has implemented and the successes that he had in the Point Coupee Sheriff's Office. EBRP Coroner, Dr. Beau Clark, gave an overview of what is happening in EBRP regarding persons suffering mental illness and substance abuse. Sheriff Randy Smith and Maj. Wharton Muller with St. Tammy Sheriff's Office and Ex. Dir. Richard Cramer, Florida Parishes Human Services Authority, shared Crisis Intervention Techniques (CIT) that the St. Tammy Sheriff's Office has implemented. Ex. Dir., Dr. Jan Kasofsy, and Dir. of Training and Emergency Preparedness, John Nosacka, with Capital Area Human Services (CASA) presented statistics and gave information services in the capital region.

A course of Mental Health First Aid for law enforcement on Thursday, August 24th provided an overview of mental health issues, warning signs and de-escalation tactics, geared toward first responders and law enforcement officers.

Rep. Hodges said, "This symposium, along with the Mental Health First Aid course, has given law enforcement and government officials the opportunity to come together with behavioral health professionals to discuss the best possible ways of handling mental health issues that may arise. We could also save millions of dollars by incorporating Best Practices instead of incarcerating non-violent offenders. [...]," she said.



Members of the psychology board at a previous meeting. Out-going Chair, Dr. Darla Burnett (L), Dr. Jesse Lambert, and Dr. Koren Boggs. The board is struggling with budget problems. In other business, they recently issued two Opinions supporting the work of the subcommittee for Specialists in School Psychology.

Psychology Board Issues Two Opinions
Supporting Requests of Specialists' Practice

In June the Psychology Board reviewed information and requests by the Licensed Specialist in School Psychology Committee and voted favorably on two Opinions. The minutes, approved July 28 list the Opinions:

Opinion #21 Regarding the provision of educational services to students in Postsecondary Education. Colleges and universities provide accommodations for enrolled students with identified disabilities as required through the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The institution supports these undergraduate and graduate students with services such as educational testing, review of formal evaluations, identification and implementation of appropriate accommodations, consultation with faculty, and skill development. An individual with an earned LSSP is qualified to provide educational and psychological assessment and recommendations related to school performance and educational needs. It is the opinion of the board that provision of school psychology services within a college or university disabilities center is within the scope of practice for an LSSP as stated in ACT No. 136. Licensees should understand that the services provided within a college or university disabilities center would remain within the scope of practice stated in ACT No. 136.

Opinion #22 Provision of school psychology services through Early Steps Early Steps is a program administered by the Louisiana Department of Health for infants and toddlers (aged 0-3) with delays in cognitive, motor, vision, hearing, communication, social-emotional and adaptive behaviors. The Department of Health implements early intervention for eligible children and their families as required by the United States Department of Education (34 CFR Part 303). The IDEA - Part C regulations include psychological services to eligible children within a multidisciplinary assessment and intervention framework. Professional staff are

employed or contracted by the Department of Health to fulfill assessment and intervention needs of referred children.

Psychological services as described in § 303.13 are consistent with the qualifications of an LSSP, and include

“(i) Administering psychological and developmental tests and other assessment procedures; (ii) Interpreting assessment results; (iii) Obtaining, integrating, and interpreting information about child behavior and child and family conditions related to learning, mental health, and development; and (iv) Planning and managing a program of psychological services, including psychological counseling for children and parents, family counseling, consultation on child development, parent training, and education programs.”

Historically, in Louisiana, Early Steps was administered through the State Department of Education and fully staffed by appropriately certified professional school system employees at the district level. Multidisciplinary teams for the Early Steps program typically include certified school psychologists, licensed social workers, occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech therapist, and other related disciplines. While the administration of the Early Steps program has moved to a different agency, there have not been significant changes to services provided to children and families. It is the opinion of the board that an individual with an earned LSSP is qualified to provide school psychology services through the Early Steps program. The LSSP has the requisite training and professional practice history working within a multidisciplinary team format in the preparation of comprehensive integrated psychoeducational evaluation reports as well as service planning and implementation for individuals from birth through age 21. The licensee should understand that the scope of practice in providing these services remains consistent with ACT No. 136.



Senator Regina Barrow (L) and Dr. Lacey Seymour in 2016. Recently, Dr. Seymour was appointed to represent the Louisiana Psychological Association on a Medicaid Integrated Assessment Task Force, aimed to create better outcomes for those with serious mental illness.

International Group Meets to Discuss Louisiana’s Efforts to Help Victims of Human Trafficking

In August State Representative Valarie Hodges, R-Denham Springs, met with international visitors representing different countries along with two U.S. State Department international visitor liaisons to discuss human trafficking, according to the press release, August 22. Included were representatives from Afghanistan, Germany, Hong Kong S.A.R., India, Japan, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, and Thailand.

These international visitors were invited to the United States by the Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program to study the theme “Combating Trafficking in Humans.” The group’s objective is to examine local and international laws on human trafficking and global efforts to fight such issues. “Many of us do not realize the gravity of the situation and how it impacts us here at home, and it is my goal to increase awareness of this issue in the hopes of stopping such acts from occurring,” said Rep. Hodges.

Rep. Hodges discussed state-level legislation that provides support for victims of human trafficking. They were given information regarding SB 42, which created a 17 member Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission on which Hodges serves, and information Louisiana’s past legislation in the area of human trafficking, trafficking of children for sexual purposes, and commercial sexual exploitation.

Dr. Rafael Salcedo serves on the Prevention Commission’s Advisory Board, appointed July 28 to the position by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

Dr. Rafael Salcedo, known for his advocacy and comprehensive treatment program for the young victims of human sex trafficking, was named the 2017 Distinguished Psychologist by the Louisiana Psychological Association.

Dr. Salcedo also chairs the Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA) Committee for Community Psychology & Psychology in the Public Interest.

In 2012, Rafael and wife Beth, a licensed speech-language pathologist, founded the non-profit, advocacy group, the Louisiana Coalition Against Human Trafficking.

The couple founded the “Free Indeed Home,” named from John 8:36, “Whom the Son has set free is free indeed.”

Dr. Salcedo and Beth Salcedo are experts in Complex PTSD, which many, even many in the mental health field, do not fully understand.

Salcedo is a licensed Clinical Psychologist with subspecialties in the area of forensic and neuropsychology, providing services for issues such as competency to stand trial, sanity at the time of crime, and other legal issues. He consults to the court system in Orleans, Jefferson, Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes, to the Office of Community Services, and has worked with the Department of Children and Family Services for the last 25 years.

Dr. Seymour to Serve on Medicaid Task Force

Dr. Lacey Seymour will serve as the representative to the Medicaid Integrated Assessment Task Force, a group created by Representative Barbara Norton and others, with the goal to “make a thorough study and evaluation of Louisiana’s current statewide system of healthcare delivery for Medicaid enrollees with serious mental illness.”

Dr. Seymour will represent the Louisiana Psychological Association on the Task Force. She is a licensed psychologist and a past-president of the association. She also Chairs the association’s committee on integrative health approaches.

Representative Norton’s House Concurrent Resolution No.55, also noted, “...the mental health and well-being of the residents of Louisiana is a vital issue that affects not only quality of life, but also the health of communities, families, and economic stability.”

The Resolution notes that 44 million adults in the United States live with mental illness and 20 percent of children and adolescents have a diagnosable mental health disorder; and one in 25 individuals in the United States has lived with a serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or major depression; and those with serious mental illness die, on average, 25 years earlier than individuals in the general population.

Individuals with mental illness, behavioral health disorders, or co-occurring substance use disorders can recover through treatment that includes psychosocial therapy, clinical treatment, and peer support, alone or in combination with behavioral, psychiatric, psychological, or integrated medical services, notes the Resolution.

And, “the unintended consequence of untreated mental illness results in a negative financial and social impact on Louisiana including an ever-increasing burden on the criminal justice system.”

The legislature declares that, “due to compelling moral and economic reasons, it is in the best interest of Louisiana to study and evaluate the state’s current statewide system of healthcare delivery for Medicaid enrollees with serious mental illness.”

The group includes a variety of representatives, including those from Louisiana Department of Health , the office of behavioral health, Louisiana Department of Health, the Medicaid program of the Louisiana Department of Health, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, youth services, office of juvenile justice, the state superintendent of education, Louisiana School Counselor Association, the Louisiana Mental Health Planning Council, the Louisiana Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners, Louisiana Counseling Association, Louisiana Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, National Association of Social Workers, Louisiana Chapter, the Louisiana Association of Clinical Social Workers, the Louisiana Hospital Association, Louisiana State Medical Society, and the Louisiana Association of Substance Abuse Counselors and Trainers.



The Cajun Navy and others took off to help the neighboring state, and were welcomed by the Texas Governor and FEMA. This photo by Barbara Mumphrey was continually retweeted. “#Houston Hang on. The CAJUN NAVY is already activated and on the way.”

Hurricanes continued

Many from Louisiana rushed to help in Texas, with donations, services, cash and setting up shelters.

Dr. Mark Crosby, who led in recovery for the Watson, Louisiana community, ground zero for the Flood of 2016, told the *Times*, “We’re sending supplies.”

Crosby said, “The first thing people want is to know someone cares,” he said. “Teams, crews, family and friends coming in to *help* is important. Next, financial assistance, gift cards, cash. No clothes. No clichés. Someone to listen.”

Houston’s woes follow on the heels of what some in the Baton Rouge area are still attempting to recover from, the Flood of 2016.

Like in Harvey, the August ‘16 flood was bizarre rainfall event that was, “...unlike anything we have ever seen before,” Crosby said last year. “The Flood of 2016 will go down in the history books as one of the worse natural disasters in our community, Crosby said.

Harvey, however, has rewritten the history books with over 50 inches of total rainfall being reported.

However, over the last generation, Katrina remains the most expensive and fatal of all the storms. Using data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Moody’s analytics, and New York Times, the website fivethirtyeight.com lists the top five storms:

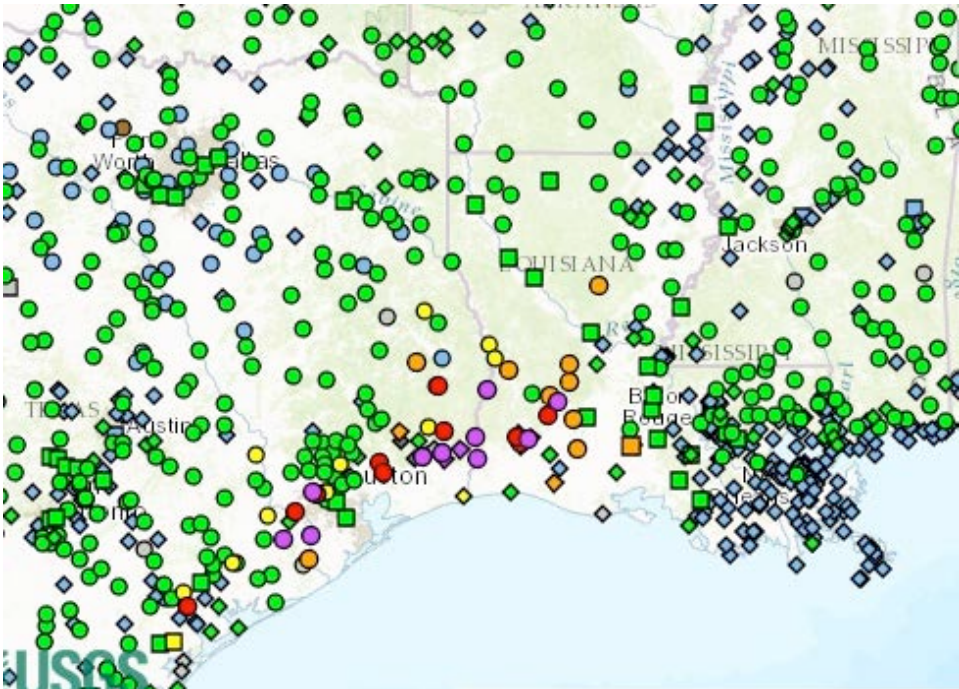
1. Hurricane Katrina, Aug. 25, 2005. Damages were \$160.0 billion and deaths at 1,833.
2. Hurricane Sandy, Oct. 30, 2012. Damages were \$70.2 billion and deaths at 159.
3. Hurricane Rita, September 20, 2005. Damages were \$23.7 billion and deaths at 119.
4. Hurricane Ike, September 12, 2008. Damages were \$34.8 billion and deaths at 112.
5. Hurricane Hugo, September 21, 1989. Damages were \$34.8 billion and deaths at 112.

Harvey stands to top Katrina in property damage, but many predict that Houston will recover, driven by its economic stability and business culture. But twelve years later, New Orleans is still not fully recovered. Today, the city is only 80 percent of the population prior to Katrina.

A US attorney for the Eastern District said that many companies left after Katrina and did not return because of the state’s acceptance of corruption. Former Representative Billy Tauzin characterized the state: “Half of Louisiana is under water and the other half is under indictment.” Following Katrina a Senate seat flipped to Republican and so did the governor’s office. The New Orleans Mayor was sent to jail for bribery charges and the Democratic congressman was also convicted.

Rebuilding, even for Houston will take time. “The problem for so many is rebuilding,” said Crosby, “relocating and restarting their lives as schools try to reopen, as businesses try to salvage their operations and as neighborhoods ...” he said.

And just as the clean-up starts in Texas and Louisiana, here comes Irma and Jose.



Rain gauge map from national weather services, showing results from Harvey. Purple indicates major flooding, red moderate, and orange minor.



A Coast Guard Gulf Strike Team member from Mobile helps a pet out of floodwaters in Texas. Sixty-five percent of households have pets and many were also rescued.

(Photo by CG Petty Officer 3rd Class Ryan Dickinson)



Some Readings for
Hurricane Season

Lifespan Perspectives on Natural Disasters: Coping with Katrina, Rita, and Other Storms

Katie E. Cherry, PhD, Editor
2009, Springer

Traumatic Stress and Long-Term Recovery: Coping with Disasters and Other Negative Life Events

Katie Cherry, Editor
2015, Springer

Louisiana State University Professor, Dr. Katie Cherry is one of the top scholars in country on the psychology of disasters. She has two comprehensive, scholarly volumes dealing with the psychology of disasters, providing essential information for those working in this area. Dr. Cherry is the executive director of the LSU Life Course and Aging Center and has studied how different people are impacted by disasters and who may be the hardest hit.

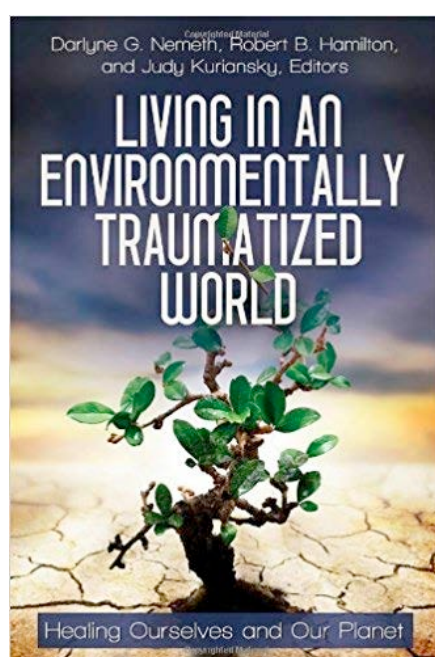
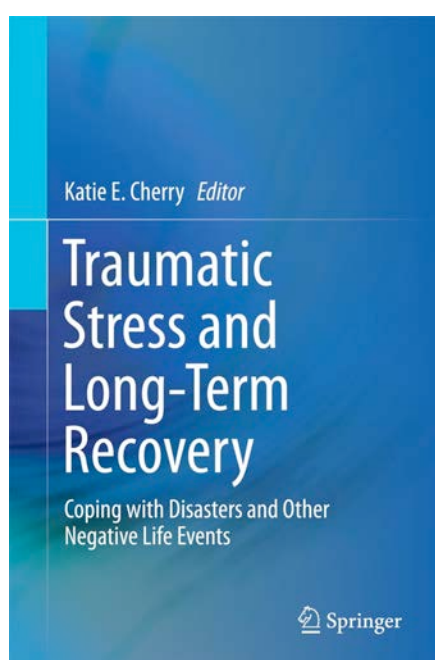
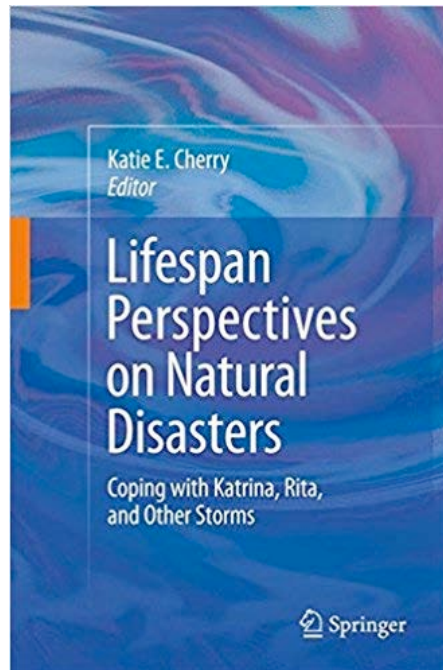
As samples, *Traumatic stress* includes sections on: Traumatic Experiences, Consequences of Traumatic Exposure, and Healing after Trauma. Chapters include topics on traumatic experiences of wildfires, tornadoes, earthquakes, mass shootings, war captivity, early hardship and health across the lifespan, appraisal, adaptation, bereavement after trauma, healing, resilience and long-term recovery, positive adaption, relationships, grief, and forgiveness.

Living in an Environmentally Traumatized World

Darlyne Nemeth, PhD
Robert Hamilton, PhD
Judy Kuriansky, PhD

The edited volume comes from years of hands on experience and thoughtful awareness to a world that is changing under the feet of those living in it. Dr. Nemeth and her colleagues have worked closely with the stages of recovery. Living gives perspectives from both the psychological and environmental views.

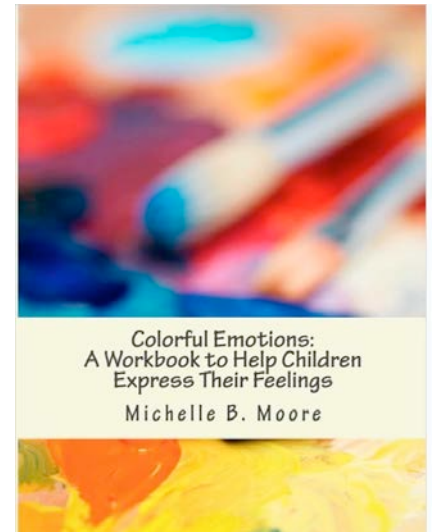
After Katrina Nemeth and co-collaborators developed a set of interventions called Wellness Workshops, aimed at supporting the emotional recovery of those dealing with loss and trauma, through its stages. This important work is part of what contributed to *Living in an Environmentally Traumatized World*.



Colorful Emotions: A Workbook to Help Children Express Their Feelings

Michelle Moore, PsyD

Dr. Michelle Moore, using her strong background in psychotherapeutic and educational techniques, created and produced a delightful book that can be used to help youngsters express and label their emotions. *Colorful Emotions: A Workbook to Help Children Express Their Feelings*.



Colorful Emotions may be useful in helping children express and cope, in the context of other insights about the disaster and the child's feelings.

Dr. Moore, a licensed clinical psychologist with a certificate in Infant Mental Health Specialist Certification, is also Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, at LSU Health Sciences Center, Department of Psychiatry, Section of Psychology, in New Orleans. At the Center she is also Associate Director of Pre-Doctoral Training.

Information sheet:

Helping Kids Cope with Traumatic Events

Anna Long, PhD

LSU Speakers

LSU Department of Psychology Assistant Professor

Dr. Long's tip sheet is a quick and useable guide available online through the LSU website. The information can offer guidance or confirm what a parent is already thinking, about how to communicate and how to relate to a youngster at a time of a disaster. From reaffirming the sense of wellbeing and safety, to fostering resilience, to being observant about individual reactions, Dr. Long's tip sheet is clear, easy to understand, and useable. She helps point to issues that elevate the stress and points out factors to be watchful for, with a compassionate and understanding tone.

Find the tip sheet at:

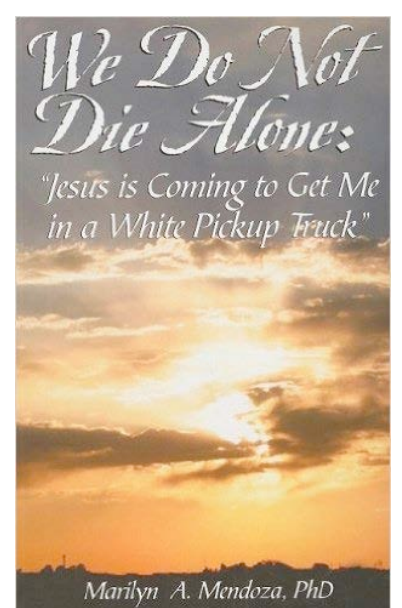
[Helping Kids Cope with Traumatic Events](http://www.lsu.edu/psychology/helping-kids-cope-with-traumatic-events)

We Do Not Die Alone; Psychology Today Blog

Marilyn Mendoza, PhD

Dr. Marilyn Mendoza is an expert in grief, trauma, bereavement, spiritual and women's issues. She writes a blog for *Psychology Today* on the topic of loss and is the author of *We Do Not Die Alone*. She is Clinical Instructor at Tulane Medical School Dept. of Psychiatry.

Mendoza points out that for those who have lost loved ones, or major possessions, traumatic grief can result. While *We Do Not Die Alone* is not a self-help book about grief, or even a typical text, the metaphysical subtext may be comforting for some. Mendoza's blog on grief can be found at www.psychologytoday.com/blog/understanding-grief.



Science & Education

Chafetz at Swedish Neuropsychological Society continued

At the Neuropsychological Society Chafetz’s presentation was titled, “The Long and Short of Malingering in Neuropsychological Assessment: Ethical, Scientific, and Practical Concerns.”

He also presented “Validity Assessment in Public Disability Claims,” at the Karolinska Institute, Danderyds Hospital on August 23.

Dr. Chafetz covered many ethical and scientific issues for the Swedish neuropsychologists, including understanding the definitions and background regarding malingering, biological bases, adaptation and behavioral biology, and the rigorous development of the field. He also reviewed validity and base rates and important metrics for the neuropsychologists in evidence-based methods.

Dr. Chafetz also covered ethics and boundaries regarding the validity examination in disability and numerous case examples, along with the special case of low IQ, malingered pain-related disability, costs of malingering, and malingering in children.

Presenting at previous sessions of this conference have been Muriel Lezak, whose book on *Neuropsychological Assessment* is required reading in the field, and Grant Iverson, who is a leading researcher on validity and on traumatic brain injury.

The conference was organized by Dr. Christian Oldenburg, President of the Eastern Region of the society. Dr. Oldenburg is a neuropsychologist who, along with his colleagues is working to assist the Swedish disability system.

Dr. Chafetz has consulted for a United States Senator on Social Security policy concerning validity assessment, testified at hearings at the Institute of Medicine, and consulted for the Office of the Inspector General on these issues.

He has presented invited addresses at the American Psychological Association, National Academy of Neuropsychology, American Academy of Clinical Psychology, several state psychological associations, the Association of Administrative Law Judges, the Federal Administrative Law Judge Conference, and various bar associations.

In 2015, his book on *Intellectual Disability* in the forensic arena was published by Oxford University Press.



Tulane’s Dr. Michael Cunningham (L) was recently honored for his work with inspiring young people. Other honorees are biomedical engineering associate professor Michael Moore (C) and doctoral student Katherine Elfer. Dr. Cunningham is Tulane psychology Professor, and Associate Provost at Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, African and African Diaspora Studies Program.

(Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano/Courtesy Tulane)

Tulane’s Dr. Cunningham Honored for Inspiring Young Leaders in Science

Tulane psychology Professor, and Associate Provost at Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, African and African Diaspora Studies Program, Dr. Michael Cunningham, has been named as one of the national winners of the 2017 Inspiring Leaders in STEM, reported by Barri Bronston of Tulane news in July.

“Inspiring Leaders in STEM Award recipients were nominated by colleagues and selected by Insight Into Diversity...” The candidates were considered for their “efforts to inspire and encourage a new generation of young people to consider careers in STEM through mentoring, teaching, research, and successful programs and initiatives,” reported Bronston.

Dr. Cunningham has authored an extensive list of research on areas of importance for understanding young African Americans, including “African American adolescent males' perceptions of their community resources and constraints: A longitudinal analysis,” in the *Journal of Community Psychology*.

He has also authored, The Black Male Experiences Measure,” in *Handbook of Tests and Measurements for Black Populations*; “School and community-based associations to hypermasculine attitudes in African American adolescent males,” in *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*; and “Sex role influences of African American adolescent males: a literature review” in *Journal of African American Male Studies*.

Dr. Cunningham teaches Introduction to African American Psychology, Adolescent Psychology, Black Youth: Developmental Psychology Perspectives, Research Methods in Urban Communities, New Orleans Youth: Resilience and Vulnerability in Tomorrow’s Leaders, Advance Adolescent Psychology and Children of Color, at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

He was invited to participate at the National Science Foundation’s sponsored Colloquy on Minority Males in STEM, and is the recipient of the Barbara E. Moely Award for outstanding Service Learning Teaching, Tulane University.

In 2013 he was named with the Distinguished Contributions to the Society for Research in Child Development Award.

Dr. Cunningham is also the Suzanne and Stephen Weiss Presidential Fellow at Tulane.

Tulane’s biomedical engineering associate professor Michael Moore and doctoral student Katherine Elfer, were also honored in the national award and will be featured with Dr. Cunningham and others in the September 2017 issue of *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine.

Louisiana
School Psychological
Association

Dr. Conni Patterson
Scholarship Fund

Donations c/o
www.lspaonline.org

Student Corner

ULM Grad Student
Seth Tackett Earns
APA Travel Award

ULM News Report

Seth Tackett, a first-year graduate student in psychology at the University of Louisiana Monroe (ULM), traveled to Washington, D.C., Aug. 3-6, to present his research at the 125th Annual American Psychological Association Convention, according to ULM news.

Tackett, is from Oak Grove, Louisiana, and earned his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from ULM in 2016.

This is the first time a ULM psychology student has received the APA Student Travel Award, which according to Bill McCown, Ph.D., Associate Dean and Professor of Psychology, is quite an honor, said the report.

Tackett was among more than 250 students to apply and only a few were selected. McCown said the award is rarely given to master's degree students, and that it usually goes to doctoral candidates at Tier 1 schools who are completing dissertation research.

"Selections were based on the merit of the students' research," McCown told ULM News, "with some 'really big players' competing."

In his research, Tackett examined minority students' graduation rates, fears of failure, gender-role conflicts and choices of college majors.

Mr. Tackett believes that if minority students and their advisors become aware of psychological factors that shape students' expectations and performances, it will lead to optimal career planning and better goal setting, noted the article.

"I am from a small Louisiana town, but at ULM I have been exposed to people and ideas from all over the world," Tackett said to ULM News. "My research mentors, Dr. Janelle McDaniel and Dr. Jack Palmer, are as inspirational and as dedicated as anyone could find anywhere."

Tackett plans to follow in the footsteps of his mentors after he earns his Master of Science in General Psychology.

"After I graduate I plan to pursue my Ph.D. in psychology and achieve my dream of becoming a professor," he said to ULM News.

"I can't imagine any other university preparing me better for the next phase of my life. The skills I learned here will be with me forever."

Stress Solutions

by Susan Andrews, PhD

***The Traumatic Stress of Harvey Can Have
Unrecognized Long-Term Consequences***

Psychologists well understand the consequences of trauma and forms of severe stress. And, even though they may not have all the words to describe what happens to them, almost every person who is intimately involved with a crisis, such as Harvey, knows the effects – “first-hand.” Property loss, health consequences for some, environmental devastation, and likely changes in schedule and lifestyle are just some of the more physical consequences. The dollar cost of Harvey will be staggering.

However, the emotional impact will be far greater and impossible to place a “price tag” on. There is no recovering a lifetime of memories when your family photobooks or your mom’s china or your child’s school records are swept away by floodwater. I remember friends and family digging through the stench after Katrina’s floodwaters finally subsided, looking for anything that might have survived. Some of us can set that aside and not let the grief and traumatic memories of the losses evolve into depression and anxiety-related disorders. Others are not that resilient.

But, there is another less known and understood consequence of trauma that I want to talk about today. Research I found when I was writing *Stress Solutions for Pregnant Moms* indicated that an unnamed group of victims can be the unborn children of women who are pregnant in the midst of a crisis. Medical historians long ago identified that war and natural disasters have significant effects on the children born to women who were pregnant during such events. The van Os study (*British Journal of Psychiatry* 1998) revealed an increase in schizophrenia among children born to women who were pregnant during the May 1940 invasion of the Netherlands. Laplante et al (*Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* 2008) explored the cognitive and linguistic functions of 5-year-old children whose mothers had been stranded in a Quebec ice storm. There are several important findings from this study: (1) Children of mothers who experienced high stress during the severe ice storm scored significantly lower on Full Scale IQ and on scales that measure verbal abstract reasoning and information as compared to children of mothers who experienced moderate or low stress during the same natural disaster. (2) The study suggests that timing of the exposure to the natural disaster is important, with poorer outcomes associated with first and second trimester exposure. (3) The negative effects associated with prenatal stress were seen at 2 years, 5 ½ years, and 8 ½ years of age, indicating relatively long-lasting effects.

Countless articles are being published in international journals on this topic leading the American Academy of Pediatrics to issue a landmark warning on January 1, 2012. In their report entitled “The Lifelong Effects of Early Childhood Adversity and Toxic Stress,” they reviewed converging lines of scientific evidence that illustrate how different types of stress can leave a lasting mark on a child’s developing brain and long-term health. The American Academy of Pediatrics’ position paper acknowledges that the period of time from conception through early childhood is critical. They include prenatal stress in their definition of toxic stress and say that children exposed to early stressful conditions are more likely to struggle in school, have short tempers, manage stress poorly, and tangle with the law.

And, while we know how damaging natural disasters are, we do not really know how to mitigate the consequences to people. I hope people can at least be conscious of the effects and work on solutions.



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) and 2016 Distinguished Psychologist of the Louisiana Psychological Association.



THE UNIVERSITY of NEW ORLEANS

Position Announcement

POSITION TITLE:

Assistant Professor in Applied Developmental Psychology

POSITION #: 1916

DEPARTMENT: Psychology

POSITION SUMMARY: The psychology department at the University of New Orleans (UNO) is seeking applicants for one full-time tenure-track faculty position at the level of assistant professor. Recently recognized as the highest ranked Ph.D. program at the University of New Orleans, the psychology department has a group of energetic and highly productive faculty. The Department has two strong and unique Ph.D. programs: one in Applied Biological Psychology and one in Applied Developmental Psychology. There is a strong context of collaboration and integration across research labs, faculty, and the programs. More information on the department is available at <http://www.uno.edu/cos/psychology/index.aspx>.

We are particularly interested in developmental candidates with strong potential for externally funded research and whose area of research complements existing research programs in the department. Candidates with a developmental research emphasis or a developmental-biopsychology research emphasis studying the etiology, prevalence, onset, or trajectory of behaviors and stressors associated with childhood psychopathology are particularly encouraged to apply.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Conduct programmatic research on the development of psychopathology, undergraduate and graduate teaching, supervision of graduate students, and service to the department, university and community.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS: Applicants must have a Ph.D. in psychology; individuals trained in any area of developmental or biological psychology will be considered, as long as their research contributes to theories and/or applications related to psychopathology.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS: Expertise in clinical psychology, developmental psychology or childhood psychopathology, especially with translational research programs or interests.

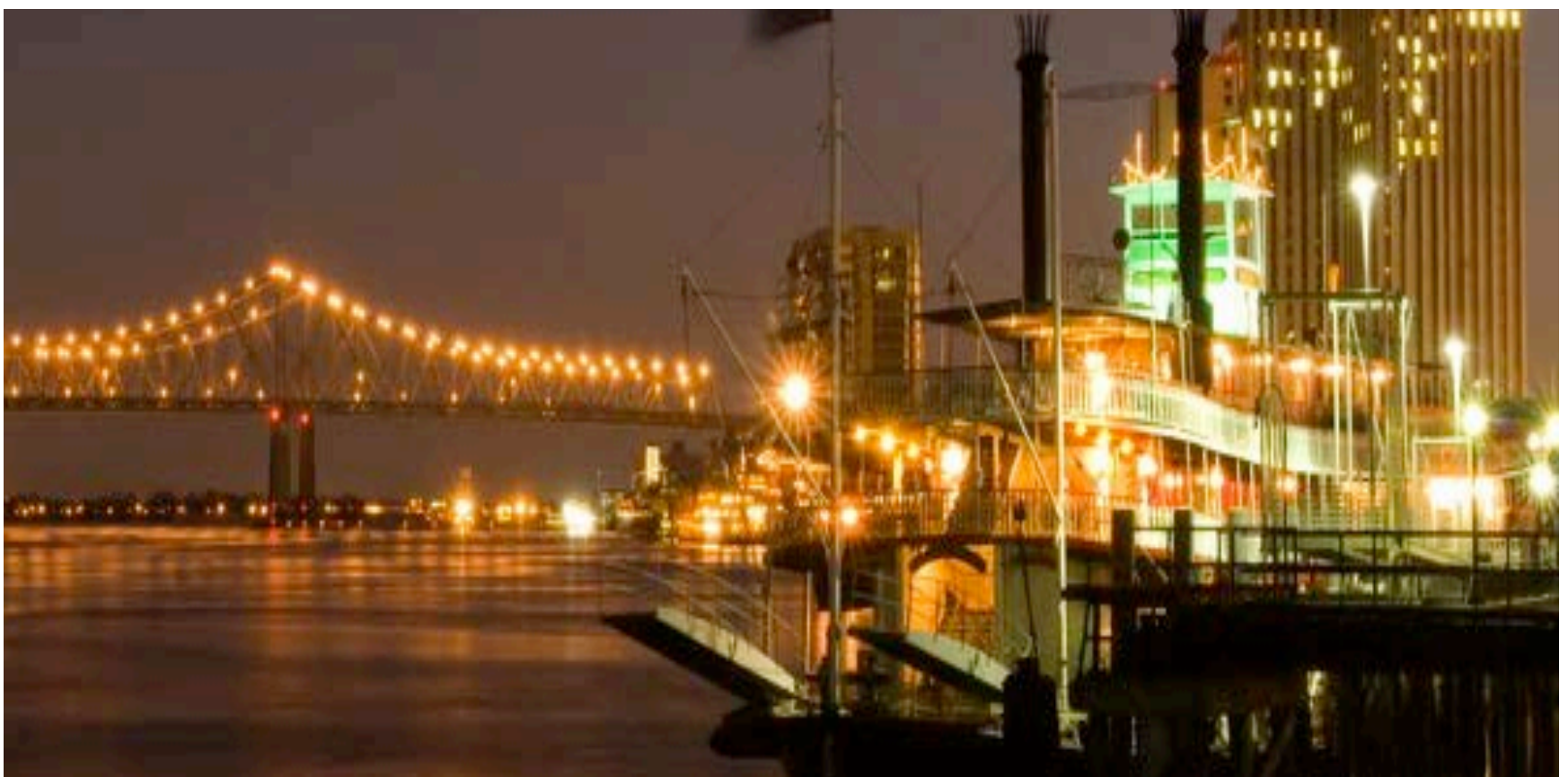
SALARY: Commensurate with experience.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Applicants should email their vita, a statement of research interests and career goals, sample reprints/preprints, and three letters of reference to Dr. Elliott Beaton, ebeaton@uno.edu, chair of the search committee, Department of Psychology, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA 70148.

DATE POSTED: Review of applications will begin on October 15, 2017 and continue until the available positions are filled.

All applicants will be considered for employment without regard to retirement status and without regard to an applicant's having previously accused the UL System Board or any of its universities of unlawful discrimination. Retirement status shall not be considered in the hiring process by any University in the UL System.

*The University of New Orleans is an Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity employer.
Women, ethnic minorities, veterans and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.*



A Shrink at the Flicks

Dunkirk: It's About Time

by Alvin G. Burstein, PhD

The events that unfolded at Dunkirk May 6 to June 4, 1940 were pivotal in World War II, and, perhaps, for modern times. The Nazi war machine had swept through most of Europe, trapping nearly a half million French, British and Belgian troops in a pocket on the French coast. Had the beleaguered defenders been killed or captured, an Allied defeat could well have become inevitable.

But that didn't happen. A surprising pause in the German advance permitted the evacuation of over 300,000 troops, and the trajectory of the war changed decisively.

The British regrouped. Hitler made the catastrophic error of invading Russia. Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor brought the United States into the war. And five years later, the Axis powers unconditionally surrendered to the Allies.

Churchill called Dunkirk "the miracle of deliverance."

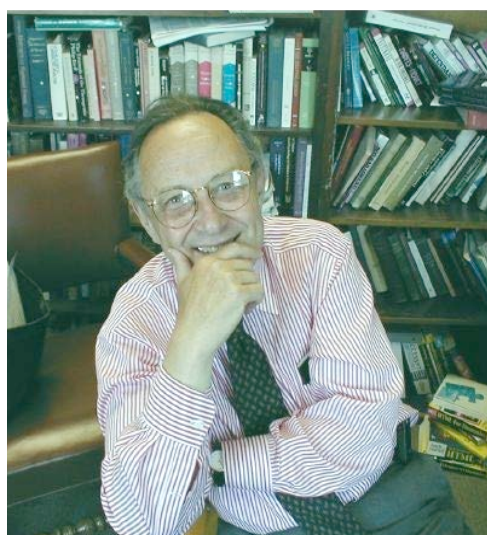
The movie, *Dunkirk*, does a stirring job of immersing its audience in this historic moment.

The narrative style in which it does so is remarkable in several ways. Although a struggle is pictured, we almost never see the antagonist. The German pilots are invisible; the only German soldiers that appear are a few shadowy figures toward the film's end.

Incongruous elements are given screen time—a British soldier fleeing from capture or death, stops to move his bowels.

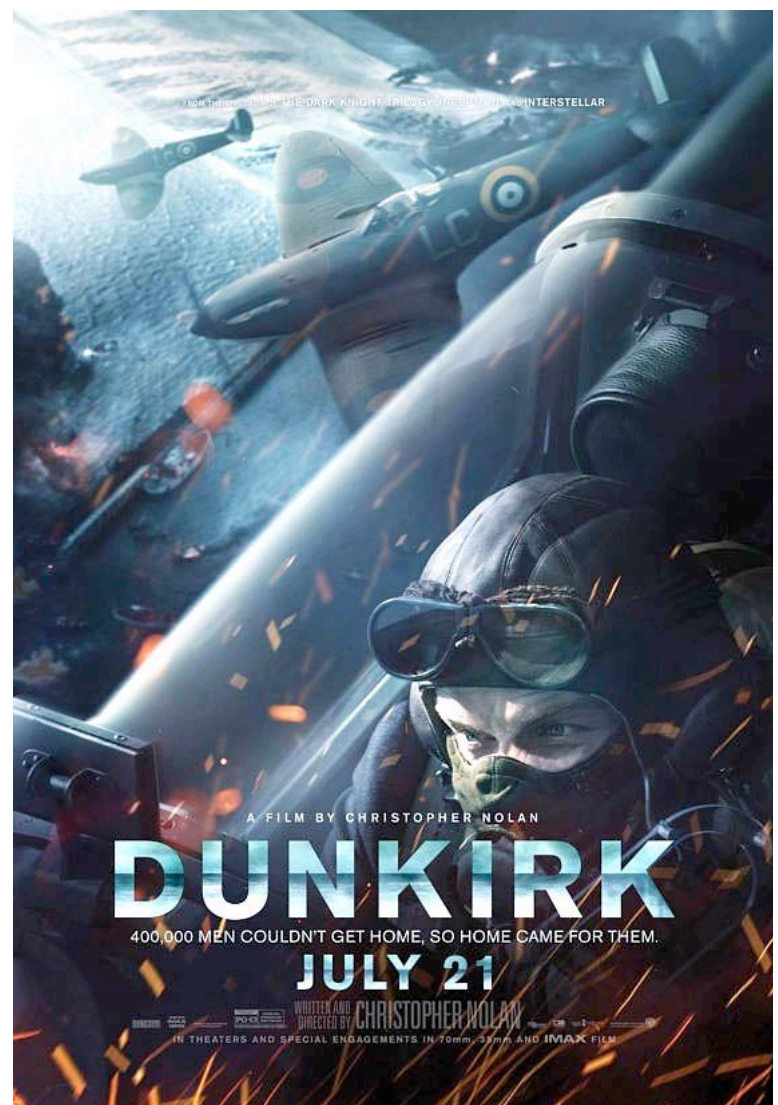
Guest
Columnist,
Dr. Alvin
Burstein

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



courtesy photo

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.



Although we admire the determination of the captain of one of the small boats involved in the evacuation effort as well as the willingness of one of the Spitfire fighter pilots to forgo his opportunity to return to his airbase, neither seems much transformed by their experience.

I think *Dunkirk* is about more than war.

The movie begins with a flat announcement that it takes place in three arenas and in three time spans: on the mole, the massive pier where the evacuees huddle for a week, on the sea, the day of rescue, and in the air, where we focus on Spitfire pilots engaging in an hour's dog fight.

These three timelines are continually intermixed.

And then there is the unspoken and unexplained—even by military historians—circumstance of yet another timeline: the pause in the German attack.

And then we watch, repeatedly, the Spitfire pilot recalculate the flight time he has remaining.

And most remarkable of all, is the moment in the film when the Spitfire, out of fuel, in a strikingly vivid metaphor, begins its seemingly, endless, timeless, silent glide to earth.

Dunkirk is about war, its horror, maybe about war's capacity to test and challenge. But it also keeps calling our attention to time. It wants us to think about time and the human experience of time. In *Time and Narrative*, Paul Ricoeur reminds us that the human experience of time critically involves our knowing we are mortal, that we all, like the Spitfire pilot, run out of time.

Dunkirk calls time to our attention to remind us of our mortality.

Up-Coming Events

LPA to Host Drs. Lewis and Mitchell at Fall Workshop

The Louisiana Psychological Association will present a Fall Workshop on Friday, November 3, to be held in New Orleans.

A panel discussion on, “Conflict Management at the Individual, Group, and Societal Level: What Psychological Science Tells Us about Charlottesville,” will be presented as part of the morning training activities. The afternoon will include a workshop and panel of expert practitioners who will address, “Ethical and Effective Ways to Deal with Third-Party Payers.”

Dr. Marva Lewis, Associate Professor at Tulane University and invited speakers, holds a doctorate in Sociocultural Psychology. Her program of research focuses on the development of culturally valid research methods and measures of racism-based stress during pregnancy, Colorism in African American families, and parental acceptance or rejection of children. She has focused on applied research using narrative therapy techniques and measures to strengthen African American family intergenerational relationships based on issues of Colorism as a legacy of the historical trauma of slavery.

Her work also includes development of an evidenced-based tool for use by individuals, organizations, and groups on the topic of Diversity, Privilege and Oppression.

Also an invited speaker for the morning panel is Dr. Tyree Mitchell, Assistant Professor in industrial-organization psychology at the Louisiana Human Resource Education & Workforce Development, College of Human Sciences & Education. Dr. Mitchell’s work focuses on effective leadership and group functioning, including elements of culture, gender, negotiation and other characteristics important in social interactions.

Dr. Mitchell is currently



A group exercise for psychologists, professors, and students held at a previous conference, with Tulane’s Dr. Marva Lewis (center back at table). Dr. Lewis is one of the invited panelists to discuss conflict management. Her doctorate is in Sociocultural Psychology.

working in research projects that include: teams and culture project, antecedents of effective leadership behaviors, and gender and virtual negotiation empirical study.

His manuscripts under review include the cross-cultural negotiation project, the motivation and emergent leadership project, and the Intelligence, prosocial motivation and emergent leadership project.

Dr. Mitchell has presented on research for “Team prosocial motivation and shared leadership: Moderating effects of team surface-level diversity;” Qualifying the extra-verted leadership advantage: Extra-version, gender, and leader effectiveness;” and Leader goal orientation and effectiveness: Mediating effects of transformational leadership.”

The November 3 workshop will also host a panel of expert practitioners for the panel discussion session, “Ethical and Effective Ways to Deal with Third-Party Payers.”

Licensed psychologists Drs. Kathryn Kirkhard, Kathy Robinson, Kim VanGeffen and others will discuss dilemmas faced with insurance companies and other third-party payers. Panelists will review ways to maintain the professional standards and therapeutic alliance with the client when another third-party entity is involved. Panelists will share their business and professional approaches to working with and bypassing problems caused by misaligned economic incentives created by reimbursement challenges and third-party arrangements. They will review what has worked and what hasn’t, and some guidelines and caveats

for maintaining boundaries and ethical standards.

Other elements of the one-day educational activity will include a new educational feature, the Science Café. Laboratories from universities will provide updates on advancements in psychological science

and their current research contributions. A working Lunch & Learn experiential training activity with colleagues is also included.

The association will also host a Fall Workshop–North, to be held in Shreveport, November 17.

APA Division 39 Submissions Due

Submissions are open now and due by September 12 for the spring 2018 meeting of The Division of Psychoanalysis, Division 39 of the American Psychological Association, to be held April 18–22 in New Orleans at the Intercontinental Hotel. The theme is *Generations: Ghosts & Guardians*.

Louisiana clinical psychologist Dr. Stephen Anen, this year’s conference co-chair, is hoping to receive submissions from the Louisiana community for the conference.

“Our Steering Committee is hopeful and excited about creating a robust, engaging, and thought-provoking range of programming. Having local clinicians and practitioners be involved would be part of that, in my opinion,” he said.

Up-Coming Events

Dr. Sonnier-Hillis to Help Guide Career Fair at BCRR for Mental Health Awareness Week

Dr. Bridget Sonnier-Hillis, interim department chair for Social Sciences and History and a member of Baton Rouge Community College's Behavioral Intervention Team, is helping coordinate resources for an event she hopes will help bring together people for mental health awareness in Louisiana.

The Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC) will host its first-ever Mental Health and Social Services Career Information Fair on Wednesday, October 11, Dr. Sonnier-Hillis explained.

To coordinate with Mental Health Awareness Week activities and, in an effort to address the shortage of mental health professionals in the area, Baton Rouge Community College will host the Career Fair on BRCC's campus at 201 Community College Drive in the beautiful Magnolia Building, Sonnier-Hillis said.

Presentations will be in Dumas Room from 10 am to 1pm and will include a guest panel of mental health professionals from various fields at 12 pm, she said.

"Students and the general public will be able to learn about jobs and various career opportunities in the Baton Rouge area that range from registered line technicians to work with children on the Autism Spectrum and assistant behavior analysts," Sonnier-Hillis said, "to substance abuse counselors and peer support specialists, school psychologists, and social workers. The various specialties in psychology also will be presented," she said.

Dr. Sonnier-Hillis is a licensed psychologist with over a decade of experience working in the area of clinical health psychology, practicing in various medical settings in Texas and Nebraska before returning to her home state of Louisiana in 2011, and she now teaches full-time at BRCC.

She noted that Baton Rouge Community College began in 1998 and has an enrollment of approximately 8,000 students.

Among its many degrees it offers an Associate of Arts Louisiana Transfer degree in the Social Sciences. This degree allows students to take their first two years of coursework at BRCC and then transfer to a four-year university as a junior, and obtain a bachelor's degree in any of the social science

fields such as psychology, sociology, social work, etc., Dr. Sonnier-Hillis explained.

BRCC offers associate's degrees in other academic areas such as the biological sciences, pre-engineering, pre-nursing computer science, liberal arts, and business.

"Students also have many opportunities for community involvement, community service, and the development of leadership skills," she said. "The Social Sciences Department recently hosted a screening of the award-winning documentary 'Alive Inside' about the evidence-based

Con't next pg

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Up-Coming Events

Dr. Sonnier-Hillis, BRCC, continued

program called Music and Memory, based on the usage of individualized music playlists in nursing homes to help reduce the use of antipsychotics.

Dr. Sonnier-Hillis is the Louisiana Department of Health’s designated state reviewer for Louisiana 2008 Act 571, which ensures quality dementia training curricula for nursing facility employees. She also recently was a member of the academic committee for police policy improvements initiated by members of the Baton Rouge Metro Council, making recommendations regarding police interactions with those with mental illness, as well as the effects of implicit biases. She is a member of the Louisiana Psychological Association, the American Psychological Association, and Louisiana Enhancing Aging with Dignity through Empowerment and Respect (LEADER).

La Counseling Assn Conference Oct 1-3 In Baton Rouge

The Louisiana Counseling Association will present “Mentoring” Enriching, and Empowering Relationships,” for the Annual Conference, to be held October 1-3 at the Baton Rouge Crown Hotel.

Gulf Coast ABA Conference Oct 6-7

The Louisiana Behavior Analysis Association will hold the annual Gulf Coast ABA Conference, October 6-7 in New Orleans.

The 2017 Keynote speaker is Dr. Janet Twyam. Janet Twyman, Ph.D., BCBA, LBA, is past president of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, and a noted proponent of effective instruction.

Louisiana Group Psychotherapy Society Fall Institute October 28

The Louisiana Group Psychotherapy Society will hold its 2017 Fall Institute in Baton Rouge, October 28.

This year the group will feature Dayne Naretta, LCSW, CGP, who will speak on the topic, “What’s All the ‘Brouhaha’ About Functional Subgrouping?”

Mr. Naretta will examine what subgrouping is, what it isn’t, and how to use it to resolve conflict. See LGPS website for more information.

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