

Appeals Court Reverses Judge Caldwell's "Reeks" Decision in Cerwonka-LSBEP Dispute

On April 11 the State of Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal, reversed Judge Michael Caldwell's decision that the state psychology board violated Dr. Eric Cerwonka's rights when the board used attorneys from the same law firm, and when the board's prosecuting attorney had been previously involved with Cerwonka in a child custody case and fee dispute.

The Appeals Court reversed Caldwell, and sent the matter back to the district court for further proceedings. Costs of the appeal are to be paid by Cerwonka.

Following a January 2017 hearing the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of

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ASPPB Presents Their Reasoning for EPPP2 At Psychology Board

Steven DeMers, EdD, Chief Executive officer of the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB), spoke as a guest at the regular meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, held Friday, April 20, 2018 at the public library in Baton Rouge.

Along with board members, Drs. Kim VanGeffen, Marc Zimmerman, Alan Coulter and Greg Gormanous also attended the public meeting and ASPPB presentation. Concerns about price, validity and need for

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Appropriations Committee testimony from Department of Safety and Corrections on April 9.

May 18 & 19

Lt. Governor, Dr. Scott O. Lilienfeld to Speak at 70th La Psych Assn Convention

Lt. Governor William (Billy) Nungesser will deliver the welcome for the 70th Annual Convention of the Louisiana Psychological Association, and highlight Louisiana's critical needs, launching this year's theme for "Psychology: Essential Partner for Solving Critical Problems." Nationally recognized speaker, Emory Professor Dr. Scott O. Lilienfeld, will continue the theme with "Being the Essential Partner: Understanding and Overcoming Skepticism about Scientific Psychology."

The two-day conference will be held May 18 and 19 at the Sheraton, 4 Galleria Boulevard, in Metairie, and host an array of national and local presenters, scientific poster and laboratory presentations, and experiential groups, building on the theme of psychology's unique perspectives and contributions.

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2nd Special Session Likely HB1 "Not a Serious Attempt" at Solution Says Governor

The Governor will likely call a second special session in late May or early June to attempt to deal with the on-going financial problems in the state, following a House operating budget bill that squeaked by and that threatens cuts in higher education, hospital closures, and kicking 46,000 elderly and disabled out of their nursing homes beds.

The House barely passed House Bill 1 for the state's operating expenses with a 55 yea to 47 nay vote on April 19. It has been pending in the Senate Finance since April 24.

The measure that squeaked by on April 19 contains \$648 million in cuts, reported the

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Science & Education

LaTech I-O Psych Graduate Program Grabs Top Ranking

The Industrial-Organizational graduate program at Louisiana Tech has been ranked first in the nation in applied development opportunities by a study conducted by the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP).

The top ranking reflects how the faculty help the graduate students engage in research with organizations, consulting opportunities with organizational leaders and stakeholders, and communicate with the public.

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Dr. Burstein
on Spielberg's

*Ready
Player One*

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Dr. Rafael Salcedo attended the April 9 meeting of Advisory Board for Prevention of Human Trafficking. Seated next to Dr. Salcedo is Kathleen Richey and in foreground is First Lady Donna Edwards. See story page eight.

Editorials and Opinions

Real Psychologists

by Times publisher, J. Nelson

A few days ago I was lucky enough to catch Bill McCown, a dean at Monroe, professor and clinical psychologist, on the phone. Talking to Bill is like having conversation with a pleasant, rapid-fire, interactive, psychology encyclopedia. I always come away from our conversations inspired with new ideas, affirmations of current directions, and improved morale about my hair-brained schemes to revitalize psychology in our state.

In the flash storm of ideas we realized that we were both in the audience at the Hotel Monteleone in 1978 when Ralph Dreger dragged Hans Eysenck to the U.S. to speak at the Louisiana Psychological Association.

Bill and I agreed that Dr. Eysenck was pure genius, but also a gracious, courteous man, surprisingly free of arrogance and disagreeableness. I said to Bill, "Yes! And Scott Lilienfeld believes that one of our problems is that our field no longer has psychologists like Eysenck talking to the public. Now, we have Dr. Phil and Dr. Laura. Nobody even understands what a real psychologist is or does these days. The public thinks we're psychiatrists."

Scott Lilienfeld is the keynote speaker at this year's psychology convention. He seems to have made it his goal to help us return to being real psychologists. He says "...that trained psychologists are virtually unparalleled" in the crucial ability to apply scientific reasoning and method to human problems.

This rebooting of our purpose couldn't come at a better time, because the "degree of reality" in our social system seems to be dropping dramatically.

I like the way Kurt Levin thought about degree of reality. While you might prefer the psychoanalytic, cognitive or even evolutionary theory, Levin viewed it as a major characteristic and put it simply as the alignment of the individual, group, or large system to the "world of hard facts."

And degree of reality seems to be dropping like a stone all around us. The politicians are scary, the Feds are even scarier, the media is no longer the Press, the ASPPB doesn't care about validity—on and on.

Consider the big news in this issue, the Appeals Court reversing Judge Caldwell's decision in the Cerwonka case.

In the Appeals Court review we find out that the psychology board's prosecuting attorney was Dr. Cerwonka's attorney in a child custody case. Everyone knows these are the most bitter, mud slinging, and emotionally charged legal battles there are, causing normal people to go temporarily insane. We also find out in the Court's statement that Raines and Cerwonka got in a fee dispute afterward.

Can you imagine it? Being called in for a complaint investigation and discovering that the fellow investigating and prosecuting you is your attorney from your child custody battle, that ended with a fee dispute? And, when you request that he recuse himself, he refuses? And the board, who should know better, backs that decision?

Then the Appeals Court said the topic and the passage of time—10 years—made it a moot issue. "Here," they said, "there is no possibility that the issues involved in a child custody matter or a collections matter could be considered substantially related to the licensing issue before the Board."

Really? *No possibility?* Perhaps they should consult a psychologist on that.

Not considering the serious issue of privileged information, the 10 years is irrelevant. The psyche is timeless. Division 19 just wrapped up a conference in New Orleans using the theme from Faulkner, "The past is never dead. It's not even past." We all know it.

Years ago, when I practiced as a clinician, an 83 year-old woman sought therapy because she had been molested as a child. During our work together I asked her, "Why now?" She told me simply, "I did not want to take it to my grave." Holding psychological pain for 70 years is completely normal. Holding a grudge for 10 is child's play.

Even if the law allowed Mr. Raines to prosecute Dr. Cerwonka after himself being involved intimately in Cerwonka's personal life, and an event that led to a dispute between the two of them, that does not make it right. It does not explain why the board's complaints committee ignored such a dangerous issue, for any member of our community.

Psychologists need to return to doing their job, as the "virtually unparalleled" discipline that we were created to be, and as Dr. Lilienfeld also recommends, lose the pseudoscience and police ourselves. Maybe if we were doing our job, the attorneys, politicians, and opinion journalists would stop doing it for us.

In his 2012 *Am Psychologist* article Scott Lilienfeld points out that in the past, prominent psychologists like John B. Watson, William James, and Thorndike wrote for popular magazines like *Harpers* or *Popular Science Monthly*, and even in the 60s, articles by Stanley Milgram, Zimbardo and Eysenck found the way to the lay public. Today however, few scientific psychologists write for the general public, a decline of 300%, says Lilienfeld.

The Louisiana Psychological Association is bringing in Lilienfeld for its convention. We're going to hear how to be better real psychologists—virtually unparalleled in the crucial ability to apply scientific reasoning and method to human problems.

I think it will take a village if we are going to restore our identity, do our jobs as real psychologists, and fill gaps that are being filled by nonexperts. We might even impact the overall declining degree of reality. To my mind, that would be a really good thing.

[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. Send your corrections to:
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Appeals Court Reverses Judge Caldwell’s “Reeks” Decision, continued

Psychologists revoked Dr. Cerwonka’s license. He then sought a review in the 19th Judicial District Court. Presiding Judge Mike Caldwell stopped the review and vacated the board’s decision saying that the process “reeked” with due process violations.

Judge Caldwell said that allowing Lloyd Lunceford, a member of the same law firm as the Board’s general counsel, to serve as presiding officer for the administrative proceeding; and allowing James ‘Jim’ Raines, who represented Dr. Cerwonka in a prior child custody matter, which also resulted in a fee dispute, to serve as the Board’s prosecuting attorney, violated Cerwonka’s rights to a fair hearing.

The Appeals Court disagreed. They reviewed the record of the January 2017 hearing and said that despite Ms. Amy Lowe and Mr. Lunceford being from the same law firm, this alone does not constitute a violation.

They cited a U.S. Supreme Court ruling (*Withrow v. Larkin*, 1975) noting the constitutional framework for analyzing issues involving the combination of investigative and adjudicative functions in state and federal administrative proceedings.

In a case involving a physician’s disciplinary hearing in Wisconsin, the Appeal judges wrote, “Supreme Court recognized that a fair trial in a fair tribunal is a basic requirement of due process and that this requirement applies to administrative agencies which adjudicate, as well as to courts.”

“The Supreme Court went on to state that “[n]ot only is a biased decisionmaker constitutionally unacceptable but ‘our system of law’ has always endeavored to prevent even the probability of unfairness.”

However, the Supreme Court implicitly rejected that structural argument and held that the “combination of investigative and adjudicative functions does not, without more, constitute a due process violation.”

They Appeal judges wrote that the prevailing view is that a party basing a procedural due process claim on an impermissible combination of functions argument must demonstrate that the risk of actual bias is intolerably high, not merely that a combination of functions exists.

After reviewing the record of the hearing, the Appeals court

found no evidence that Ms. Lowe had interjected herself unfairly in the proceedings. She did not prosecute or defend, or cross-examine any witnesses. The presiding officer Mr. Lunceford did not decide the merits of the allegations, and while he did rule on the admissibility of evidence, the Court did not see in its review of the record any evidence of unfairness to raise issues of due process.

Regarding Mr. Raines, Judge Caldwell agreed with Dr. Cerwonka’s view that Mr. Raines’ not recusing himself constitutes a due process violation. The Appeals Court disagreed.

The Board’s pleadings note that the issue was first raised during the course of the administrative proceeding, when Dr. Cerwonka argued that Mr. Raines should be recused because he was not impartial as required by LSA-C.Cr.P. art. 680. The Appeals Court wrote that the article 680 “provides that a district attorney must be recused when he has a personal interest in the case, is related to the party accused or the party injured, or has been employed or consulted in the case as an attorney for the defendant before his election as district attorney.”

“However, we note that LSA-C.Cr.P. art. 680 applies to district attorneys in criminal cases. By contrast, the Administrative Procedure Act applies to the underlying administrative proceeding. It requires only that the adjudicator be impartial and neutral.”

The Appeals Court wrote that Mr. Raines is not required to be a neutral party but an advocate, who has developed the “will to win.”

They wrote, “Dr. Cerwonka contended that Mr. Raines should have been recused because he represented Dr. Cerwonka in a prior custody case in 2006 in which a subsequent fee dispute arose between Raines’ firm and Dr. Cerwonka. Mr. Raines admitted that as a second year associate, he worked under the partner of his law firm and was one of two attorneys who represented Dr. Cerwonka over ten years prior to the initiation of the underlying administrative proceeding. That representation pertained to a custody judgment rendered against Dr. Cerwonka, which was wholly unrelated to the licensing dispute before the Board.”

“Rule 1.9 of the Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct prohibits an attorney from representing a



General Counsel for the psychology board, Mr. Lloyd Lunceford speaking at the Cerwonka hearing. Ms. Amy Lowe is in background. The Appeal Court found no convincing evidence that being from the same law firm resulted in problems with due process.

person or entity that is adverse to a former client in the same or substantially related matter.”

However, the Court said, “Here, there is no possibility that the issues involved in a child custody matter or a collections matter could be considered substantially related to the licensing issue before the Board.

However, Dr. Cerwonka asserts that Mr. Raines used information he possessed from his prior representation against Dr. Cerwonka in the underlying proceeding and that documents from the domestic litigation were used at the examiner’s hearing. Dr. Cerwonka has cited nothing in the record to support these assertions.”

Not Our Jurisdiction, Judge Rules in Federal Court Case

United States District Judge Robert G. James issued a Judgment on April 17 that a federal lawsuit against the state psychology board filed by Dr. Eric Cerwonka, be dismissed based on lack of federal jurisdiction. Judge James wrote, “After an independent review of the record, and consideration of the objections filed, this Court concludes that the Magistrate Judge’s report and recommendation is correct and adopts the findings and conclusions therein as its own.”

In March, Magistrate Judge Carol B. Whitehurst recommended dismissal based on lack of federal jurisdiction, writing, “The Eleventh Amendment bars an individual from suing a state in federal court unless the state consents or Congress has clearly and validly abrogated the state’s sovereign immunity,” wrote Whitehurst.

Attorney for Cerwonka, Brown Sims attorney Mr. L. Lane Roy, had argued that “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*. In a lengthy discussion, the court found that North Carolina did not possess Eleventh Amendment immunity.” [...]

The attorney for the LSBEP, Jeremiah Sams of the Attorney General Office, wrote, “The Board has proved that it is a state agency because La. R.S. 37:2353 creates the Board within the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

Whitehurst had written in her March report, “When a district court finds it lacks subject matter jurisdiction, its determination is not on the merits of the case, and does not bar the plaintiff from pursuing the claim in a proper jurisdiction.”

(See related story in *Times* Vol 9, No. 4)

ASPPB Presents at Psychology Board Meeting, continued

the test, were reported by several of those attending.

Dr. DeMers presented information on the expansion of the licensing exam, the Examination for the Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) a topic that has garnered criticism from various directions.

ASPPB had announced in late 2017 that its previous plan for an optional, "Step 2" section to the national exam for psychologists was no longer going to be optional. The additional test would now be mandatory and the price will go from the current \$600 to \$1200.

Kim VanGeffen, Past-President of Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA) and currently Director and Chair of the Professional Affairs Committee for LPA, attended the presentation. She said that Dr. DeMers and others are travelling around the country with their slide show and that, if there were concerns expressed or if problems arise with the beta testing, they might postpone the implementation of this new test.

"Dr. DeMers acknowledged that, currently," VanGeffen told the *Times*, "there is not really any research on the validity of the EPPP2, "The EPPP2 committee believes that this exam has face validity and content validity," she said. "They are satisfied that these types of validity are acceptable for the EPPP2. There do not seem to be any plans to obtain predictive validity nor does the EPPP2 committee believe that establishing this type of validity is necessary," VanGeffen said.

"I was most impressed with how everyone in attendance who asked questions or offered comments is opposed to this exam due to its cost, concerns about its necessity, and concerns about its validity."

Asked what if anything concerned her, VanGeffen said, "I am concerned that the EPPP2 will be forced on states. As it stands now, states will be required to use both parts or will not be able to use any of the EPPP. Concern was also expressed that ASPPB has an agenda to eliminate the post doctoral supervision year and oral exams which are required for licensure in some states," she said.

"ASPPB is planning to do a study to compare how people score on the second part of the EPPP when it is taken prior to the post doctoral supervision year with those people who take the exam after the post doctoral supervision year," Dr. VanGeffen said. "ASPPB believes that if there is no difference in scores on the EPPP2 whether you take it before or after your post doctoral supervision year, it will bolster their case that the additional year of supervision is not needed."

"There is, however, another way to view such a potential finding," she said. "That is, if there is no difference in scores from the two groups, the EPPP2 may not really be assessing competence. It would also seem that ASPPB might better convince states that the EPPP2 is truly assessing competence by doing research comparing test performance of beginning psychologists with psychologists five years out and ten years out in practice."

Dr. Alan Coulter also attended the public meeting. He said that the LSBEP members appeared skeptical about Louisiana's need to adopt these changes in order to ensure quality of psychologists serving the public.

"LSBEP members," he noted, "expressed a need for substantial evidence from ASPPB that any additions to the current examination would add significant value to the state board's current methodology for determining the fitness of candidates for licensure."

Dr. VanGeffen echoed this, "Another concern is that the current EPPP may not be of much validity. There is data that the further out someone gets from their graduate school coursework the less likely they are to pass the current EPPP," she said.

Dr. Marc Zimmermann, past LSBEP board member and Chair of the LPA Medical Psychology Committee, said, "I think the idea of measuring a professional's skills before turning him/her loose on the public is a good idea. I do not think this attempt hits the mark," he said. "When the Board does oral examinations we come closer to this by allowing the person to provide reasoning for their projected behaviors."

"He [Dr. DeMers] stated that there is no predictive validity," said Zimmermann. "He also threw in that none of the national tests had predictive validity. He reported that content validity was the accepted standard because a test with predictive validity could not be constructed."

"It seemed to me that it was a c.y.a. and sales effort. He [Dr. DeMers] addressed the questions of why they changed from an optional second part of the EPPP to a mandatory component," Dr. Zimmermann said.

"He did not say it, but reading between the lines, I think there was resistance to the second part and this is how they plan to implement their will. He said several times that they were just a vendor, but they have put themselves in the position of being the only vendor."

Through 2016 and 2017 objections to the EPPP Step 2

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 and Co-Chair of the LPA Early Career Psychologists Committee, put forth a Resolution to oppose the Step 2 for Louisiana, which passed unanimously. Dr. Henke is now serving on the state psychology board.

Objections, from Henke and others, involve technical and scientific issues, but also the criticism that there is no problem that needs to be solved. "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. Amy Henke for an earlier interview.

Asked why ASPPB came to Louisiana Dr. Zimmermann said, "I think they are on a sales tour and hitting the states that are the squeakiest wheels."

What impressed him most about the presentation? "That DeMers had the temerity to try to sell us something that does not meet the standard that psychological tests being published are expected to have," said Dr. Zimmermann.

Please welcome **Heather Pedersen, PhD** *to the community!*

Dr. Pedersen is a clinical neuropsychologist with experience assessing memory disorders, dementia, multiple sclerosis, and other neurocognitive problems. She will be joining us at Algiers Neurobehavioral Resource, LLC in May 2018 when she moves here from Arizona.



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House Budget Bill “Not Serious” continued

Advocate, and leaders from LSU medical schools in New Orleans and Shreveport are said to be asking for a remedy and delay so that medical residents, students, and faculty do not begin to look for safe harbors elsewhere. Additionally the effort would cut TOPS to 80 percent, the popular scholarship program for 50,000 Louisiana residents yearly.

The *Advocate* reported that 46,000 elderly and disabled would lose their nursing home placements and care as early as July if the House budget were passed.

The House vote was down party lines with the Republican House. Only one Democrat voted for the measure and eight republicans voted against the effort.

The Governor released a comment even before the vote, saying on April 16, “This budget document is not worth the paper it’s printed on, and gives nothing but false hope to students and parents who want to attend a Louisiana university or community and technical college. What we saw today from the House Appropriations Committee was not a serious attempt to tackle the problems we face.”

According to the *Advocate*, Republican leaders asked members to pass the budget to move it forward but said the health care cuts should not be taken seriously and could be balanced out by additional taxes passed in another special session.

In the first special session this year, the Legislature was unable to pass any tax measures to relieve Louisiana budget crisis. Two years ago lawmakers passed over \$1 billion in temporary taxes but these expire. The House Fiscal Office estimated that \$1.38 billion in revenue was expiring on June 30, 2018.

“I’ve proposed a plan that would replace a portion of the expiring revenue, resulting in a net tax reduction on the people of Louisiana by almost \$400 million, while still imposing more than \$120 million in state general fund spending cuts,” the Governor said before the House vote. “However,” Gov. Edwards said, “we would adequately fund health care, higher education, and TOPS, among other priorities, most of which we are simply unable to fund under the House’s proposal or the executive budget.”

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Report on Medicaid Expansion Finds \$3.57 Billion of Positive Economic Impact for the State

In an April 9 press release Governor Edwards cited the results of an analysis by Dr. James Richardson from the Public Administration Institute at LSU, titled “Medicaid Expansion and the Louisiana Economy.”

On Jan. 12, 2016, Gov. Edwards signed an executive order to bring federal tax dollars back to Louisiana to provide health care for working poor people in the state. Since then, more than 468,000 individuals have received health coverage, including: 183,377 patients receiving preventive care visits; 35,733 women have been screened for breast cancer, with 338 diagnosed with breast cancer; 21,037 colon cancer screenings, resulting in 285 cancer diagnoses; and 18,158 adults receiving treatment for substance abuse.

In an Editorial by the *Advocate*, following the announcement, the newspaper wrote: “The report found that expansion has created roughly 19,000 jobs and \$3.57 billion of economic activity. On the financial front, the generous federal matching grants for expansion — more than 90 percent — mean that money once spent on care for the uninsured, often in emergency rooms, is now available through doctor’s offices.

“The state’s savings are substantial. But the LSU report also noted that more than \$1.8 billion spent on medical care — doctors and nurses, treatments and hospitals — represents a significant stimulus for the general economy. Health care is ultimately a payroll-oriented business, and those paychecks boost communities across the state. It’s a source of revenue for hospitals, federally qualified health clinics and other institutions supporting a healthier state.”

Those critical of the expansion point to the future when the 90% matching is greatly reduced and the state must find ways to manage the loss of federal funds.

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Texas Psych Bd Headed Toward Consolidation

Lawmakers in Texas appear poised to consolidate all mental health boards into one, including the state psychology board. The Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (TSBEP) will be going through Sunset in 2019 because the board’s sunset legislation failed to pass in the last session of the Texas Legislature.

Currently the Texas Sunset Commission recommended that TSBEP be consolidated with the other mental health boards to create an umbrella mental health agency including Social Workers, Licensed Counselors, and Marriage & Family Therapists.

The Texas Psychological Association (TPA) members submitted reports and comments asking policy-makers to maintain the TSBEP as an independent entity, maintain standards of training, internship, post doctoral requirements, and other requirements which had been deemed by the Sunset Commission to be “bottlenecks” to the profession and “antiquated licensing requirements,” according to TPA sources.

However, despite testimony from TPA and individual psychologists, sources say the Sunset Commission staff completed their review of the TSBEP and will recommend that the legislature to combine all the mental health boards into a single agency.

Dr. James Thompson, licensed in both Texas and Louisiana told the *Times*, “Louisiana psychologists need to know what is happening in Texas. It is too late to help Texas, but it might help Louisiana.”

Thompson believes that a “superboard” will severely limit the influence and decision-making of doctoral level psychologists, because masters providers will greatly outnumber psychologists. “I think all is lost in Texas until there is a political change in Austin,” he said.

“The deregulators are triumphant in all respects. They have decimated all public and social services. Public schools are a joke now. They mainstream the sickest children into regular classrooms, making it impossible for teachers, regular students and special education students.”

“Texas Medicaid is a shambles,” he said. “Reimbursement is less and less. One of the managed care plans has a Behavior Analyst reviewing the requests for psychological testing, so guess what, she does not approve any requests for testing.”

This new challenge is just one in a line of issues that the community in Texas has had to deal with over the last few years, including the state association suing the board, and a Free Speech lawsuit.

Gov. Edwards Establishes Task Force for Improving Employment of Louisianans with Disabilities

Governor Edwards announced in late March the formation of the State as a Model Employer Task Force, charged with the goal to develop policies and strategies to improve within state government the rate of hiring, recruitment and retention of Louisianans with disabilities. The effort was set forth in Executive Order 18-08.

“The State of Louisiana is committed to developing and maintaining a high performing public workforce that provides access, meaningful services, and improved outcomes for all citizens and reflects the rich diversity of the citizens of this great state. In order to achieve this goal, state leaders must be able to apply diverse perspectives and experiences to the development of responsive solutions to the issues facing the state. Such diversity enhances the fullness of our understanding of these issues and opens opportunities for the consideration of new and better solutions...”

The Governor wrote that the “State of Louisiana is eager to emerge as a national leader in the recognition and protection of civil rights for people with disabilities.”

The duties of the Task Force shall include, but are not limited to, the following: A. Develop policies, strategies, and services designed to achieve the employment targets established in this Order; B. Establish a five-year plan with annual

goals that will enable the state workforce to reach parity with the percentage of working age people with disabilities in Louisiana; and C. Provide guidance and other support to agencies and institutions of higher education on recruitment, retention, accommodation, and accessibility for persons with disabilities.

“All of Louisiana’s citizens, including those who live with a disability, deserve the opportunity to provide for their families and engage in meaningful employment,” Gov. Edwards said in a press release. “My goal is to ensure that employment within state government represents the diverse reality of Louisiana’s citizens and acts as a model for private industry. In other words, we should practice what we preach.”

Only 33 percent of people with disabilities are in the workforce compared to 72 percent of individuals without disabilities. The task force’s goal is to develop policies that lead to at least seven percent of the state government’s work force is comprised of those living with disabilities.

The task force will make specific recommendations that would increase employment of people with disabilities within state government and submit a report to the governor regarding its findings no later than October 31, 2018.



American Board of Medical Psychology

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State & National News

Senator Mills’ SB40 Amended, Associations Added Back In

Senator Fred Mills’ bill to restructure health care boards has cleared the House Health and Welfare Committee last week, with a 12 to 0 favorable vote but with amendments. The measure had passed the Senate with a 35 to 2 vote.

SB40 would transfer the extensive list of boards, commissions and agencies to the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH). Included will be the boards for psychology, counselors, social workers, and the other 22 healthcare boards. Additionally the proposed law adds at least one consumer member to any board that did not previously have one and provides standardized eligibility criteria of consumers to serve on any board.

The bill has been heavily amended. The House Health and Welfare proposed to “Delete the entirety of proposed law amending or repealing present law relative to nomination by professional trade associations of candidates for positions on boards and commissions that license and regulate healthcare professionals.” This reverses the removal of associations from the nominating process that Senator Mills had suggested in the original language.

Other amendments include a provision that “any board or commission created

and provided for in present law may develop a process to issue a license, permit, or certificate outside the national examination for those individuals with a disorder which is recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act.”

The Senate committee added provision requiring the governor to ensure race, gender, ethnic, and geographical diversity in his appointments to health profession licensing boards.

An amendment to increase the number of board members for the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists from five to six, was also added so that the consumer member would not cause the psychology board to have fewer psychologists serving than currently.

Secretary of State Asked to Resign

In a news release about the resignation of Secretary of State Tom Schedler, Gov. Edwards said: “Given the serious nature of the allegations, in February, I called on Secretary of State Tom Schedler to resign. In light of the additional information that has been disclosed, I believe this is the best course of action for Tom, his family, and the state of Louisiana.”

HB148 –LA Suicide Prevention Acts Passes Senate 85 to 0

HB 148 by Representative Reid Falconer, the “Louisiana Suicide Prevention Act,” is pending final Senate passage after passing the House 85 to 0.

The initiative requires the office of behavioral health to ensure that administrators of all healthcare facilities licensed by LDH and that all healthcare professionals licensed by any Louisiana board or commission have ready access to informational resources and technical assistance necessary for implementation of the zero suicide initiative.

The office of behavioral health is to examine and coordinate the use of existing data to identify priority groups of patients, improve the quality of care for persons who are suicidal, and provide a basis for measuring progress in the ongoing operation of the zero suicide initiative.

Cost estimates provided by OBH indicate that expenditures are anticipated to total approximately \$748,950 in FY 19 with a phase-up of to approximately \$792,900 in FY 20 before leveling off at approximately \$790,000 in FY 22 and in subsequent years.

OBH reports a need for 2 positions for the initiative, a program manager (\$123,617 salary and related benefits annually) and a program monitor (\$108,015 salary and related benefits annually).



Dr. Mary Feduccia, Government Relations Committee Chairman, LCA., and Jamee Steele of the Tatman Group discuss thoughts on legislative matters following discussions at the 5th Annual Legislative Forum. One of the original organizers of the Forum, Cindy Nardini, previously told the *Times*, “We [LCA] had a vision of getting the associations together to discuss and collaborate on the bills of interest to our members and clients...”

5th Legislative Forum Held April 19 in BR

The Fifth Annual Mental Health Legislative Forum was held April 19, at the Louisiana Municipal Building at 700 North Tenth St. in Baton Rouge. Community members in the behavioral health professions met to discuss their various positions on legislation that was being proposed for the Louisiana legislative session. The Forum was co-hosted by Louisiana Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (LAMFT) and Louisiana Counseling Association (LCA). Chairs for this year’s Forum were Howie Brownell, LAMFT, Government Relations Committee Chairman, and Dr. Mary Feduccia, Government Relations Committee Chairman, LCA.

The Louisiana Association of Marriage and Family Therapy was represented by Tom Caffrey and Howie Brownell; the Louisiana Counseling Association was represented by Mary Feduccia and Jamee Steele; Deborah Fernandez represented the Louisiana Association of Social Workers; the Louisiana Association of Substance Abuse Counselors and Trainers was represented by Don Hidalgo, Marolon Mangum, and Lisa Schuster; Julie Nelson and Keli Williams represented the Louisiana Psychological Association; Ayn Stehr represented the National Association of Social Workers—Louisiana Chapter; and Cindy Bishop represented the Louisiana School Based Health Centers.

The First Legislative Forum was held in 2014, and co-sponsored by the Louisiana Counseling Association and the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.



A meeting of the Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Advisory Board, held April 9, 2018 in the State Capitol Press Room, fourth floor of the Capitol. Psychologist Dr. Rafael Salcedo attended, representing psychology. Speaking at the meeting was First Lady Donna Edwards and also Senator Beth Mizell who has authored SB335 to increase penalties for those soliciting for sex workers.

Dr. Salcedo Attends Trafficking Prevention Advisory Board Meeting at State Capitol

Psychologist Dr. Rafael Salcedo attended the Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Advisory Board meeting, held April 9, 2018 in the State Capitol Press Room. Ms. Alliece Cole, chair, presided. First Lady Donna Edwards and Senator Beth Mizell, gave opening remarks.

The group reviewed the legislative issues for SB335 led by Senator Mizell. SB335 increase penalties for those convicted of soliciting prostitutes. The measure also requires that one-half of the fines collected for the crime of the purchase of commercial sexual activity will be distributed by the clerk of court. Fifty percent of monies will go to the sheriff or law enforcement agency that made the arrest to be used for training officers in recognizing and preventing human trafficking and 50% to the district attorney to be paid to a program for victim services that counsels, treats, and helps victims of human trafficking or those who are charged or convicted of prostitution.

The group members made introductions and the broke into subcommittees and elected chairs. Dr. Salcedo represents psychology on the advisory group and he is also the co-creator of a the Free Indeed Home, the only licensed, therapeutic group home in the state for helping teen girls escape the physical and psychological bonds of sex-trafficking. The First Lady Ms. Edwards recently toured the Home, Dr. Salcedo explained to the *Times*.

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

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, conducting evaluations of children who are in need of supervision/care.

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

In 2012, after becoming aware of the depth and tragedy surrounding child sex trafficking, Rafael and wife Beth, a licensed speech-

language pathologist, founded the non-profit, advocacy group, the Louisiana Coalition Against Human Trafficking.

Last November Gov. Edwards and the Governor’s Office Human Trafficking Prevention Commission announced a series of regional summits on human trafficking. In collaboration with various agencies the summits aimed to highlight pertinent information from key stakeholders regarding the existing services, protocols and community response to trafficking victims.

“The fight to end human trafficking is a responsibility we all must share, from law enforcement and policy makers to service providers and faith based leaders,” said Gov. Edwards.

“We are going to continue to come together to make sure we bring every resource to bear to attack this problem.”

Bill to Expand DPS&C Substance Abuse Treatment Advances

A measure that expands the substance abuse probation program to include treatment and counseling for defendants with substance abuse disorders, or defendants with co- occurring mental illness and substance abuse disorders, has passed the House 98 to 0 and is pending in the Senate Committee.

Present law provides for a substance abuse probation program in which the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections may enter into cooperative

endeavors with the La. Dept. of Health to provide substance abuse treatment and counseling for eligible defendants. HB440, authored by Representative Valarie Hodges will expand this program to provide counseling and treatment for defendants with substance abuse disorders, or defendants with co- occurring mental illness and substance abuse disorders, who are sentenced to substance abuse probation pursuant to present law.

Bill Addressing School Violence Becomes HB898

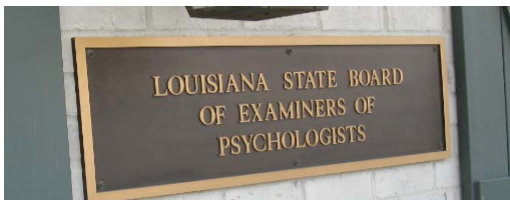
A measure addressing threats of violence or terrorism at elementary and secondary schools, including the investigation and reporting of these events, and requiring mental health evaluations in these situations, has passed the House by a vote of 91 to 0. The measure is authored by Representative Tony Bacala andwas reported by substitute and became HB898 in April.

The measure would require school employees to report a “threat of violence” or a “threat of terrorism” to local law enforcement if there is a reasonable belief that the threat is credible and imminent or to school administrators if no reasonable belief exists so that further review can be made.

Each school board is to develop and implement investigative procedures for these threats, and to report the threat to law enforcement if there is a concern that the threat is credible and imminent.

The measure requires local law enforcement to investigate the threats and to report the threat to an authorized school official. If the suspect is a student, local law enforcement is required to petition the judicial district court for a mental health evaluation, and the student is prohibited from returning to school until receiving the evaluation.

If the suspect is not a student, the suspect is prohibited from being within 500 feet of any school until receiving a mental health evaluation and being deemed to not be a danger to himself or others.



From the Minutes

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

Executive Director Report — ASPPB midyear meeting “ACCOUNTABILITY IN REGULATION” is scheduled to take place on April 12-15 in Savannah Marriott Riverfront. The Board discussed the need to attend this meeting in order to stay abreast of current events and initiatives by ASPPB. By motion of Dr. Henke, the board resolved to amend the budget and approve administrative travel expenses in the amount of \$1800 for Ms. Monic to include airfare, hotel, meals not covered by the conference, transportation to/from airport and conference registration (if required).

Finance Committee Report — Ms. Dominique reported that the financial status remains steady. We budgeted to

have a net loss of -\$2303. With 5 months remaining in the fiscal year, the Board has a net income of \$169,353.37, income is under budget by \$8,039.53. Expenses are under budget by \$179,695.90.

Discussion Item — Dr. Boggs reported the findings of her audit of the reciprocity allowances through ASPPB and ABPP. These findings included that ASPPB allows two routes to apply for the CPQ. First, full vetting which requires that the applicant be licensed in another jurisdiction for 5 years, APA approved programs of study (or an equivalent program determined by ASPPB), supervised experience totaling 3000 hours, no disciplinary history, and passing national examination. Option 2 involves a simplified application if the

individual is a diplomat of ABPP, where supervised experience is not documented. ABPP does not conduct primary source verification of training and experience.

After discussing this matter at length, Dr. Lambert moved to rescind the reciprocity application in order that Louisiana properly vet applicants according to the required standards set by the LSBEP. The motion was tabled and placed on the Long Range Planning agenda for discussion at the request of Drs. Boggs and Crouch who require additional time to consider the implications. Dr. Boggs moved in favor of immediate action to address the vetting issue by requiring all applicants for licensure provide

primary source verification of their education and supervised practice. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote as follows: Griffin - YEA, Lambert - YEA, Boggs- YEA, Crouch- YEA, Henke - YEA.

Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) Part I and Part II - The Board reviewed correspondence from the psychology licensing board in New York and further discussed its concerns with the development of the new EPPP and ASPPB’s requirement that jurisdictions require both Part I and II for licensure in Louisiana. Dr. Henke is working on drafting a letter to ASPPB.

Psychology Board to Propose Rule Changes

The Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists sent a memo to licensed psychologists announcing that they would be proposing changes to the Louisiana Administrative Code, also known as Rules.

The rule for the “Definition, scope and limitations” for the Provisional Licensed Psychologist is to include the wording “... may practice psychology as defined under LA R.S. 37:2352(7) under the supervision of a Licensed Psychologist.” The proposed language includes that the provisional license may be renewed three times but no more and that the Provisional Licensed Psychologist may not contract directly with clients or customers and must not claim to be independently licensed or in private practice.

He or she must practice under the supervision of a licensed psychologist or medical psychologist and shall disclose the supervisory relationship to clients and the supervisor or supervising agency of the supervisor may bill for the services performed by the Provisional Licensed Psychologist.

The LSBEP is also proposing an additional paragraph to the section on Neuropsychology: “These regulations are not meant to constrain or limit the practice of licensed psychologists who through education, training and experience have acquired competence in the use of psychological assessment instruments that measure various aspects of function to include but not limited to general intelligence, complex attention, executive function, learning and memory, language, perceptual motor, and social cognition.”

The board will propose the license category of Emeritus Psychologist, for those who are fully retired from practice but who wish to continue to hold a title. “A licensee granted Emeritus Status under this provision shall be prohibited from engaging in the practice of psychology; rendering psychological services in any form; and/or engaging in any activity that might be construed as the practice of psychology within the state of Louisiana,” and will pay a reduced fee and be exempt from continuing professional development requirements.

An Emeritus Status Psychologist is eligible to renew their current license until July 31 of each year upon submission of the required renewal fee and renewal application form.

“An Emeritus Status Psychologist is eligible to reinstate their status to Licensed Psychologist if he or she meets certain requirements.

The LSBEP also proposes changes in Chapter 8, on Continuing Education. The board will update the total hours to



Current Chair of the Louisiana psychology Dr. Phillip Griffin (L) at the long-range planning meeting held last year. Dr. Griffin suggested restoring the retired psychologist designation of “Emeritus” Psychologist. The board is putting forth a rule to create the new label. Dr. Jesse Lambert (R) listens to discussion.

40, and end the ramp-up period from the past 30 CPD units required to the current 40 per two-year period.

Also they propose changing the language to clarify when “Consultation and Supervision” is approved: “Acceptable consultation is regularly scheduled interactions with colleagues, licensed in a health care profession, in a structured and organized format. Examples include case consultation groups, journal clubs, regional research groups, and shadowing a colleague. Acceptable supervision is one-to-one general professional, specific case discussion, or skill training that is provided under Chapter 7 of this Part by a qualified supervisor.”

The board is proposing to extend their authority to endorse CE programs. “The board may endorse a specific continuing education program as an Approved Sponsored.”

Currently approved sponsors are listed in the Rules and include universities, hospitals, and national, regional, and state associations and their divisions. The Louisiana Psychological Association held a Council meeting and voiced concern about the proposed changes, indicating that the current rule was appropriate and that the endorsement of training was not provided for in the Board’s charter.

LaTech I-O Psychology Program Ranks 1st in Research Opportunities

continued

The program’s core faculty members are program coordinator Dr. Tilman Sheets, AROS director Dr. Mitzi Desselles, Dr. Frank Igou, and Dr. Steven Toaddy. The program also ranked No. 20 in research development opportunities, and No. 29 in teaching development opportunities, across the nation.

“It is very gratifying to know that our students think we are providing applied development opportunities, we work very hard to do so,” program coordinator, Dr. Sheets, said.

Dr. Steven Toaddy noted, “What shines through to me is that many of our graduate students viewed the time that they spent in the program as providing them with these opportunities and that they took the time to make this known via the ranking survey. I think that our program has done—well before my arriving—and continues to do a great job of helping students focus on developing their skills in preparation for applied careers, but I suspect that what sets us apart in this ranking is our students' enthusiasm and willingness to celebrate those opportunities when SIOP came asking.”

Dr. Steven Toaddy noted, “I would say that our program’s recent ranking conveys several direct benefits – helping signal to current, prospective, and prior students the program’s focus on applied experience; helping our program to further tweak itself to accentuate its strengths and to acknowledge its shortcomings; and to lend us some credibility when we offer guidance to other programs that seek to prepare practitioners for careers in our field.” Dr. Toaddy is an assistant professor specializing in organizational-side and psychometric topics.

In a statement to SIOP news, Department Chair of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences at Tech, Dr. Donna Thomas, said, “What an honor for a program that only accepted its first cohort in 2009,” said Donna Thomas, Department Chair of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences at Tech. “I’m extremely proud of, but not surprised by, the No. 1 ranking — it’s a direct reflection of the program’s outstanding students and their commitment,” in a statemen.

“Since its inception, the I-O Psychology Ph.D. program has emphasized the application of behavioral science through its consulting group, Applied Research for Organizational Solutions (AROS),” Thomas said to SIOP. “Our students often tell us it’s what attracted them to our

program — the opportunity to put their knowledge and skills into practice, under the supervision of our exceptional faculty. I’m so pleased to see the students and faculty recognized for their hard work. The ranking will help us grow the program’s reputation by continuing to attract top-notch students.”

In a previous interview with the *Times*’ reporter Shane Lowery, Dr. Sheets emphasized that I-O Psychologists are some of the leading researchers in applied psychology across the country. Whether they are housed in academic programs or in private consulting firms, these applied scientists continue to make strides in organizational research.

The I-O psychology program at Louisiana Tech has already become a fast growing, internationally recognized,

applied research program, said Dr. Sheets when asked if he has seen an increase in the overall number of applicants. “... I would say we are certainly getting an increase in applicants. I think more importantly, we seem to be getting an increase in quality people.”

“We always stay pretty deep into some interesting things...we have projects that come through our AROS consultancy, which is Applied Research for Organizational Solutions,” he said. “We’ve gone international, with an engineering firm doing a cultural analysis for companies in South Africa,” Dr. Sheets said. “We’re very much an applied program, but we have a lot of cool academic research going on as well.”



Dr. Tilman Sheets, one of the program coordinators at LaTech.





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Western Psychological Services

Science & Education

Lt. Governor, Dr. Scott O. Lilienfeld to Speak at 70th Louisiana Psychological Association Convention, continued

Lt. Governor Nungesser has been called one of the state’s top CEOs, for his ground-up business development, and his can-do approach to crises like Katrina and Deepwater Horizon.

Dr. Lilienfeld is recipient of the James McKeen Cattell Award for Lifetime Contributions to Applied Psychological Science, Association for Psychological Science (APS). His work has been cited over 21,295 times. He delivered the Award Address, “Psychology’s Public Image Problem: Why Many Laypersons and Politicians Don’t View Our Field as Scientific,” at APS.

Lilienfeld is also a researcher and test author in areas of psychopathy, and will also present, “The Multifaceted Nature of Psychopathy,” during the breakout sessions.

Also highlighted this year is neuropsychologist David Schwartz, PhD, from the Concussion Institute in Atlanta, who will present, “Advances in the Assessment and

Management of General and Sports–Related Concussion Injuries.” Dr. Schwartz is an engaging speaker who is known for his entertaining delivery and broad information, noted the conference organizers.

Dr. Schwartz will also present the plenary session for Saturday, the cross-cutting topic, “New Technologies for Assessment and Behavior Change.”

April Foreman, PhD, licensed psychologist and Suicide Prevention Coordinator for Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System will present “Suicide Risk Assessment.” Foreman is Suicide Prevention Lead for Veterans Integrated Service Network 16, and on the Executive Committee for the Board of the American Association of Suicidology.

Dr. Foreman is known for her work at the intersection of technology, social media, and mental health.

In a special Zoom presentation, Canadian psychologist, and expert in nutritional mental health, Bonnie Kaplan, PhD, will present “Nutritional Mental Health.”

Kaplan is Professor Emerita in the Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary, in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and an expert in the field of nutritional mental health, including topics such as inflammation and mental health, the microbiome and mental health, oxidative stress and mental health, mitochondria and mental health and nutrient-treatment research.

Denise Newman, PhD, will chair a panel with Drs. Alvin Burstein, Dana Labat, and Sandra Loucks, on the “Heart of Change in Psychotherapy,” and panelists will address, “Technical and Ethical Aspirations in Psychotherapy within a Developmental Framework: Navigating Challenging Dynamics in the Therapeutic Relationship,” and address both the theoretical aspects and the technical navigation of the therapeutic relationship as the focus of psychotherapeutic treatment. Dr. Newman is chair of the LPA Psychotherapy Interest Area Committee.

“Ethical Issues and Health Disparity,” will be presented by co-chairs ValaRay Irvin, PhD and Chris Leonhard, PhD, APPB. Along with panelists they will address the intersection between social determinants of health research, and access to quality mental healthcare and health disparities. Irvin and Leonhard will frame issues in the context of the role of ethical principles, codes of conduct, and related policies and laws in the amelioration of disparities.

Alan Coulter, PhD, and Courtland Chaney, PhD, will present a cross specialty presentation on “Opportunities for Organization Development



Dr. Scott O. Lilienfeld
(Courtesy photo)

Interventions in Schools: The Interface of Two Specialties.” Presenters will review the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), organizational development theory, and blend into a discussion for intervening at the individual, group and organizational level in school systems.

Members of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists and staff will present an interactive session on “Laws, Rules & Ethics Update.” They will cover demographic characteristics of licensees, where to locate information regarding current laws, rules and opinions pertaining to psychologists, characteristics of the current Rule-making, and common complaints received by the LSBEP and related ethical violations.

Tiffany Jennings, PsyD, will present “Highlights on Rural Health: Utilizing Telehealth to Increase Access to Care, Support, and Peer Consultation.” Dr. Jennings will cover applications for telehealth and also contra-indications, how to set up telehealth, forms and codes, ethics and safety measures.

Jill Hayes, PhD, will lead a round table discussion on “Ethical and Legal Issues for Misdiagnosis,”

addressing challenges in correct diagnosis in today’s restrictive insurance environment and complex cases.

A Scientific Poster Session will be held on Friday, chaired by Drs. Ashley Jefferson and Melissa Dufrene. Attendees will enjoy breakfast while they review research findings through poster presentations from psychological science across the state, and speak directly with researchers about their theory, methods, and results.

Breakfast is served again on Saturday at the Science Café on Saturday, chaired by Drs. Scott Smith and Bridget Sonnier-Hillis. Attendees can review findings in psychological science from laboratories around the state, and chat with researchers about how science is rapidly changing in key areas.

The Convention includes an Industrial-Organizational Psychology Mini-Conference, organized by the LPA I-O and Consulting Psychology Committee. Attendees will hear topics in four modules. Under Ethical Challenges and Citizen Psychology, Richard



Lt. Governor William (Billy) Nungesser. The Lt. Gov. will give the welcome at the upcoming convention.
(Photo courtesy of Office of Lt. Gov.)



Dr. Katie Cherry will share her research agenda with attendees at the upcoming 70th Annual Convention of the Louisiana Psychological Association and the Science Café. Here Dr. Cherry speaks with newsman at a previous presentation.
(Courtesy photo)

LSU's Dr. Katie Cherry Hosted at Louisiana Psychological Association's "Science Café"

Psychological scientists from laboratories around the state will share their scientific work at the "Science Café," hosted by the Louisiana Psychological Association as part of the 70th Anniversary Convention to be held May 18-19 in Metairie.

The Science Café is Co-Chaired by Dr. T. Scott Smith and Dr. Bridget Sonnier-Hillis. The Café is a learning event that allows practicing psychologists to renew their understanding of advances in the scientific field of psychology while getting to know colleagues who are professors and researchers around the state.

"The Science Café is not only a great way to connect practitioners with researchers and learn about current research in our field," noted Co-Chair of the Café, Bridget Sonnier-Hillis, "it is an important way to remind us of our roles as psychologists in educating not only our clients, (e.g., CBT = thinking like a scientist) but the public about how to make informed decisions when sorting through the abundance of psychological (mis)information in the media."

Sonnier-Hillis is a Licensed Psychologist, Assistant Professor and Interim Chair, Dept. of Social Sciences and History, at Baton Rouge Community College. Sonnier-Hillis has 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 to teach full-time at BRCC.

She Co-Chairs the LPA Science Café with Dr. T. Scott Smith, Assistant Professor at University of Louisiana Lafayette, and director of the Louisiana Applied and Developmental Psychological Sciences Laboratory, a laboratory primarily focused on

applied research, or how information may be used to understand the world better or even make adjustments towards our overall understanding of cognition. One major area for Dr. Smith is cell phone distraction and how cell phone distraction affects the learning process, not only in the classroom, but also how applicable distractions may affect driving behaviors and eyewitness memory.

Along with a host of presenters for this spring's Science Café, Dr. Katie Cherry, expert in the stress impact of natural disasters will join those scientists sharing their work.

Dr. Cherry is a Louisiana State University psychology professor, and executive director of the LSU Life Course and Aging Center, and has presented her work on "Survivors from the Coastal Parishes," including books such as, *Traumatic Stress and Long-Term Recovery: Coping with Disasters and Other Negative Life Events*.

Dr. Cherry will draw also on her 2009 book, *Lifespan Perspectives on Natural Disasters: Coping with Katrina, Rita and other Storms*. She has studied coastal residents with severe property damage from the 2005 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and those with exposure to the 2010 British Petroleum Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

In her book, Cherry and scholars from around the world, look at the stresses from natural and technological disasters, acts of terrorism, wars, and interpersonal violence, and how stress and prolonged suffering threatens health and well-being. Dr. Cherry focuses on the long-term effects of disaster exposure, the consequences for peoples' daily lives, and the means for recovery and healing.

Lt. Governor, Dr. Lilienfeld at Conference *continued*

Flicker, PhD, will present "Ethical Challenges in I-O Psychology: What would you do?" and Courtland Chaney, PhD, will conduct a session on "An I-O Role for a Citizen Psychologist: The Governor's Task Force on Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy."

Under the I-O Psychology Practitioner segment, Jim Stodd, MS, will present, "Why I-O Psychology is Superb Training for Those Who Shape and Manage Compensation Programs." Barry Vose and William Costelloe, PhD, will present, "Seven Steps to Developing an I-O Career."

Lunch & Learn will address Ethical Dilemmas. The Scholarly Pursuits and I-O Psychology in Healthcare section will begin with Tyree Mitchell, PhD, "Too Much of a Good Thing? The Diminishing Returns of Leadership on Leadership Emergence."

"The Influence of Untraditional Interview Questions on Applicant Affective Reactions and Perceptions of Organizational Personality," will be presented by John-Luke McCord and Brian Doyle.

Jared LeDoux, PhD, will present "Applying I-O Psychology in a Hospital Setting."

For the closing activities of main conference, professional issues are addressed in a community-wide, experiential learning event, known as Lunch & Learn. Specialty interest area groups will address the problems in "Current Ethical & Moral Challenges in Professional Psychology" on Friday, and "Current Professional Challenges in Specialty Areas of Psychology Practice" on Saturday. This working lunch allows attendees to join with colleagues to discover and analyze key issues for today's professional psychologists.

Facilitators blend the information into the Saturday wrap-up session, and engage attendees in institution-level, strategic analysis in "70 Years of Psychology Contributions—Are We There Yet? An experiential, strategic-planning exercise. Julie Nelson, PhD, and William Costelloe, PhD, will co-chair.

Early registration is open until May 14.

For more information go to the LPA website at:
louisianapsychologicalassociation.org.

Human Development Center Hosts 4th MTSS Conference

The LSUHSC Human Development Center presented an array of national experts for their 4th Annual Conference on Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) and Response to Intervention, “Trauma-Informed MTSS/RTI: Practical and Evidenced-Based Practices.

The event was held in conjunction with Data-Based Conferences in New Orleans on April 12th and 13th, 2018. Dr. Alan Coulter was a key in the design of the conference.

Dr. Coulter and Dr. Kim Gibbons presented “Blame Free Implementation Fidelity: Fixing the Weak Link in MTSS,” and “Strategic Doing: Interactive Session to Enhance Your MTSS Implementation Plan.”

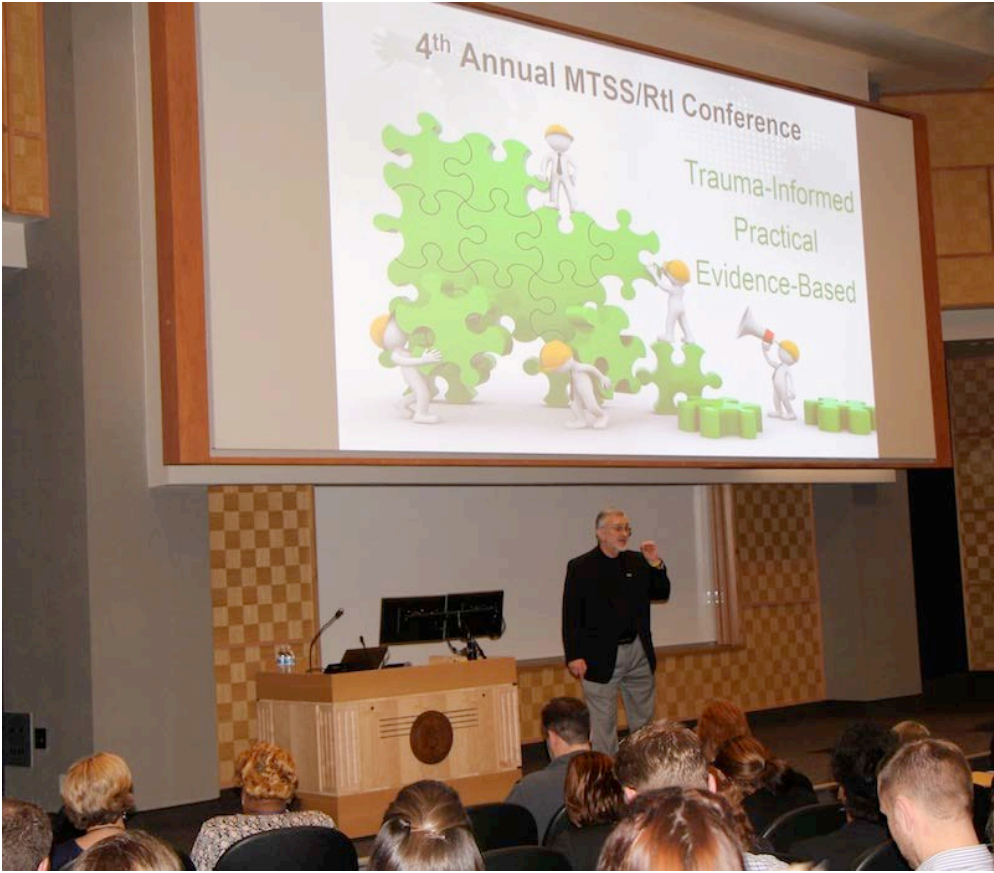
Dr. Coulter is Director of Education Initiatives at the Human Development Center and the T.I.E.R.S. Group that assists SEAs and LEAs to implement Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and response to intervention (Rti), Dr. Coulter served on the President’s Commission on Excellence in Special Education in 2001–02 and was director of the National Center for Special Education Accountability Monitoring.

Dr. Gibbons is associate director of the Center for Applied Research and

Educational Improvement at the University of Minnesota. Her work has received national recognition for its pioneering use of RTI.

Dr. Frank Gresham presented, “Don’t Let Disruptive Behaviors Impede Instruction: Practical, Evidence- Based Strategies.” Dr. Gresham is Professor at Louisiana State University and has developed social skills assessments (Social Skills Improvement System-Rating Scales – SSIS) and interventions for students with or at-risk for emotional and behavioral disorders. He is a past recipient of the Lightner Witmer Award and the Senior Scientist Award given by the Division of School Psychology of APA for outstanding research contributions. He has been elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Other nationally known presenters included Nancy Marchand-Martella and Mark R. Shinn, who presented a keynote, “Powerful MTSS Implementation Begins with Core Language Arts Instruction Aligned to the Needs of Students, Not Adults.” Dr. Marchand-Martella is department chair and professor of education psychology at the University



Dr. Alan Coulter presenting at the 4th Annual MTSS and RTI conference held by the Human Development Center. *(Courtesy photo)*

of Oklahoma and Dr. Shinn is a professor of school psychology at National Louis University.

“Using Trauma-Informed Behavioral Supports to Make MTSS Bigger and Better,” was also a keynote address, delivered by Clay Cook. Dr. Cook is the University of Minnesota John and Nancy Peyton Faculty Fellow in Child and Adolescent Wellbeing and Associate Professor of School Psychology.

“MTSS TEAM Unity: Balancing the I-Me-We,” focused on effective teaming structures that emphasize equity, advocacy, and mindfulness that improve the

quality of MTSS implementation and was presented by Drs. Alisia Moutry and Ramel Smith. The two also delivered the keynote: Decreasing Aggressive Behaviors: Interventions to ‘Build a Better Man’ in America’s Schools.” Dr. Moutry is President/CEO of 4AM Consulting, LLC and a Regional Director for SWIFT (University of Kansas-School-Wide Integrated Framework for Transformation Center). Dr. Ramel Smith is a licensed psychologist in Wisconsin and the team psychologist for the Milwaukee Bucks, a professional NBA team.



Attendees at a gathering of LPA Early Career Psychologist Committee and Diversity Committee, at Ralph’s on the Park in New Orleans. (L to R) Samantha Francois, PhD, Developmental Psychologist and Assistant Professor, Tulane School of Social Work; Jennifer Bryant, May 2018 PhD in School Psychology, Tulane University; Michael Cunningham, Tulane Professor and Associate Provost; Kyle Hucke, PhD, Developmental Psychologist and Evaluator, Louisiana Public Health Institute; and Lucinda DeGrange, PhD, Past-President, Louisiana Psychological Association. *(Photo/Gail Gillespie)*

LPA Early Career and Diversity Committees Gather in New Orleans

The Louisiana Psychological Association hosted a gathering for its Early Career Psychologist Committee, chaired by Drs. Melissa Dufrene and Ashley Jefferson, and the newly created Diversity Committee, chaired by Dr. Michael Cunningham.

The event was held at Ralph’s on the Park, at 900 City Park Avenue in New Orleans, Tuesday, April 24. The attendees enjoyed cocktails, charcuterier and cheese, and social time with colleagues.

Among those hosting the guest attendees were LPA members Drs. Alan Coulter, William Costelloe, Michael Cunningham, Amy Henke, Gail Gillespie, Jinaki Flint, and Lucinda DeGrange. The event was part of the LPA 70th anniversary year activities.

A Shrink at the Flicks

Ready Player One A Review

by Alvin G. Burstein, PhD

The movie takes us to a dystopia set a few decades in the future. We visit The Stacks, a collection of futuristic, high-rise, crowded, big city slums. The unsavory dwellings are populated by the survivors in an America ravaged by the consequences of global warming, a stagnant economy, over-population and unemployment. They are, like the Oakies of the 1930's, oppressed by factors outside of their control. But they have no California to which to flee.

Their pie in the sky, the opiate for these unhappy masses, is a complex multi-player, interactive computer game called OASIS. The game enables its players to enter a virtual world, actually to choose among multiple worlds, offering gratifications and distractions to avatars of themselves, virtual identities that they can shape to their liking. The popularity of OASIS was such that its creator became enormously wealthy.

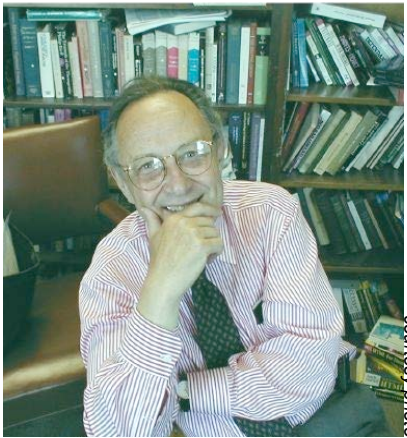
The game is the brainchild of James Halliday, an introverted caricature of Steve Jobs, whom we meet in a series of flashbacks embedded in an archive in the game. Just before his death, Halliday announces that he has hidden an Easter Egg in the game, unlocked by three keys. The player who finds those keys will inherit his fortune and control of the game.

That promise stimulates players/avatars, who call themselves "Gunters" (for egg hunters), who search for the keys. It has also stimulated a search for the keys by a rival corporation, Innovative Online Industries (IOI). In contrast to the amateur Gunters, IOI avatar searchers, called "Sixers" (after their six digit serial numbers) are highly professional and centrally controlled by Nolan Sorrento, the real life and avatar villain of the story.

Guest Columnist,
Dr. Alvin Burstein

Burstein, a psychologist and psychoanalyst, is a professor emeritus at the University of Tennessee and a former faculty member of the New Orleans-Birmingham Psychoanalytic Center with numerous scholarly works to his credit.

He is also a member of Inklings, a Mandeville critique group that meets weekly to review its members' imaginative writings. Burstein has published flash fiction and autobiographical pieces in e-zines; *The Owl*, his first novelette, is available at Amazon. He is, in addition to being a movie fan, a committed Francophile, unsurprisingly a lover of fine cheese and wine, and an unrepentant cruciverbalist.



The protagonist in the story is 18 year-old Wade Watts, whose Gunter avatar is named Parzival. Watts is a geekish kid fascinated by the 80's trivia, that of Halliday's era. Parzival—the avatar's name an echo of the Arthurian knight Percival, who first sought the Holy Grail—teams up with two other Gunters, Aech and Art3mis, after the mythological huntress.

Watts' nerdy trivia knowledge facilitates Parzival's discovery of the first of Halliday's keys. The resultant OASIS celebrity brings Parzival to the attention of the Sixers and ignites a murderous competition that comes to pervade both the virtual OASIS and the real world Stacks. The movie is apt in interweaving the two realms and in exploring the deepening relationship between Parzival/Watts and Art3mis/Samantha Cook.

A stellar performance in the film is that of Mark Rylance, playing James Halliday and his avatar, Anorak. You may remember Rylance. In the film *Bridge of Spies*, he portrayed the Russian spy exchanged for the U 2 pilot shot down in 1962. In *Ready Player One*, the actor captures Halliday's autism spectrum quirkiness with remarkable wit and feeling.

Both the movie and the novel it restages portray a conflict teen-aged non-conformist Gunters and the capitalist hegemony of IOI. There is an eerie synchronicity between the fictional conflict and the current confrontation between high school students "woked" by the shootings at the Florida Parkland school and the National Rifle Association with its client politicians.

On a different level, there is complex moral implied by the film: Although virtual pyrotechnics have appeal and may even be addictive, in the end, the suffering and gratifications of reality trump those of the imaginary.

On the other hand, the film describes success, defined as fame and riches, as a reward for knowledge of trivia and skill at gaming—a sharp contrast with the Horatio Alger literature of the Victorian age. Those stories celebrated an ethic of success as a reward for hard work, self-control and honesty.

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People

Dr. Kelli Johnson Joins TCSPP

Dr. Kelli Johnson joined the faculty of the Chicago School of Professional Psychology at Xavier and takes on duties of Department Chair. She began service in March, according to the news release.

Previously Dr. Johnson served as an assistant professor and the Director of Clinical Training at the Illinois School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University. An APA accreditation site visitor, she is also the Past President of the Association of Chicagoland Externship and Practicum Training. Johnson has served as a site visitor for the International Association of Counseling Services and currently serves as the Chair for the Ethnic Racial Diversity Committee for the National Council of Schools and Programs for Professional Psychology.

“I’m extremely excited by the opportunities that are open to The Chicago School-New Orleans, and am delighted to be part of its future. The commitment of the program, faculty, staff, and students to being of service to the community is impressive, and I am honored to be joining them in their mission,” Dr. Johnson said in the announcement.

The Chicago Professional School is hosted on the Xavier University and the program was launched in 2016 to help develop a partnership between XULA and The Chicago School to educate and train practitioners who will help to meet the mental health services needs of the city and region, said the announcement.

Mary Alice Olsan, LPC Board ED, Takes Position with NBCC

Mary Alice Olsan, the previous Executive Director for the Licensed Professional Counselors Board, accepted a position with the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC), Inc., and Affiliates, stepping down from duties toward the end of last year.

“I was recruited for a position with the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC), Inc. and Affiliates as Director of Strategy and Special Projects,” Olsan told the *Times*.

“I am so grateful to my Board Members (past and present) who have supported me and allowed me to grow in this role,” Olsan said. “It’s truly been the greatest honor of professional career to serve the public as Executive Director of the Louisiana LPC Board.”

In their minutes, the LPC Board members “congratulated M Olsan on her position with NBCC and wished her well in her future endeavors.”

LSU Psychology Senior Ms. Anna Madden Named Discover Scholar

Ms. Anna Madden, LSU psychology senior and Honors student, has been named with a LSU Discover Scholar Award. This award is given to only ten undergraduate students across the LSU campus, recognizing those researchers who conduct outstanding research or creative endeavors within their fields.

Ms. Madden is completing her Honor's Thesis under the mentorship of Dr. Steven Greening. Dr. Greening is Assistant Professor whose research focus is to: elucidate the neurocognitive mechanisms involved in adapting to and controlling the influence of emotional events across the lifespan.

Ms. Madden Honor's Thesis is titled, "The Effect of Attention Bias Modification on Emotion Dysregulation," presented at LSU Discover Day and the Society for Affective Science national conference.



First Lady Donna Edwards, here speaking at the Trafficking Prevention Advisory Board, recently toured the Free Indeed Home, a treatment facility for sex trafficked girls operated by Dr. Rafael Salcedo and Beth Salcedo.

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