

State Facing \$1 Billion Shortfall Says Governor, Offers Tax Plan

In a press release January 14, Governor Edwards told Louisiana Legislators to “Act now to address fiscal cliff.”

“Louisiana is well positioned to enter an era of prosperity the likes of which we have not seen in decades, but we cannot pretend there isn’t a very real

threat to the significant progress we’ve made,” said Governor Edwards last month and restated his warning in an editorial in the *Advocate*.

“Louisiana is facing a nearly \$1 billion fiscal cliff, which if not addressed by July 1, will force catastrophic cuts to critically important state programs and services that Louisianans rely on.”

“The fiscal cliff is a problem that has been festering since the Legislature approved temporary revenue measures 27 months ago instead of permanent measures that would have historically reformed our tax code.

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Records Show EPPP Change Was Surprise

Public records and emails obtained from the state psychology board indicate that the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) did not alert its members that a major change in policy was to be considered at the Board of Directors meeting, held on October 17 in Waikoloa,

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Governor Edwards (L) at a 2017 Legislative Committee speaking on need for economic and technical reforms.

Dr. Greg Gormanous On List for Board Post

Votes were tabulated for the election conducted by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP) with the single qualified candidate, Dr. Greg Gormanous, receiving 169 votes, or 80 percent of those casting ballots. Forty-two psychologists abstained.

According to the Louisiana Psychological Association, Dr. Gormanous’ name was sent to the Governor’s Office last week.

Dr. Gormanous served briefly in June to September 2015 as the LSBEP Executive Director.

Gormanous has also previously served on the board twice, the first time in 1981 to 1984 and then from 1986 to 1989.

He is Professor Emeritus of Psychology, LSU Alexandria, and

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Arguments in LSBEP Lawsuit Draw on 2015 Supreme Court Decision

A federal lawsuit against the state psychology board is continuing with arguments over exactly who is the Defendant, the psychology board or the state of Louisiana, a matter that takes on importance in light of the 2015 Supreme Court decision ruling that the North Carolina Dental Board did not share in immunity under the Eleventh Amendment. And, after arguments about the board’s immunity, a supplement was filed on January 5, asking to add the board’s Executive Director, an employee of the State, as a Defendant.

In August 2017, Dr. Eric Cerwonka filed a lawsuit in federal court against the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP) alleging violations of his Constitutional rights. This followed a July 2017 ruling by 19th Judicial District Court Judge Michael Caldwell negating the LSBEP disciplinary decision against Cerwonka, in February 2017, on grounds that the board’s methods “... violated the Constitutional rights of Dr. Cerwonka.”

On January 12 the United States Magistrate Judge, Carol B. Whitehurst, ordered that the oral argument scheduled for January 17, on the Motion to Dismiss for Lack of Jurisdiction and for Failure to State a Claim for Partial

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MARDI GRAS

The Psychology of Fat Tuesday

We’re barely able to clear out the Christmas trees this year when here comes Fat Tuesday. Like many holidays, it has a complex set of meanings. From the tug-of-war between the id, ego and superego, to the social connection nurtured by ritual and symbols, to the therapeutic value of anonymity, to just plain fun with the kids, Mardi Gras means a lot to those in Louisiana. We asked some of our experts, Drs. Al Burstein, Matthew Rossana, Judith Miranti, and Bryan Gros to comment on the psychology of the celebration.

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Editorials and Opinions

Scribbling in the Margins

by Times publisher, J. Nelson

I received some nice comments from a few readers after they saw the recent movie, *The Post*, Spielberg's story of the 1971 conflict over the disclosure of the Pentagon Papers. (Be sure to see Al Burstein's review this issue.)

The story is a good one for today—the public's right to know and the duty of the Press. Spielberg supports the theme with iconic images of linotypes, web presses, newspapers being hurled in packs out onto city street corners and held open at breakfast tables.

While the First Amendment is the main theme in *The Post*, actress Meryl Streep lays out the subtheme, the fevered decisions made by Katharine Graham, the first female publisher of a major American newspaper, joined by her gruff newsroom editor, Ben Bradlee, played by Tom Hanks.

My mother and father both earned LSU journalism degrees and after they died I inherited a marvelously helpful introductory textbook, *Exploring Journalism*, by Wolseley and Campbell. This 1943 time machine of a book captures part of the golden age of the Press in the U.S. and has been a best friend for simple answers to questions such as "How do I write a news story?" or "Why do I need an Editorial Page?" The authors even have a section titled, "Reporters as psychologists," where they say, "Good reporters are good social and applied psychologists."

By happy luck, I struck gold. I discovered that my mother, ordinarily reluctant to express her ideas (or overshadowed by my extraverted father), had scribbled her thoughts in the margins. So I was given the chance, like a message in a bottle, to understand just a bit of what she thought about being a good journalist.

She jotted down these necessary traits for the career: "... good English, resourceful, aggressive, spelling, accurate observer,

knowledge and grasp of the English language, interest in people, visual senses, ability to stand your convictions, mental physical stamina, clear thinking, seeker after truth."

She wrote, "not a moneymaking profession particularly," and would be "...a lot of hard work," which obviously did not scare her off. She put a big check by the section on small, weekly papers.

Wolseley and Campbell did not scare her off either with their candid section on, "Women in journalism," since she placed a big checkmark by that section, also.

"Young women interested in journalism often receive little encouragement. If they are realists, they will note that the fourth estate is a man's world. Their prospective employers are men and they prefer to hire men. Moreover, many of them are convinced that journalism is a man's profession and that the woman who doesn't believe her place to be in the home should choose an occupation sheltered from ugly realities that journalists encounter. For that reason a woman usually has to be much abler than a man to succeed."

Wolseley and Campbell also wrote about character—"Promotion of any private interest contrary to the general welfare for whatever reason is not compatible with honest journalism. Partisanship and editorial comment which knowingly departs from the truth does violence to the best spirit of American journalism."

I've come to the notion that journalists and psychologists have and should have a good deal in common, both hoping to work with finding truth, facts, and valid information, resisting the pull to fast-think conclusions, or political, motivated or superficial reasoning.

Today there appears to me a decline in the overall level of reality in our group collective and the process from which it emerges.

A few years ago CareerCast rated the job of newspaper reporter as the worse career out of 200 they ranked, cited low pay among other problems. In a 2017 study of social class, ("Defining Social Class Across Time and Between Groups") researchers found that, over the last four decades, people define their subjective social class increasingly by their income, and less by occupation or values. The link to self-esteem was strongest in whites, who have dropped more, and rate themselves lower, than other groups in social class.

My parents settled in Coushatta and purchased the *Coushatta Citizen*. While raising a family, their partnership built the *Citizen* into a publication of journalistic excellence and social conscience when it was thrust into the national spotlight during the Civil Rights era in the 60s. One thing I know for sure—it was never about the money.

Has some sad combination of subgroup dynamics and monetary incentives led to a decline in character and competence today, and in today's Press? The common man seems to think so, if the surveys are valid.

Where are the Katharine Grahams and Ben Bradlees of the world, the Gordon and Lynn Nelsons? I think the real journalists, and also the real psychologists, are still out there. I hope they are.

[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.]



1947 La. Press convention badge for Lynn H. Nelson.

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Corrections & Clarifications

We did not receive corrections for January. Please send your corrections or clarifications to the *Times* at:
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State Facing \$1 Billion Shortfall Says Governor, continued

While lawmakers committed in 2016 to return to Baton Rouge to implement comprehensive reforms, over the course of six legislative sessions the only things they have approved are temporary revenues that will soon expire. Without action from the Legislature, many of the most important services you rely on that are funded by state government will have to be cut. That’s not a scare tactic. That’s basic math.”

Edwards presented his plan for a balanced budget, saying that this is “... one that will show more than \$1 billion in state general fund cuts on top of the nearly \$600 million in such cuts I have made since becoming governor. Factoring in federal matching funds, the cuts will exceed \$2.8 billion.”

He released notes on his plan which includes: Eliminating the 5th penny of sales tax; Making Permanent Reductions to Tax Credits, Deductions and Rebates (Acts 109, 123, 126 of the 2015 Regular Legislative Session); Compressing Income Tax Brackets & Reduce Excess Itemized Deduction to 50%; Cleaning all Four Pennies of Sales Tax based on Clean Penny Exemptions; Taxing Business Utilities at 4% and Industrial Utilities at 2%; and Expanding Sales Tax to Services.

The Governor wrote in an editorial in the Advocate:

“If the Legislature refuses to work collaboratively to fix this problem before March, there will be dire consequences.

“For example, our state is currently on a negative outlook by two credit rating agencies and in danger of being downgraded once again. This will mean it costs more to service our debt. Others are taking our budget problems seriously, and the Legislature should do the same. We must put Louisiana first.

“We can solve this problem, but it requires House leadership to keep its word and offer a plan of action. The speaker of the House and I agree, Louisiana cannot wait. As students decide which colleges to attend, their families need to know what will happen with higher education and TOPS. Long-term planning for major road projects will come to a screeching halt. Our stable and improving economy will lose momentum if the Legislature does not step up, and we will go backward. My commitment is to remain flexible and work with the Legislature. But lawmakers must be willing to work with me. They can’t continue to say no to every proposed solution and refuse to offer their own solution. Within recent months, I have held more than 30 meetings with hundreds of business owners, local government leaders and Louisianans across the state explaining the “fiscal cliff,” answering their questions and listening to their concerns and ideas for addressing our problems. They are weary of our recurring financial problems and want us to we roll up our sleeves and work together to solve this once and for all. I know that we can. Let’s make the most of this opportunity to make Louisiana better for everyone.

Amazon, JP Morgan Chase to Partner for Healthcare Program

The Washington Post reported last week that three huge employers, Amazon, Berkshire Hathaway and JP Morgan Chase, will be partnering to create a joint venture and provide healthcare for their combined 1 million workers, because they want to hold down the soaring healthcare costs for their companies.

“Major health company stock prices tumbled on the news, and the announcement stirred excitement — and questions — about how the three companies could bring their clout to containing costs in the massive employer-sponsored health insurance market, which provides coverage to approximately 160 million Americans,” noted the *Post* report.

A source told the reporter that the companies want to bring their technology to the table when it comes to “making healthcare more transparent, affordable and simple,” said the *Post*. The companies say they have no specific plans but that this will take shape over time, and offer services to the massive marketplace for healthcare.



Dr. Ernie Cowger listens to Dr. David Legendre at a past LPC Board meeting. Governor Edwards recently appointed Dr. Ernest Airhia and Dr. Jessica Cortez to the LPC Board. Airhia is CEO of Greenpath International, and Cortez is Assistant Professor at Nichols State University.

Gov Edwards Makes LPC Board, Voc Rehabilitation, and CTF Appointments

In January, the Governor appointed Ernest A. Airhia, Ph.D., of New Orleans, was reappointed to the Louisiana Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners. Airhia is a licensed professional counselor and the President, Chief Executive Officer, and Clinical Director of Greenpath International, Inc. As required by statute, he was nominated by the Louisiana Counseling Association and will serve as a licensed professional counselor on the board.

Jessica Fanguy Cortez, Ph.D., of Bourg was appointed to the Louisiana Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners. Cortez is a licensed professional counselor and Assistant Professor at Nichols State University. As required by statute, she was nominated by the Louisiana Counseling Association and will serve as an educator who is a licensed professional counselor and whose function is the training of mental health counselors in accredited programs.

On January 26 the Governor appointed Paul A. Fontana, of Lafayette, was appointed to the Louisiana Licensed Professional Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors Board of Examiners. Fontana is an occupational therapist and the owner of the Center for Work Rehabilitation at the Fontana Center. As required by statute, he was nominated by the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals – Louisiana Chapter and will serve as a public member.

Also, Scott E. Landry, of Abbeville, was appointed to the Louisiana

Licensed Professional Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors Board of Examiners. Landry is a licensed rehabilitation counselor and the owner of VocStat Rehabilitation, LLC. Additionally, he is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Louisiana Army National Guard.

On January 12, 2017 he appointed Karen S. Harrison, of Mandeville, to the Louisiana Licensed Professional Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors Board of Examiners. Harrison is a licensed rehabilitation counselor and the owner of Karen Harrison Consulting, LLC.

On December 22, 2017, Governor Edwards appointed Alicia C. Kober, M.D., of Baton Rouge, was appointed to the Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund Board. Kober is a pediatrician at Ochsner. As required by statute, she will serve as the representative of the Louisiana State Medical Society.

Also, Shailindra M. “Lynn” Farris, of Baker, was appointed to the Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund Board. Farris is a licensed clinical social worker and a Title IV-E Director at Southern University Baton Rouge.

As required by statute, she will serve as the representative of the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

State & National News

Arguments in LSBEP Suit Draw on 2015 Supreme Court Decision

Summary Judgment, was canceled. She wrote “In the event the Court desires oral argument on the motion at a later date, the Court will contact the parties and schedule same.”

Written arguments, obtained from the federal records system, were filed in November 2017.

On November 13, counsel for the LSBEP, Attorney General, Jeff Landry, signed for by Jeremiah Sams, Assistant Attorney General, filed a “Motion to Dismiss.”

Sams wrote that the Defendant was “...incorrectly named by Plaintiff as the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists,” the Defendant is the “State of Louisiana, through the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists of the Department of Health and Human Services...” he wrote.

He cited limited jurisdiction of federal courts and lack of sufficient factual matter, and Eleventh Amendment Immunity, “Under the Eleventh Amendment, Plaintiff is barred from obtaining relief from the Board.” And, he wrote, “Alternatively, Plaintiff has failed to state a claim against the Board under 42 U.S.C. §1983, as the Board is not a ‘person’ under the meaning of §1983.”

In the “Motion to Dismiss,” Mr. Sams also wrote that, “Under the Eleventh Amendment of the United States Constitution, an unconsenting state is immune from any lawsuit seeking monetary damages or equitable relief brought in federal courts by her own citizens or by the citizens of another state ...” And, he wrote, “The Board is an agency of the State of Louisiana.”

“The State of Louisiana has not waived its immunity from suit in the federal system,” wrote Sams. “Therefore, Plaintiff’s §1983 claims against the Board should be dismissed under the Eleventh Amendment.”

Attorney for Cerwonka, Brown Sims attorney Mr. L. Lane Roy, wrote in the “Opposition of Plaintiff to Defendant’s Motion to Dismiss,” filed on November 30, 2017:

“Defendant, erroneously stated in its Motion to Dismiss as the ‘State of Louisiana, through the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists of the Department of Health and Human Services’, and actually, and legally, the ‘Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists’ ...”

Regarding the Defendant’s claim for Eleventh Amendment Immunity, Roy wrote, “ The basis

for that claim is the unproven, and baseless statement that the Defendant is really the State of Louisiana. Here, when the Defendant seeks dismissal based upon immunity of the State, it must prove that the Board is the State of Louisiana. The contrary is correct.”

“Defendant’s assertion in citations, particularly on page four of Defendant’s brief, refers to cases that have no relationship to the present one.”

And, “Contrary to the Defendant’s argument, Cerwonka sues under 28 U.S.C. §1331 and §1343.” [...]

“These two sections clearly apply hereto. It is precisely what we ask here. Further, we do not sue the State of Louisiana, which is not a defendant, has not been a defendant, and was not a plaintiff in the underlying prosecution of the case against Dr. Cerwonka resulting originally in the loss of his license to practice psychology.”

Later in the brief, Roy writes, “An important case for this Court’s consideration on the issue of the Eleventh Amendment Immunity is the United States Supreme Court decision in the matter of *North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners vs. Federal Trade Commission*, 135 Sup. Ct.1101(2015). While the *North Carolina State Board* case

involves as one of its principal issues federal anti-trust laws, one of the main topics decided by the court was whether the State of North Carolina possessed Eleventh Amendment immunity from application of the federal law and its being subject to suit before the federal courts. In a lengthy discussion, the court found that North Carolina did not possess Eleventh Amendment immunity.” [...]

“Here, there is absolutely no showing whatever that the State of Louisiana had active control over the Board in this matter and in fact, the exact opposite is correct.”

In another section of the Attorney General’s “Motion to Dismiss,” Sams writes, “Alternatively, Plaintiff has failed to state a claim against the Board under 42 U.S.C. §1983, as the Board is not a “person” under the meaning of §1983.

“To state a claim under §1983, a plaintiff must establish that a *person*, acting under color of law, deprived him of some constitutional right.

“State agencies and state officials acting in their official capacity are not ‘persons’ within the meaning of the statute, and it is a well settled point of law that a state is not capable of being sued under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, as the state is not a “person” under 42 U.S.C. §1983.34” [...] “Accordingly,

Plaintiff’s §1983 claims against the Board should be dismissed.”

In response, Roy wrote, “The problem with the argument is that nothing here in the Petition, nothing in Motion and Memorandum filed by the Defendant’s herein, intimate in any way, much less prove, that the agency defendant is in fact a state agency or a state official. In fact the opposite is true. The State has virtually no control of this agency as shown by the decisions that its rendered in this matter, not involving a state person but private attorneys hired for the persons, private investigators, private members of the community acting as judges at the hearing before the Board, private employees acting as persons, though illegally, who made decisions on interim suspension without a hearing whatsoever.”

On January 5, Mr. Roy filed an “Amended and Supplemental Suit for Damages for Violation of Civil Rights,” with Judge Rebecca F. Doherty identified as the Judge.

The amendment seeks to add an additional Defendant, Jamie Monic, executive director and employed of the State of Louisiana and who, the claim alleges, took actions “reserved to be taken only by a majority vote of the Board itself.” And that she “... frequently acted as the Board in connection with matters addressable in this lawsuit.”



Dr. Zimmermann chairing a 2015 meeting of the state psychology board. During the last years concerns mounted about the complaints processes at the board, including the large legal fees in the complaints subcommittee.



Dr. Greg Gormanous (L) is the likely next board member, his name being submitted as the single person on the list to the Governor. Here, Dr. Gormanous serves as Executive Director for the board, briefly in 2015. Dr. Griffin, current chair, looks on.

HOPE Council to Meet Feb 9 Dr. Tucker to Represent DPS&C

The Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) created by Act 88 of the 2017 Regular Session will meet Friday, February 9, 2018, at 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the Bienville Building, Room 118 628 N. Fourth Street in Baton Rouge.

Dr. Susan Tucker, clinical psychologist for the Department of Public Safety and Corrections will be representing the Department at the Advisory Council meeting. Tucker is President-Elect for the Louisiana Psychological Association. Tucker has national recognition in Corrections treatment programs and has been commented by the

Legislature for quality, innovations, and cost savings.

The HOPE Advisory Council, part of the Drug Policy Board, is charged to create and install a plan with parish-level data on opioid overdoses and the dispensing of overdose-reversal medication; measure progress of current initiatives in the state relating to the heroin and opioid epidemic; look at specific impacts to agencies in addressing education, treatment including the use of medication-assisted treatment, prevention, overdose, and recovery.

For further information, please contact Advisory Council Staff: Catherine Peay at Catherine.peay@la.gov

Governor Proclaimed January as Trafficking Awareness Month

Governor Edwards named January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Louisiana, a cause that the Governor and Mrs. Edwards have taken on as a key initiative.

“Human trafficking really is modern day slavery and we know that it is happening throughout the local communities right here in Louisiana more than some people may realize,” said Gov. Edwards. “We are going to continue to bring people together to make sure that we bring every resource to bear in putting an end to this dangerous epidemic.”

This action comes in addition to the steps Gov. Edwards has taken to make human trafficking in Louisiana a priority for his administration including spearheading a series of human trafficking summits around the state and the creation of the Human Trafficking Prevention Commission and Human Trafficking Prevention Advisory Board.

Dr. Rafael Salcedo, clinical and forensic psychologist, serves on the Advisory Board. He is also the Community Psychology Chair for the Louisiana Psychological Association. He and wife Beth founded the first therapeutic home for trafficked girls in the state.



Beth Salcedo and Dr. Rafael Salcedo attending a workshop at a previous convention. They are founders of the “Free Indeed Home” for trafficked girls, a cause the Governor has taken on for 2018.

Dr. Gormanous On List to Governor, continued

earned his PhD from the University of Southern Mississippi in General Psychology in 1976. He member of Association of State & Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB), the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards, the American Psychological Association, the Society for Industrial & Organizational Psychology (APA Div. 14), the Society of Consulting Psychology (APA Div. 13), and the Association for Psychological Science.

If appointed, Dr. Gormanous will begin his five-year service this July, as current Chair Dr. Phillip Griffin completes his regular term this June.

Dr. Gormanous noted his goals, if appointed, are: “To proactively enhance effectiveness, collegiality and transparency with administrative, legislative, media, professional, psychological & public stakeholders in order for the LSBEP to ensure statutorily that consumers have access to qualified providers of psychological services ...”

He also noted his goal was “... to ensure enforcement of ethical standards of practice to which providers are required to adhere, with appropriate oversight of the Board’s function by the state of Louisiana.

“1. Revising the “complaint” rules, procedures and practices by focusing on two equally important objectives: protecting consumers of psychological services AND ensuring due process for all.

“2. Achieving more effective outcomes for the expenditure of legal fees....

“3. Staying a pace with changes in education and training.

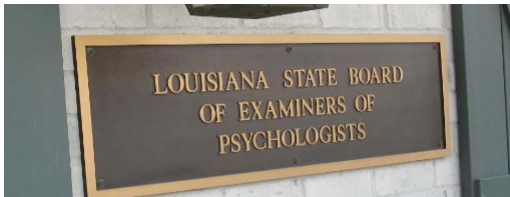
“4. Adjusting to implementation of the competency model (EPPP 1 Knowledge and EPPP 2 Skills) by other jurisdictions and considering what is best...”

“5. Revisiting Generic versus Specialty Credentialing.” Considering a list of recognized specialties, the health service title, the general applied title, and related matters.

“6. Exploring any ramifications of implementation of the ASPPB’s PEP for LA.”

January Register Lists MCO and ABA Services

The Department of Health Bureau of Health Services Financing amended a Rule, published in the January *Louisiana Register*, noting that core benefits to be provided by MCO, “13. basic and specialized behavioral health services, including applied behavior analysis (ABA)–based therapy, services excluding Coordinated System of Care services.” Services noted under Excluded Services were, “targeted case management services; and “all OAAS/OCDD home and community-based.” The complete Rule is available in the *Register* online.



From the Minutes

Selected Items from November Discussions of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists

Courtney P. Newton provided the members of the board a 2.5 hour in-service training on the following topics: LSBEP’s Role in Public Protection; Administrative Hearing Process (Formal Hearings); Reviewing Applications for Licensure; Annual Anti-trust Training

Legislative Oversight Committee: Dr. Lambert reported on his participation with the Medicaid Integrated Assessment Task Force (Concurrent Res. No. 55) stating that the task force sent a survey to members. Their primary focus is integrated care and outcomes. It does not seem to be a far reaching policy.

a. **Emeritus Status Rule** - the Board discussed the redevelopment of a “true” Emeritus status where a psychologist who is fully retired would not be required to report continuing education and would pay a reduced annual fee to maintain. This initiative was well received by the meeting attendees.

b. **Defining Provisional License, Scope and Limitations** – The Board discussed developing the regulations to better define the scope and limitations of the provisional licensee. No objections were heard with regard to the Board continuing with this initiative.

c. **Inactive License Status** – The Board discussed developing an inactive status, the implications and benefits. The Board will continue to

develop rules for an inactive status. No objections were heard with regard to this initiative.

d. **LSBEP Review/Approval of Continuing Professional Development (CPD)** - The Board discussed developing requirements to pre-review and preapprove CPD. Attendees representing LPA expressed concern that this would have a financial impact on LPA where they currently review CPD for sponsorship. The Board clarified that this would be a review of the activity to affirm that the CPD meets the regulatory standards for acceptability for CPD requirements by the Board for license renewal, rather than review of an activity for sponsorship (which would still be required for “approved-sponsored activities”). The Board will continue with this initiative.

e. **Revision the Continuing Professional Development Requirements** – The Board discussed revising the current CPD regulations to eliminate the requirement that CPD activities be reported within two of the nine subcategories. Ms. Monic advised that there would be an expense associated with redesigning the renewal portal. The Board further discussed the difficulty in administering this requirement due to the difficulty that psychologists are having classifying activities. The Board will continue with this initiative.

f. **Masters Level License** – The Board discussed the potential of developing a Masters Level License. This was well received by attendees, however the complexities of defining training and scope and limitations were acknowledged. The Board will continue investigating the potential.

g. **Oral Examinations – Changing the process** – The Board discussed the Oral Examination requirement for licensure. Some member expressed a desire to eliminate the oral examination. Some members and attendees favored improving the process. Ms. Monic reminded the members of the Board that an oral exam is a statutory requirement for licensure and would require a legislative initiative. Ms. Monic expressed her concerns for eliminating the oral examination. The Board will continue to review the process for future consideration.

h. **EPPP 2** – The Board reported the new direction that the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) has decided to take with regard to the development of the National Examination for the Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) noting that they would be recognizing one examination with two parts rather than two separate examinations. This development would force state boards to require an applicant to take both parts. This would have a financial impact on the

applicant. Ms. Monic reported her participation in a webinar, noting that ASPPB would be circumventing the Boards in the admission of an individual to Part I of the EPPP, which is currently required. Ms. Monic also reported that applicants who do not attend an APA accredited program, but who are accepted under LSBEP’s regulations, would not meet ASPPB’s standards for admissions into Part I of the EPPP. Additional concerns were expressed where ASPPB has indicated that it would be assessing general competence. However meeting participants expressed concern with regard to the validity of the exam given the broad scope of training for psychologists, populations and area of practice and the validity of an examination determining entry level competence in each area.

i. **Developmental Psychology: Applied Health Care Specialty/Non-applied Health Care Specialty** – The Board reviewed the requirements for licensure of a developmental psychologist and determined that a psychologist licensed under the Non-applied health care specialty, which does not require a program to have an internship, should not be engaging in clinical practice and therefore does not meet the requirements to issue a psychologist emergency certificate. The Board agreed to continue to investigate and review the standards and the need for changing the current requirements.

Governor Edwards Issues Executive Orders

Governor Edwards issued Executive Orders in December, published in the January *Register*. One was JBE 17-33, the “Governor’s Justice Reinvestment Implementation Oversight Council” that creates a Council to track and review the implementation of cost-effective, evidenced-based sentencing and other reforms in corrections.

The Governor also issued Order JBE 17-30, establishing the “Governor’s Task Force on Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy.”

Coming next issue

What Really Happened with Beverly Stubblefield?

by J. Nelson



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

Records Show EPPP Policy Change was Surprise to Many ASPPB Members, continued

Hawaii. Furthermore, the policy change topic did not appear on the agenda for the members’ meeting that followed, held October 18 to 22, also in Hawaii.

The major policy change—the decision to mandate the Part 2 of the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) by combining it with Part 1, and doubling the price from \$600 to \$1200, was announced to jurisdictional members by email on Saturday, October 21. Robin Pence, an assistant at ASPPB, notified members that the Part 2 would no longer be optional.

Email records and published agendas show no items that would alert members to a major change in policy. A “Business Session” was listed for Thursday, October 19, but the EPPP was not listed. Also, while a revised agenda was sent out, for the state board administrators, it included only an “Education Session” about the “EPPP 1 and 2.”

On Saturday, October 21, Robin Pence notified the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychology (LSBEP), who did not send a delegate to Hawaii due to costs, by way of the ASPPB Listserv, of the change.

“I am writing to you to share with all ASPPB member jurisdictions some important new developments about the EPPP Part 1 and Part 2 that were

announced today during the 2017 ASPPB Annual Meeting. These new developments represent an important change from the original thinking about how ASPPB would implement the EPPP Part 2. The ASPPB Board of Directors, based on a number of factors, including feedback from our member jurisdictions and input from our legal counsel, has determined that the EPPP Part 2 is a necessary enhancement, and therefore an essential component of the EPPP.” She said that both parts will “... be the licensing exam for psychologists in the U.S.”

In the Listserv discussion on October 21, Dr. Kathleen Doyle of the New York State regulatory board asked, “... was this determination made by a vote of the members at the annual meeting, or a determination by the Board of Directors?”

On October 27, Dr. DeMers answered, writing, “The determination was voted on by the Board of Directors and presented at the annual meeting we just had this month. After we made the announcement at the meeting, we discussed the rationale and other issues and answered questions posed by the membership. Based on the overwhelming reaction at the meeting, it seemed that our members were supportive of these decisions and more

than a few appreciated the vision that lead to them.”

Dr. Doyle also wrote, “... please provide the rationale for the determination how the legal defensibility for the examination would depend on both parts being seen as one examination?”

To Doyle’s question about rationale, Dr. DeMers wrote, “Our legal counsel has advised us that he has concerns for us and for our jurisdictions if we allow some jurisdictions to use a lesser exam when a better exam is available and in use in other jurisdictions. Candidates failing either Part 1 or Part 2 would have a basis for claiming that they were not given a comparable exam to that offered in other jurisdictions, regardless of which part of the EPPP was failed. These concerns about legal defensibility center on potential challenges to both ASPPB and the individual jurisdictions when the need to assess both knowledge and skills to adequately assess professional competence has been publicly advanced, and the validity of both Part 1 and Part 2 has been demonstrated empirically. [...]”

Dr. Doyle responded, “We have several concerns with the examination as it is being presented and we will send these concerns to you soon,” and said the rational “does not appear to make sense.”

“ASPPB is a vendor,” Doyle wrote. “As an organization, it was created to develop some kind of an examination that jurisdictions might use to meet their licensing responsibility and to some extent enable an examination to be endorsed by other jurisdictions if they choose to do so.”

She wrote, “The scopes of practice of the jurisdictions differ; few are the same. The requirements for practice differ, as well as the authority to practice. Each jurisdiction is an independent entity which is fully responsible for determining what it citizens need. ASPPB cannot ‘allow’ any jurisdiction to take any action regarding their licensees and no jurisdiction can fall back on saying ‘ASPPB made me do it.’”

“It was formed to provide its members with products that they might need to carry out their duties, or to gather information for members who might need it. It was formed to enable some form of unity among the many jurisdictions, but not to make regulatory decisions for the members. Hopefully, the Board of Directors will undertake additional consideration of this determination,” Doyle noted.

On October 27, Dr. DeMers wrote, “... ASPPB’s position is this is a necessary enhancement and revision of an existing exam that is used as a licensure requirement in most jurisdictions. The enhanced EPPP is not an additional requirement but a change to an existing requirement. ASPPB is a vendor offering a product to jurisdictions and this product is being updated and improved...”



LSBEP board members Dr. Koren Boggs (L) and Dr. Amy Henke at the board’s Long-Range Planning meeting. Dr. Henke put forth a Resolution to oppose EPPP–2 when she served as Director for the Louisiana Psychological Association.

Cont’d next pg

Records Show EPPP Policy Change was Surprise

continued

Other Listserv members asked questions about various problems with administration and scoring of the sections if a candidate was retaking part of the new exam.

Dr. Amy Henke emailed members of the psychology board about the issues, writing, "I'm not surprised and I'm not sure there is much we can do. I'm very disappointed in the psychology community for allowing this to happen." In one message she said she would contact Dr. Doyle.

Current Chair of the state board, Dr. Phil Griffin, wrote to Executive Director Ms. Jaime Monic, saying, "The public (psychologists, current and future) are not liking this at all."

On October 23, in an email from past Chair, Dr. Marc Zimmermann noted his concerns to board members.

"Today I received a communication from ASPPB. I may be paranoid, but when I read between the lines it appears that the EPPP-2 idea is not going over well so they are going to force it upon the various jurisdictions. I have long had concerns that ASPPB wishes to become the credentialing agency for psychology. I believe the Board should consider options. With or without other Boards the LSBEP should consider an alternative to the EPPP."

"This examination is a huge moneymaker for ASPPB and it empowers them to flex muscles in their interest and not the various jurisdictions they purport to represent. [...]"

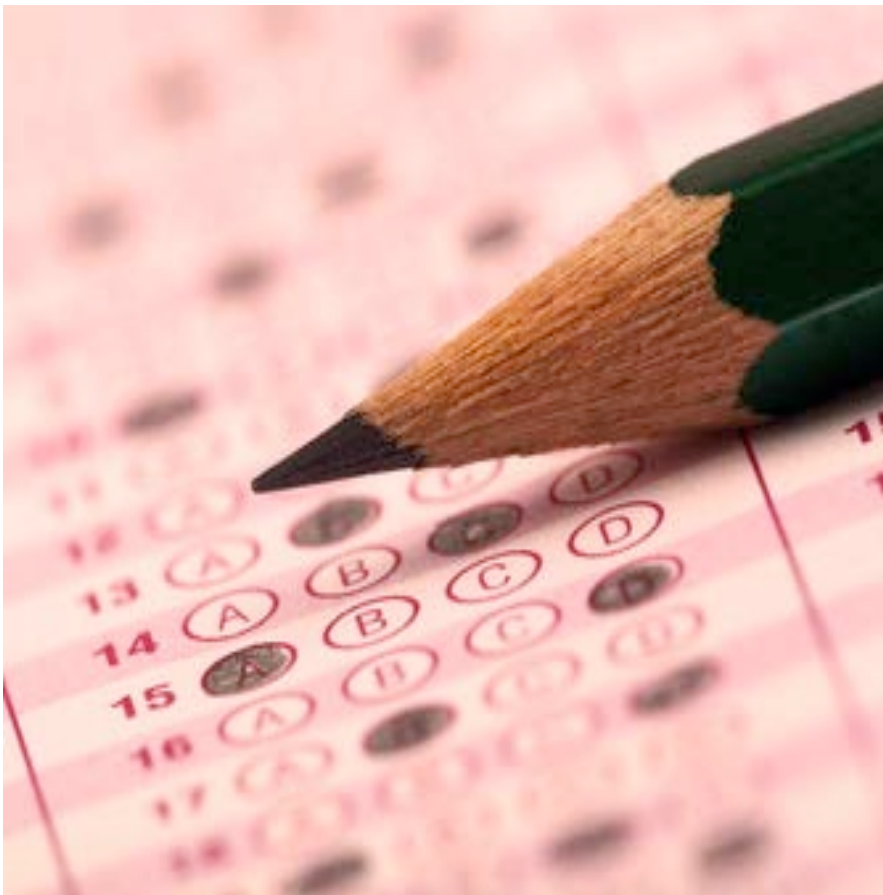
On October 23, Ms. Monic responded back to Zimmermann, saying, "I just finished reading that communication also. You're thinking is along the same lines of current board members also."

In 2016 ASPPB had announced the Step 2 exam and objections mounted, mostly from student and early career psychologist organizations.

Last year in Louisiana, Dr. Amy Henke, then a Director on the Executive Council of the Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA) and Co-

Chair of the LPA Early Career Psychologists Committee in LPA, put forth a Resolution to oppose the Step 2 for Louisiana, which passed unanimously.

Objections, from Henke and others, involve technical and scientific issues, but also the criticism that there is no problem that the new test needs to solve. "There is no evidence that the public is facing some sort of previously unheard of crisis in terms of safety from currently practicing psychologists," said Dr. Henke in 2016.



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Tulane Launches Health Psychology Program

Tulane Psychology will offer a certificate in health psychology to students in the Psychological Science PhD program at the university, beginning in Fall 2019 to be coordinated by Dr. Michael Hoerger.

Health psychology is the scientific discipline that seeks to understand and change the psychosocial factors affecting physical health outcomes.

“The certificate program goes into effect Fall 2019,” current Chair of the Department of Psychology and Professor, Dr. Janet Ruscher said, “and is only available for students enrolled in our psych doctoral programs. It draws upon existing graduate courses in Health Psychology and Behavioral Health Research Methods, as well as faculty expertise in psycho-oncology, stress, and health disparities.”

The certification program will be led by Dr. Michael Hoerger, clinical health psychologist. Dr. Hoerger has focused his career on conducting interdisciplinary research and has served over 30 professional journals. He serves on the editorial board of *Health Psychology*, manages the charitable foundation web site for

the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, and reviews grants for the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute. He was Tulane’s first faculty member to complete the Louisiana Clinical and Translational Science (LA CaTS) Center’s Roadmap Award.

In completing the certificate, students focus 15 of their credits on health psychology foundational courses, advanced courses in methodology and statistics, and clinical or disease-specific courses. The training will empower students to improve public health and well-being through health psychology research careers in academic, medical, and other settings.

Dr. Hoerger’s research draws from the perspective of translational psychological science.

His psycho-oncology studies are informed by basic psychology research and theory related to personality, emotion, and decision-making. This includes Dr. Hoerger’s seminal work on ‘affective forecasting’ and ‘delay of gratification.’ He is known for his methodologic expertise in study design, survey development and measurement, statistics, and web design.

Dr. Garner to Speak on “The Psychotherapeutic Mentality”

Christopher Garner, PsyD, CGP, MSCP, will speak on “Effective Psychotherapy: The Psychotherapeutic Mentality™, Part I: Basic Assumptions, The Prime Movers, & A Look at Dream Interpretation.” The educational event will be hosted by the Louisiana Group Psychotherapy Society at its Winter Workshop on February 10 at Our Lady of the Lake in Baton Rouge.

Dr. Christopher Garner is a Clinical Psychologist as well as a Certified Group Psychotherapist. He owns Garner Psychological Services, Inc., and is an Associate Clinical Professor at LSU-HSC Psychiatry & HSC-OLOL.

Dr. Garner will explain and discuss a way of thinking, as well as conceptualizing, regarding the issues for therapy patients and the therapeutic encounter.

“The Psychotherapeutic Mentality is pan-theoretical, informed by practice relevant research and age-old lore,” he explained.

Areas of discussion will include: Differentiating psychotherapy from other psychological interventions; Reviewing empirical therapeutic factors that cut through all effective types of therapy; Elucidating the “The Psychotherapy Mentality” with examples and group participation; Applying it to both individual and group therapy; Focus in depth on the essential “lenses” of therapist’s conceptualization; Appreciate the prime emotional drives in patients; Introduce important and additional concepts relevant to group psychotherapy; Use examples of dream interpretation and other clinical encounters for application.

Dr. Garner will use film and audience participation to illustrate clinical concepts. Attendees are encouraged to bring examples of dreams and clinical encounters.



Dr. Chris Garner (Center) speaking at a panel during previous workshop. Dr. Garner will present the training this month at the Louisiana Group Psychotherapy Society to be held in Baton Rouge. Above are Dr. Darlyne Nemeth (L) and Bob Waggener, MSW, (R).

ULL’s Dr. Smith to Lead Academic/Scientific Committee for LPA

Dr. T. Scott Smith from University of Louisiana Lafayette will be heading up the Academic & Scientific Committee for the Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA) and coordinating its Science Café education efforts.

Dr. Smith is Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department and leads research in his lab, The Louisiana Applied and Developmental Psychological Sciences Laboratory, where he is interested in cell phone distraction. Smith has authored *Cell Phone Distraction, Human Factors, and Litigation*, published by Judges and Lawyers Publishing and which is becoming a popular resource for legal professionals.

Dr. Smith’s committee will focus on ways to advance psychology through the activities of psychological scientists and academic psychologists around the state, and coordinating and engaging those scientists in the state association and others in the universities.

Dr. Smith helped design and conduct the first LPA *Science Café*, which was held in November 2017 at the LPA Fall Conference in New Orleans. The Café hosted psychological scientists from laboratories from the University of New Orleans, Pennington Biomedical and the University of Louisiana Lafayette.

Included in the November event were, Dr. Elliot Beaton, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of New Orleans (UNO) and the director of the Stress, Cognition, and Affective Neuroscience Laboratory, discussed how stress affects brain development, and joined by researchers Ashley Sanders, MS, and David Stephenson, MS.; Dr. Christopher Harshaw, Assistant Professor, also from UNO, director of the Mechanisms Underlying Sociality Laboratory; Dr. Robert Newton, Jr., Associate Professor and director of the Physical Activity & Ethnic Minority Health Lab at Pennington Biomedical; Dr. Valanne MacGyvers, Assistant Professor at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, described her work on issues of mindset in achieving excellence; Dr. Charles Taylor, Assistant Professor of mechanical engineering, founder of the Cajun Artificial Heart Laboratory; and Dr. Smith who also directs the Forensic Cognition Laboratory at the University.



Dr. Richard Flicker (L) speaks with Dr. Christopher Harshaw, Assistant Professor from UNO and director of the Mechanisms Underlying Sociality Laboratory, at a recent Science Café.

Stress Solutions

by Susan Andrews, PhD

BASS: The Beliefs about Stress Scale

Do laypersons’ beliefs about stress influence their mental and physical health? In 2016, German psychologists from Berlin addressed this question and developed The Beliefs About Stress Scale (BASS), which is a standardized questionnaire to assess stress beliefs. The BASS consists of an item pool of 24 statements. To standardize the instrument, it was administered online to 455 university students at the start of term. Other information about students’ subjective stress levels, optimism, pessimism, neuroticism and somatosensory amplification was collected. A sub-group of these students were reassessed at the end of term exams 6 to 8 weeks later.

Analysis included factor analysis which suggested 3 dimensions of stress beliefs: negative stress beliefs, positive stress beliefs, and controllability. The item pool of 24 statements is given in the appendix of the publication. Some of the statements include:

“Being Stressed ...

- 1 . . . is, for me, a sign of weakness
- 2 . . . impacts negatively on my ability to perform
- 3 . . . causes damage to my health in the long run
- 4 . . . is something I am able to influence through my actions
- 5 . . . enables me to work in a more focused manner
- 6 . . . makes me more productive
- 7 . . . makes my life more exciting in a positive sense
- 8 . . . causes damage to my health in the short-term

One study in 2016 by Drs. Johannes Laferton and Susanne Fischer, published in the *International Journal of Behavioral Medicine*, showed that students who held negative beliefs about stress being dangerous to one’s health did, in fact, complain of more somatic symptoms during a stressful period.

It is interesting to see the wide range of negative to positive statements included in the BASS questionnaire. Further research using the BASS with differing populations is needed.

In the light of these self-fulfilling and predictive beliefs, I might behoove all of us who are active and busy to take time to examine our own beliefs about stress. And, our beliefs about how well we believe we manage our stress is also critical. We may need to decide that Stress is NOT the “Bad Guy” after all. Dr. Kelly McGonigal, a health psychologist, gave a TED talk in which she said, “For years I’ve been telling people ‘stress makes you sick!’ ...But I’ve changed my mind.” And, she quoted several large N studies to prove her point that changing how you think about stress can change the outcome.



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.

MARDI GRAS and the Psychology in Fat Tuesday

Meditation on Mardi Gras

Dr. Alvin G. Burstein, a psychologist and psychoanalyst, is 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.

“NOMG is a complicated subject,” he said. “It has at least four related dimensions: Parades, Begging, Binging and Atonement—PBBA.”

“Parades—Well who doesn’t love one?” Dr. Burstein said. “Getting absorbed in spectacle distracts us from the miseries of human existence, another opiate for the masses. They constitute half of the classic Roman recipe, free bread and circuses, for keeping the masses happy.”

“But Mardi Gras parades have a special feature: begging, as in ‘T’row me somethin’ Mister.’ The ritual is a mocking demonstration of the gap between privilege and the poor. A mockery, to be sure, but one that remains as a New Orleanian celebration of largesse from the upper classes,” Burstein noted.

“One should recall, too, that Mardi Gras, with its boozing and binging ends with Shrove Tuesday—Lent, with its restrictions on self-indulgence. From a psychoanalytic point of view, a celebration of the endless contest between the lustful Id and the shaming/punitive Superego. In other words, human nature as our nation’s political parties, locked in insoluble conflict, mediated by an Ego that assures us we are just kidding,” he said.

Dr. Burstein is also the movie reviewer for the *Psychology Times* and 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. Visit his website at <http://web.utk.edu/~burstein/>

Turning this upside down to keep them aright

Dr. Matt Rossano, Professor and past Chair of the Department of Psychology at Southeastern Louisiana University, expert in evolutionary psychology, and author of *Evolutionary Psychology: The Science of Human Behavior and Evolution*, and also *Supernatural Selection: How Religion Evolved*, looks at rituals through this perspective.

Rossano’s paper on ritual, “The essential role of ritual in the transmission and reinforcement of social norms,” published in *Psychological Bulletin* in 2012 is commonly cited. He writes that ritual and ritualized behavior is essential to the transmission and reinforcement of social norms, and that these norms are morally significant for cooperation and social organization.

“The chaotic revelry of Mardi Gras is part of an ancient tradition of rituals known as rituals of reversal or inversion,” Dr. Rossano said. “Our Ancient and Medieval ancestors understood civilization to be rather burdensome for most. Plebeians, commoners, peasants – the great unwashed masses – were not truly cut out for behaving civilly. Reigning in their sloth, lusts, and general need for immediate gratification long enough to fulfill the roles and duties that civilized life imposed on them demanded constant effort. In time, frustrated energies would build to potentially dangerous levels. The ‘responsible’ classes recognized that some ‘release’ mechanism was necessary lest these energies explode, ripping society asunder. Ritual ‘venting’ was the answer,” he said.

“In rituals of reversal or inversion, the social world is temporarily reversed or turned upside down – servants become masters, men become women, order becomes chaos, the profane becomes sacred, that which is feared is celebrated. The festival of Saturnalia was one such ritual held in Ancient Rome. Occurring in late December honoring the god Saturn, it featured temple sacrifice, gift-giving, and lavish banquets. All of this happening in a carnivalesque atmosphere where typical Roman social norms were freely violated: masters served their slaves at table, subordinates disrespected and criticized superiors without threat of punishment, class distinctions of dress were set aside, and normally-prohibited vices such as gambling and dice-playing were allowed.

“Across Medieval Europe, carnival celebrations at midsummer, harvest season, year’s end and preceding Lent were often



Fotolia

raucous affairs featuring bawdy processions, cross-dressing, violence, and open sexuality. Peasants dressed as bishops and effusively mocked clerics and nobles. By comparison, modern inversion rituals such as Mardi Gras and Halloween are far tamer affairs,” Dr. Rossano said.

“Rather than condemning the transient debauchery that inversion rituals entailed, religious and political leaders were typically tolerant of them. They served the necessary function of dissipating chaotic energy under ritualistically-regulated circumstances. Indeed, by delineating exactly how, when, and where disorder was permitted, inversions rituals reinforced the existing social system. The temporary lifting of social norms allowed people to more clearly see the crucial role they played for a healthy, functioning human community. Some might hope that in our supposed age of reason we should be beyond all this. But apparently not.”

Therapeutic Value of Anonymity

Dr. Judith G. Miranti, licensed marriage and family therapist and a professor of counselor education at Xavier University of Louisiana, is Associate Chair of Division of Education and Counseling. She has served as President of the National Association for Spirituality, Ethics, and Religious Values in Counseling. She is co-author of *Religious and Spiritual Issues in Counseling: Applications across diverse populations*.

“If, for just one day, we could remove our mask and put on another what would we learn about ourselves? So much has been written about identity that we become consumed with perfection and the need to be valued and loved for ourselves,” writes Dr. Miranti. “Self-help books have been written discussing the intrinsic need to know oneself in the quest for integrity and genuineness. ‘To thine own self be true...’ Have you been looking for a reason to do something different, to be someone different?”

“Well, look no further! One day out of the year there is an opportunity to disguise self and take on another persona and that

MARDI GRAS and the Psychology in Fat Tuesday

event is called Mardi Gras,” she said. “On that day you can go from the sublime to the ridiculous and no one will judge, criticize or condemn you. In fact, anonymity is encouraged and inhibitions are thrown to the winds. Social inhibitions are learned behaviors and the unlearning can be a time consuming process. We are always encouraged to step outside of our comfort zone so... are you willing to test those inhibitions.

“At midnight, masks are removed and then comes the day of reckoning called Ash Wednesday. For twenty-four hours you did whatever you wanted and the next day you don sack cloth and ashes. What did this experience tell you about yourself? Did it expose your inhibitions? Did it foster guilt or did you feel freer and more alive? Did it help to question why you normally do what you do? Therapy can help you identify the things in your life you can change to improve your sense of peace, well-being and self-esteem. So, can the experience of anonymity have a similar effect? As Mark Twain wrote: ‘Twenty years from now, you’ll be more disappointed by the things you didn’t do than by the ones you did.’

Quoting Mark Twain, Miranti said: “It has been said that a Scotchman has not seen the world until he has seen Edinburgh; and I think that I may say that an American has not seen the United States until he has seen Mardi-Gras in New Orleans.”

Miranti’s *Religious and Spiritual Issues in Counseling: Applications across diverse populations* is published by New York: Brunner-Routledge-Taylor & Francis Group.

She has served as the Director–Division of Education and Graduate Studies, and Director-Graduate Counseling Program, at Xavier.

An Enjoyable Time and Family Affair

Combining a little bit of all the psychology, symbols, myths and meanings, Dr. Bryan Gros has been able to put it together for good use.

“Although I now reside in Prairieville, I was born and raised in New Orleans,” said Dr. Bryan Gros, Past-President of the Louisiana Psychological Association and psychologist in the Baton Rouge area.

“I’ve been attending Mardi Gras yearly since birth,” he said. “My earliest and fondest memories were that of a ‘family affair.’ Ladders, food, frolicking in the streets in our costumes with siblings and cousins, while extended family adults seemed to be having just as much fun. The memories were indelible.”

“Now that I am one of the adults, the experience means even more to me. I carry on our tradition each year with my own children, family, and friends,” he said. “Each year, we make the trek to New Orleans for Mardi Gras weekend through Fat Tuesday. Family and friends, many from out

of town, meet together for days of food, drink, fun and shenanigans. Each year our crowd seems to get larger.”

“Yes, I am one of those people that are out there by 6 AM. I especially enjoy ‘costuming’ with my children. Mardi Gras has always been one of the most enjoyable times of the year for me.”



For Dr. Bryan Gros and kids George and Lily, Mardi Gras is just plain fun.
(All photos courtesy Dr. Gros)



A Shrink at the Flicks

The Post: A Review

by Alvin G. Burstein, PhD

It could be argued that words printed on paper are passé and newspapers are a format in the process of becoming extinct. Warren Buffet, the Omaha sage of Wall Street, does not agree. He thinks that, despite the fact that the number of daily newspapers is shrinking, *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* will endure because of their *gravitas*, and that local newspapers have a unique ability to focus on local events.

Spielberg's new movie *The Post*, starring Meryl Streep and Tom Hanks, joins McCarthy's 2015 *Spotlight* as bracing reminders of the impact the press can have.

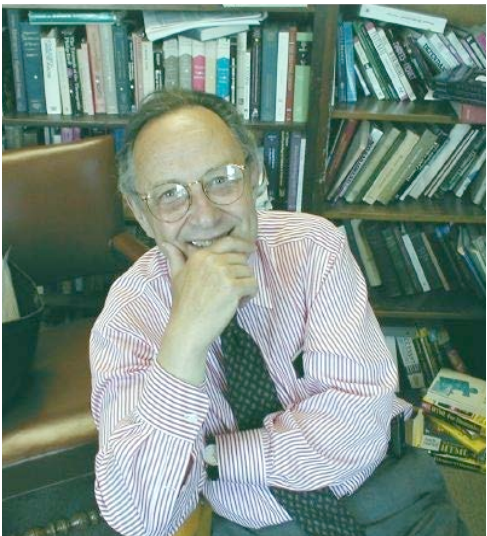
The latter film documented the role *The Boston Globe* played in exposing not only the extent of priestly involvement in the sexual exploitation of young children, but also the Church's role in a cover-up. *The Post* chronicles the exposure of the United States government's cover-up of the realities of the war in Vietnam.

In 1950 Daniel Ellsberg was part of a RAND corporation research team sent to Vietnam to study limited warfare. In 1965 he spent two years in that country working for the State Department studying counter-insurgency. In the movie, he is portrayed as being embedded with troops suffering heavy casualties.

When Ellsberg returned to Washington, again at RAND, he joined a team drafting a history of the U. S. political involvement in Vietnam. There he became privy to classified documents describing how administrations from John Kennedy's to Lyndon Johnson's recognized that the war was basically unwinnable, a reality that was concealed from the American public. Ellsberg made copies of the documents, sharing them with the *NYT*. He did so with the realization that he was committing a crime.

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.



courtesy photo

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.



In 1971, *The Times* published an article describing the contents of the so-called Pentagon papers. They were ordered to desist by the U.S. Attorney General, but refused to comply, whereupon the government obtained a court order enjoining them.

The Washington Post, hearing that Ellsberg was on the run in Washington, managed to locate him and obtain copies of the papers. The *Post's* editor, Ben Bradlee, broached the notion of publishing them to its owner, Katherine Graham. The decision was fraught for several reasons. Criminal charges might ensue. The paper was in the process of becoming publicly owned, and might lose investors. The Graham family was friends with Secretary of Defense McNamara, deeply implicated in the scandal.

The movie explores the play of these tensions and goes at least a half-step further, hinting at both Graham's and Bradlee's susceptibility to being seduced by the appeal of access to the powerful. The movie, too, dramatizes the power of the press in visual terms with a focus on linotyping and huge mechanical presses churning away.

In fact and in the movie, the question of governmental authority versus freedom of the press went to the United States Supreme Court for resolution. Justice Hugo Black's words served as an epigraph to the movie:

In the First Amendment the Founding Fathers gave the free press the protection it must have to fulfill its essential role in our democracy. The press was to serve the governed, not the governors. The Government's power to censor the press was abolished so that the press would remain forever free to censure the Government.

These words are particularly apposite in our time.

Drs. Nemeth, Brewer Speak at Louisiana College for Memorial Dedication to Honor Dr. George Hearn’s Life

The late Dr. George Hearn was honored by Louisiana College in a tree-planting ceremony in front of Alexandria Hall, on January 26.

“Hearn Twin Oaks Ceremony” was a tribute to the long-time professor at the college and hosted family, friends, and colleagues. Gloria Hearn, Dr. Hearn’s widow noted, “The oak tree represents strength, beauty, grace and on-going life.”

“It is incumbent on us to pause for the cause today as we plant trees in memory of one who listened to the valued teachings of our forebears,” and she explained how Louisiana College and its founding by the Baptists helped to provide more education and preparation for the gospel to citizens and families.

Speaking at the Ceremony and representing the Louisiana Psychological Association was Dr. Darlyne Nemeth. Also speaking was Dr. Rick Brewer, President of Louisiana College, Mayor Clarence Fields, and family members including Ms. Gail Hearn Smith.

“It was my great honor to represent the Louisiana Psychological Association and to share with the rather large audience, Dr. Hearn’s contributions to the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists and the Louisiana Psychological Association,” said Dr. Nemeth. “Dr. Hearn served as Chair of the Board and President of our association. In regard to his service to psychology, Dr. Hearn was given our Distinguished Psychologist Award.”

From 1965 to 2000 George served Louisiana College (Pineville) as Full Professor and Chairman of the Department of Psychology. He also was in independent practice at his firm, Hearn & Hearn, and was known for his skills as mediator in groups and organizations through his work.

His focus in IO Psychology had begun while in graduate school, serving as Assistant to the Head of the Industrial Division, Executive Appraisals and Employee Selection at Baylor University. At Baylor Dr. Hearn also worked in the research projects supporting the NASA Space Program.



Gloria Hearn (L) with Dr. Rick Brewer, President of Louisiana College, and Dr. Darlyne Nemeth who spoke at the memorial ceremony in honor of psychologist and professor Dr. George Hearn. (Photo courtesy Dr. Nemeth)

He blended his technical knowledge with his enduring respect and faith in people and the course of human events. This early interest was portrayed by his choice of an undergraduate in history, a masters in history, and another masters in theology.

Before he returned for his doctorate, Dr. Hearn was an ordained minister, pastor of Laurel Heights and Ford Park Baptist churches in Shreveport from 1948 to 1961. Dr. Hearn’s willingness to help and give of

himself was also apparent in his extensive community service. He was member and president of the Historical Association of Central Louisiana, member and chairman of Rapides Area Planning Commission, and Alderman for Pineville City Council. He served honorably in the United States Navy during World War II. He served on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists from 1982 to 1988, including as chair.

The Louisiana School Psychological Association Names Award Recipients for 2017 at Fall Convention

The Louisiana School Psychological Association named it Awards for 2017 at the recent convention in the fall. Awards Chair, Dr. Kim Sherman, noted those honored.

Jeremy Babb, from Iberia Parish, was named School Psychologist of the Year and Gordon Upton was named for Lifetime Achievement. Stacey Johnson was named the EC Member of the Year.

Amber Boykin was honored with the "Got Your Back" – President’s Award. The Will Bergeron Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Haley Walker from Louisiana State University Shreveport.

Katie Simon from Tulane was honored with the Dr. Conni Patterson Scholarship and the Dr. Larry Stout Memorial Scholarship went to Anna Schech from Nicholls. Tulane’s Megan Saybe won Best Poster.



Governor Edwards with members of the Louisiana School Psychological Association at a previous conference. (Courtesy photo.)

70th Annual Convention of the Louisiana Psychological Association

Psychology: Essential Partner for Solving Critical Problems



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Scott O. Lilienfeld, PhD
April Foreman, PhD
David Schwartz, PhD
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Alan Coulter, PhD
Tiffany Jennings, PsyD

and more



<http://louisianapsychologicalassociation.org/>

Up-Coming Events

Group Psychotherapy Society to Hold Winter Workshop on Feb 10

The Louisiana Group Psychotherapy Society will hold its Winter Workshop on February 10 at Our Lady of the Lake in Baton Rouge. Presenting is Christopher Garner, PsyD, CGP, MSCP, who will speak on “Effective Psychotherapy: The Psychotherapeutic Mentality™, Part I: Basic Assumptions, The Prime Movers, & A Look at Dream Interpretation.”

Dr. Garner is a Clinical Psychologist, Doctor of Psychology, and Certified Group Psychotherapist, and Associate Clinical Professor at LSU-HSC Psychiatry & HSC-OLOL.

Dr. Garner will explain and discuss, “The Psychotherapeutic Mentality is pan-theoretical, informed by practice relevant research and age-old lore,” he explained.

May 18 & 19, 2018

LPA to Host Governor Edwards, Scott O. Lilienfeld, for “Essential Partner” Theme

The Louisiana Psychological Association will hold its 70th Annual Convention on May 18 and 19 at the Sheraton, 4 Galleria Boulevard, in Metairie. The theme for the two-day, conference is “Psychology: Essential Partner for Solving Critical Problems.”

Governor John Bel Edwards has been invited to address the Friday plenary session about critical issues facing the state and its citizens.

Keynote address follows to be given by Scott O. Lilienfeld, PhD, Emory Professor who will speak on, “Being the Essential Partner: Understanding and Overcoming Skepticism about Scientific Psychology.”

Dr. Lilienfeld is recipient of the James McKeen Cattell Award for Lifetime Contributions to Applied Psychological Science, Association for Psychological Science, and he delivered the Award Address, “Psychology’s Public Image Problem: Why Many Laypersons and Politicians Don’t View Our Field as Scientific.”

In his 2012 *American Psychologist* article, “Public Skepticism of Psychology,” Lilienfeld has examined the importance, prevalence, and sources of public and political skepticism of psychology. He will offer individual and institutional recommendations for enhancing the perception of psychology as a scientific discipline in the public eye.

Highlights also include neuropsychologist David Schwartz, PhD, ABPdN, from the Concussion Institute in Atlanta, who will present, “Advances in the Assessment and Management of General and Sports-Related Concussion Injuries.” Dr. Schwartz consults nationally and in

Attendees will see how to appreciate the prime emotional drives in patients. Dr. Garner will use film and audience participation to illustrate clinical concepts. Use examples of dream interpretation and other clinical encounters for application. Attendees are encouraged to bring examples of dreams and clinical encounters.

The workshop is 9:00 am to 12:00. Dr. Garner hopes to cover all the concepts; uncovered areas or those in need of more time will be presented in an addition session or, “Part 2.” Those who want more may bring their lunch for addition discussion. Space is limited and scholarships available. Visit the event page for more information at <http://www.lgpsonline.org/winter-workshop.html>.

Canada with school districts, school boards, and state departments of education. He is the executive director and a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatric Neuropsychology and will cover concussion identification, newer technologies, chronic traumatic encephalopathy, and treatment trajectories. Dr. Schwartz is an actively sought out, engaging speaker and will also present the cross-cutting topic, “New Technologies for Assessment and Behavior Change.”

Also presenting is April Foreman, PhD, licensed psychologist and Suicide Prevention Coordinator for Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System, and is Suicide Prevention Lead for Veterans Integrated Service Network 16. She is on the Executive Committee for the Board of the American Association of Suicidology and known for her work at the intersection of technology, social media, and mental health, with nationally recognized implementations of innovations in the use of technology and mood tracking. She is the 2015 recipient of the Roger J. Tierney Award for her work as a founder and moderator of the first sponsored regular mental health chat on Twitter.

Other presenters include Dr. Courtland Chaney and Dr. Alan Coulter, on “Opportunities for Organization Development Interventions in Schools: The Interface of Two Specialties;” Dr. Denise Newman, chairing the panel, Innovations in Psychotherapy; and Dr. Tiffany Jennings presenting on “Highlights on Rural Health.” The conference will also include the popular “Lunch & Learn,” Scientific Poster Session, Science Café, and other events.

Mindfulness Workshop Scheduled for April 7

Dr. John Pickering announced the Annual Mindfulness day will be held Saturday, April 7, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Tam Bao Meditation Hall, in Baton Rouge. The theme is “Mindfulness and Resilience: A Day of Mindfulness for Mental Health Professionals.”

Presenters are Thay Dao Quang, PhD, Margo Hasha, PhD, MSW, David Weibel, PhD, and Anne Marie Rossi. Early registration is open until February 28, at \$90 for the day, then afterward at \$110. The event is approved for 6 hours of CPD for psychologists by the Louisiana Psychological Association, for Licensed Professional Counselors by the Louisiana Counseling Association, and for Social Workers by the Louisiana Chapter of NASW.

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