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Dr. Tammy Savoie Aims for Congressional Seat

Dr. Tammy Savoie, licensed psychologist and retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel, will be challenging incumbent U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise in the 1st Congressional District of Louisiana come the November election.

Dr. Savoie, a psychologist with a doctoral degree from Emory and an MBA, has served 37 years in the military including 15 years in the Air National Guard and 22 years in the Air Force. She has served in the U.S., Japan, Afghanistan, and the U.K.

In 2016, she retired as a Lieutenant Colonel and now provides mental health services to veterans and the Red Cross, and is an adjunct professor at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology at Xavier.

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Science & Education

Louisiana Psychological Assn to Host Evolutionary Psychology Legend, Professor Robert Trivers

by J. Nelson

Time Magazine listed him as one of the 100 Greatest Thinkers of the 20th Century. Richard Dawkins calls him "A uniquely brilliant scientist." *Science* named him "One of the most influential evolutionary theorists alive today."

Stephen Pinker, Professor of Psychology at Harvard and author of *How the Mind Works*, said, "I consider

Trivers one of the great thinkers in the history of Western thought. It would not be too much of an exaggeration to say that he has provided a scientific explanation for the human condition: the intricately complicated and endlessly fascinating relationships that bind us to one another."

He is Professor Robert Trivers, the man who pulled



Psychologist and retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel, Dr. Tammy Savoie is running for Congress in the 1st District. (Courtesy photo.)



Dr. Robert Trivers. He will speak here in November. (Courtesy photo)

back the curtain on key concepts of evolved preferences, and produced a major redirection in social and evolutionary psychology. He will speak at the Louisiana Psychological Association workshop on November 9, in New Orleans.

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Dr. Greg Gormanous (L) in 2016 at the Psychology Board. The Governor recently appointed Gormanous to fill the opening left by outgoing member, Dr. Phillip Griffin (R). This will be Dr. Gormanous' third term on the state board.

Governor Appoints Dr. Gormanous to Psychology Board

In a July 10 press release the Governor announced that he appointed Greg Gormanous, PhD, of Alexandria, to the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP).

Dr. Gormanous will fill the position opened by Dr. Phillip Griffin, who has completed his term. Vice Chair Dr. Jesse Lambert was elected to the Chair at last month's meeting and Dr. Koren Boggs will serve as Vice Chair.

Dr. Gormanous 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 earned his PhD from the University of Southern Mississippi in General Psychology in 1976. He has been a 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

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Editorials and Opinions

Porch Goats

by Times publisher, J. Nelson

I came to have goats on my front porch because of the Louisiana Psychological Association.

In 2016 I went against the advice of my journalism consultant and put my name in the hat for president of the Louisiana Psychological Association. My decision also went counter to a warning (threat?) from Archimedes, who turned out to be right about the stress (my president-elect year was a year from hell) and the workload, but wrong about the emotional rewards of working to help restore scientific psychology to itself.



Archimedes and I have a bargaining type of social exchange for when we disagree, so he has taken his pound of flesh by turning our home into a small farm, part of his research into ecologically engineered, homesteading science, *he claims*. So, I had no choice but to bite back any objections when he brought home two, female, Saanen milk-goats.

Growing up in the rural south, I'd been exposed to goats. But, it never struck me before that because of their miraculous, four-chambered stomachs, goats can extract high levels of energy from what is not, in my view, actual food—bushes, trees, weeds, briars, and sticks. So for very little trouble, including the mostly benign pellets that come out the other end, these creatures produce milk (if someone wanted to milk them) and also do a commendable job of landscaping, tackling problems your yard man ignores because he can't solve them on his riding lawnmower.

The system is building organically. Soon after Archimedes brought home the two goats, he decided he needed a livestock guardian dog and purchased a Maremma puppy. The puppy seemed lonely to him so he bought her a companion, a sister from the same litter. These two dogs have embraced their job of guarding the goats with enthusiasm, so Archimedes bought more goats for them to guard, and is planning on adding chickens. The animals (with the exception of the cat) happily trail around behind him as he walks around the yard, inspecting whatever it is that he inspects. All this gives the impression of a "farm," and provides an excuse, albeit lame, for goats relaxing on my front porch.

An unexpected benefit of these gentle, friendly, and peaceful creatures is that they communicate a serenity that is contagious. Perhaps related to their eyes and rectangular pupils, the goats have a consistently innocent and thoughtful look to them. Coupled with their relaxed, leisurely movements, they appear not to have a care in the world. They sit and chew their cud, called "ruminating," and it is oddly calming to watch them, and share in their meditation, if only for a moment or two, while the world rushes by in all its speed and fury.

Edward O. Wilson has said that the emotional apparatus for the home, "...came from one million years..." of hunter-gatherers life, "... an existence that depended on an intimate relationship to the natural world, and appreciation of all the natural world qualities, and love of the home..."

The Louisiana Psychological Association is bringing in another evolutionary giant, Robert Trivers, one of my favorite scientists of all time, to explain the complex theory behind the interplay of ethics and social traits. Considering both Professor Trivers and the milk goats on my porch, I just may have gotten the better end of the bargain with Archimedes.



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[Julie Nelson is a licensed psychologist, journalist, and 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.]



A consumer member will soon be joining the members on the state psychology board. Here, Dr. Koren Boggs (L), the current Vice Chair, at a previous meeting, with board member Dr. Amy Henke.

Act 515 - Governor Encourages Citizens to Volunteer to Serve on Healthcare Licensing Boards

Gov. John Bel Edwards announced July 13 that he had signed Act 515 into law and he is calling for volunteers to serve on the boards. The new law, passed in the 2018 session, was sponsored by Sen. Fred Mills. The measure allows members of the public to now serve on Louisiana’s 24 healthcare-related licensing boards.

“It’s important to give consumers the opportunity to have a seat at the decision making table when it comes to issues that directly impact their lives,” said Gov. Edwards. “I want to thank Sen. Mills, a practicing pharmacist, who recognizes the need for citizens to work with health professionals in ensuring they receive the high quality healthcare they deserve.”

Appointees who meet the eligibility requirements will be called on to provide insight on the issuance of licenses, permits, or certificates and will be full voting members. Board appointments will begin on or after August 1, 2018, with the total length of term varying by board.

Professional Affairs Chair for the Louisiana Psychological Association, Dr. Kim VanGeffen, attended the psychology board’s July 20 meeting where the board’s attorney, Courtney Newton, reviewed the new legislation.

“The consumer member is appointed by the governor,” said Dr. VanGeffen. “Consumer members can apply directly to the governor’s office. This bill includes regulations on who can be a consumer member. For example, someone already in mental health could not be a consumer member.”

“This is the bill which added a consumer member to our licensing board,” said Dr. VanGeffen. “There will be a five-member hearing panel for complaints. Four votes are required for the board to take an action.”

According to the Governor’s Office, some of the other available boards for public volunteers include:

- Louisiana State Board of Dentistry
- Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors
- Louisiana State Board of Nursing
- Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners
- Louisiana State Board of Optometry Examiners
- Louisiana Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners
- Louisiana Board of Pharmacy
- Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners

More boards needing appointees and the application form can be found at: <http://gov.louisiana.gov/page/boards-commissions>

Dr. Tammy Savoie Aims for Congressional Seat, continued

In late July the *Uptown Messenger* followed Savoie on the campaign trail and said that New Orleans Democrats rallied around her as the “first viable” challenger to Scalise.

“The difficult odds of upsetting U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise cannot be understated: the nationally-known Republican has never garnered less than two-thirds of the vote in his Congressional district,” reported the *Messenger*. “Nevertheless, Tammy Savoie is persisting. And, for the first time in what may be decades, Democrats in New Orleans believe they have found a candidate who can make the race for the seat competitive.”

“I think this is the first viable candidate in the 1st Congressional District in a long time,” said Bill Hammack to the *Messenger*. Hammack hosted a fundraiser for Savoie recently that filled the banquet room at Calcasieu in the Warehouse District.

Savoie’s supporters are energized by her background, a Jefferson Parish native with a PhD in psychology who served for decades in the Air Force. After retiring from the military in 2016, she turned down a job with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to return home to New Orleans, and join the Emerge class training women for prospective runs for office, reported the *Messenger*.

Savoie has an impressive background.

She grew up in Jefferson Parish, one of five children who learned the “value of service and perseverance,” from a merchant marine father and a homemaker mother.

In 1978 she was inspired to serve her country and enlisted in the Louisiana Air National Guard while she studied psychology at the University of New Orleans. She earned her PhD from Emory University and also an MBA from Touro College.

She served as the Chief, International Health in the Air Force Central Command, at Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina from 2013 to 2016

before she retired and now is Adjunct Professor at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology at Xavier.

A single parent of a daughter, she was in active duty as an Air Force psychologist and treated service members and their families at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama.

She was stationed at Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa, Japan, and served as Chief of Psychological Services where she created drug abuse prevention programs rated “exceptional” by the U.S. Army.

She was Mental Health Flight Commander at Laughlin Air Force Base, and appointed Deputy Commander of the Air Force’s research office in London, UK, where she led a team discovering scientific solutions.

In 2011, while stationed at the Pentagon, Dr. Savoie deployed to Afghanistan to improve mental health services for the troops. She then traveled extensively throughout the Middle East, providing medical planning and educational services.

Dr. Savoie has numerous awards and decorations including the Meritorious Service Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, AF Outstanding Unit Award with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, AF Organizational Excellence Award with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and NATO Medal.

She announced her candidacy on May 14 and has noted that she wants to “work across the aisle” to improve access to health care. She also noted that she wants to gather support for mothers and children, veterans, and improve the economy so that all families can benefit.

“Why am I doing this? Because I have to,” Savoie told the *Uptown Messenger* at the recent fundraising event. “If you are angry and worried about our country, you have to do something.”

Visit her website at <https://www.tammysavoie.com/>

Corrections & Clarifications

We did not receive corrections for last month. Send your corrections to: psychologytimes@drjulienelson.com

Dr. Gormanous Appointed continued

(APA Div. 13), and the Association for Psychological Science. He is also a veteran of the United States Army.

Dr. Gormanous was the sole candidate to self-nominate for the current position and was nominated by the Louisiana Psychological Association.

Dr. Gormanous noted several goals of his service. “My view for regulating psychology in Louisiana is helping the board become more effective and efficient in protecting consumers of psychological services, while simultaneously ensuring due process, irrespective of particular staff, board members, issues and personalities.”

He wants, “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 and 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.

When applying to serve, he listed six specific issues:

- “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 - presumably underway now.
- “3. Staying a pace with changes in education and training. For example, other jurisdictions will be moving toward eligibility for candidates to sit for the EPPP 1 after doctoral course work is completed.
- “4. Adjusting to implementation of the competency model (EPPP 1 Knowledge and EPPP 2 Skills) by other jurisdictions and considering what is best for consumers in LA.



Dr. Jesse Lambert speaking with Executive Director Jaime Monic of the psychology board at a previous long-range planning meeting. Dr. Lambert took over as the new Chair. The newest appointee is Dr. Greg Gormanous. Dr. Gormanous previously served on the board twice, and is Professor Emeritus of Psychology, LSU Alexandria.

“5. Revisiting Generic versus Specialty Credentialing. Does the board stay with its "opportunity for registering...within a limited list of recognized specialties..." or does it implement the health service psychologist (HSP) & general applied psychologist (GAP) categories recognized by APA and ASPPB?

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

In a 2010 *Times* feature article (“Close-Up,” Vol. 2. No. 1.) Dr. Gormanous said that his heart was in teaching.

“Teaching is my drug of choice,” he said “I was one of those people who, in the Ericksonian sense, was late in forming my identity. I wanted to be a college professor. It was English, then math, and then I stumbled across psychology. I realized it was the field where I could discover myself, and discover my need to teach. I love to teach and help develop people, and we have students who want to learn and develop, and so it's been a perfect fit.”

At that time, Dr. Gormanous has remained involved in his community through efforts with the Alexandria Zoo, Business Incubator, the Rapides Parish Primary Health Care Center, the Syra-Meric Club, and the Alexandria Mardi Gras Association, where he started a new parade - Classic Cars & College Cheerleaders. He also started the Krewe of Kolbi Bow-Wow with the Animal Shelter and the Alexandria Zoo. This is a dog Krewe that advocates for pet adoptions. He has been active with the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club of Alexandria, and the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

While his heart might be in teaching, his soul is in the blues. A special project, “Psychology of the Blues,” where he applied psychological principles to songs and singers, and how they have been molded into who they've become, has captured his imagination for many years.

“Psychology of the Blues” involves four musicians as he explained--Otis

Redding, Steve Cropper, Grady Gaines, and the great B.B. King.

“I've had the privilege of knowing, and sort of informally and unofficially traveling with B.B. King since 1983,” he said. In 1983 Dr. Gormanous attended an event memorializing the slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers. “Charles Evers and B.B. King

wanted to keep the spirit of Medgar alive,” he said.

“BB King and his band played free so that music could be the language to bring people together to overcome racism.” He realized then that music was a vehicle to change the world and it inspired him to be involved.

Louisiana is Heading in Right Economic Direction Says Governor Edwards in July

Gov. Edwards praised the good news about the the state's GDP on July 24, following the announcement from the Bureau of Economic Analysis that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew in the state of Louisiana for the first quarter of 2018 at a rate of 2.3 percent, faster than 35 other states.

Gov. Edwards said, “There is no doubt about it - Louisiana's economy is steadily improving. For years, budget instability has threatened our state's future, but those days are behind us. Today, more Louisianans are working than ever before, we have lowered taxes on the people of our state, and we are working to bring record economic development deals to Louisiana. This is not mission accomplished, but just one more positive indicator that we are headed in the right direction. It's critically important for us all to continue to work together to foster an environment where Louisiana can reach its full potential. I'm committed to doing that, and to ensure that our state's brightest days are ahead of us.”

State to Reinvest Justice Reform Savings to Reduce Recidivism

Gov. Edwards and the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C) released the first report outlining savings from criminal justice reform measures passed by the legislature in 2017. The savings, according to the report, have exceeded Pew Charitable Trusts' projections. Savings for fiscal year 2018 totaled \$12.2 million, doubling Pew's original projections of \$6.1 million.

"In 2017, Republicans, Democrats and Independents came together to rethink our criminal justice system," said Gov. Edwards. "We knew what we were doing just wasn't working and it was costing us more money. By following the lead of other southern, conservative states, we passed a package of 10 bills that will improve public safety and reduce recidivism."

"This is great news for the state of Louisiana," said James M. Le Blanc, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections. "Our goal and our mission with criminal justice reform is to reinvest money we would usually pay for incarceration into programs aimed at better preparing our returning citizens and individuals on probation and parole, and to help victims of crime."

The Justice Reinvestment bills are anticipated to save the state more than \$262 million over the next decade, and 70 percent of the savings will be reinvested into programs to reduce recidivism and support victims.

The Department currently intends to use first-year reinvestment funding in support of the following priorities: Increasing programming for state inmates housed at local jails; Enhancing and expanding Regional Reentry Centers; Increasing Probation and Parole staffing and Day Reporting Centers; Launching a Transitional Housing pilot program; Opening a new Reception Center to conduct assessments for new inmates; and Expanding Specialty Courts.

Grants to Community-Based Services: With the goal of ensuring this funding is spent in the most effective and transparent way possible, DPS&C has created a Community Incentive Grant Program and has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP).

The RFP is intended to elicit proposals from qualified community organizations that are interested in enhancing or expanding coordination of reentry services and community supports to increase prison alternatives and reduce recidivism. Funding will be awarded in the fall of 2018.

Grants to Support Victims' Services: Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) currently intends to use first-year reinvestment funding in support of the following priorities:

Supplementing the Crime Victims' Reparations Fund; Establishing a new Family Justice Center in East Baton Rouge Parish; Improving

electronic notifications for victims by developing an electronic system that will interface with all 64 parish clerks of court; and Providing funding to the Louisiana Bureau of Investigations for a dedicated forensics server for their Cybercrimes Unit.

Prior to the passage of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) legislation, Louisiana was leading the nation in imprisonment, with a rate nearly double the national average.

Dr. Susan Tucker, psychologist with the DPS&C has been working on programs to reduce incarceration rates. In 2016 legislators pointed to multi-million dollar cost savings to the state because of shorter

incarceration times of those offenders who participated in the psychological programs designed and delivered by Tucker and her team at the Bossier Sherriff's Office, Medium Correctional Facility, located between Benton and Plain Dealing, Louisiana. Dr. Tucker has been working on reducing the rates through her comprehensive, innovative, and evidenced-based programs, to improve lives, families and community safety.

"I am very proud of our program and that we accomplish two goals which save taxpayer money but also provide rehabilitation to the substance abuse incarcerated offenders as well as their families," Dr. Tucker told the *Times*.

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Munchausen Syndrome by proxy Act 193 Taps into Complex Issues in Effort to Limit Diagnostic Errors

In the 2018 regular session, House Bill No. 145 placed limitations on who may diagnose the disorder known as "Munchausen Syndrome by proxy," which is known in the DSM-5 as factitious disorder imposed on another or FDIA. The bill, by Representative Kenny Cox, was signed by the Governor and became Act 193.

Formally known as Munchausen syndrome by proxy (MSP), this condition is a mental illness in which a person acts as if an individual he or she is caring for has a physical or mental illness when the person is not really sick. In some cases, illnesses may be actually produced by the caretaker.

Act 193 directs that no physician or other health care provider shall diagnose the condition of factitious disorder imposed on another (formerly "Munchausen syndrome by proxy") unless he or she meets certain criteria, such as being licensed, qualified by his or her license and training to diagnose, able to provide a certain level of quality in the evaluation, and other stipulations. The new law indicates that the evaluator must review relevant records, history, current clinical conditions, and obtain records from external sources searches schools, childcare providers, and family.

While these quality controls and expectations are standard for psychological evaluation, Representative Cox’s measure suggests that problems have been encountered in the past in this complex area where teasing out the accuracy of claims and symptoms could require a deeper understanding of illness-deception.

The measure was signed by the governor recently and became law as Act 193. However, the real complexities of the matter may still cause issues for those practitioners who are not highly trained to understand nuances and pitfalls regarding illness-deception.

Dr. Michael Chafetz, a nationally recognized expert when it comes to malingering in forensic and medical

assessments, points to the complexities in understanding these issues.

“Every practitioner who makes a diagnosis has two potential positive outcomes and two potential errors,” said Chafetz. “If the diagnosis is made and is correct, it is a good thing because the patient has the pathology identified and can get appropriate treatment. If the diagnosis is correctly rejected (because no evidence for the pathology could be adduced), it is a good thing because the patient is spared the wrong treatment for pathology that does not exist.”

“The flip side of the positive outcomes involves the errors that are potentially made,” he said. “If the practitioner makes a diagnosis of a condition that the patient does not have, that is a false-positive error. Everyone involved with the case is now acting on false new information about the patient.

“On the other hand, if the practitioner rejects the diagnosis for a condition that the patient does have, that is a false-negative error,” he explained. “This error can be problematic, as no one involved with the case will get on board with the appropriate interventions.”

In decision-making, there is often a trade-off between false-positive and false-negative errors, and the importance of not making one or the other depends on the relative merits of the outcomes, he explained. “For example, in cancer screening and bomb detection, a false negative error can be more costly than a false-positive error. TSA certainly does not want to miss a bomb, and the radiologist certainly does not want to miss a possible cancer. These false-positive errors may cause some discomfort, but they sure beat the alternatives!”

In Factitious Disorder Imposed on Another, both kinds of errors have real-world consequences. “If the practitioner makes a false-negative error, missing the parental deceptions, the parent does not get diagnosed, which increases the potential for a child to suffer abuse,” Dr. Chafetz



Dr. Michael Chafetz speaking at a previous conference. Chafetz is an expert on malingering issues in forensic and neuropsychological matters and has published extensively on the topic.

said. “If the practitioner makes a false-positive misdiagnosis of the parent, that parent may face drastic consequences with the possibility of termination of their parental rights.”

He noted that Factitious disorder (FD), like malingering (M), involves deceptive behaviors. In fact, both FD and M are similar in that they both involve deception of others. Malingering involves deception in a medico-legal setting, whereas FD typically occurs in a medical or psychological setting.

The "by-proxy" or "imposed on another" conditions for both disorders are meant to convey that an individual, usually a caretaker, is creating the deception by use of a person under their care.

Dr. Melissa Dufrene and Chafetz have studied these exact issues, in Chafetz, M.D., & Dufrene, M. (2014). Malingering-by-proxy: Need for child protection and guidance for reporting. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 38, 1755-1765.

Both of the by-proxy or imposed conditions can lead to child abuse, he explained. In their guidance article, Chafetz and Dufrene developed guidelines for reporting.

Dr. Chafetz has also discussed these conditions in a physician-education article, Chafetz, M.D. (2018). Factitious Disorder Imposed on Another and Malingering by Proxy: Controversies, Recognition, Responsibilities, and Management. *American Physician Institute*, CMEToGo, Volume 7, Issue 2.

It is important to recognize that both conditions, M and FD, involve deception of others. Typically, psychological treatments do not take into account the deception, he said.

While Act 193 may help somewhat to make sure qualified professionals are called upon for these complex issues, there could still be a lot of confusion for those that do not have the tools and methods to evaluate these serious issues.

CMS Releases 2019 Medicare Fee Proposal for Neuropsychological Testing Codes and Fees

In a series of recent announcements, Doug Walter, JD, Associate Executive Director for Government Relations, American Psychological Association Practice Organization, alerted psychologists that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released its proposed rule on the 2019 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule.

During the last months the CMS had targeted the codes for revisions and asked the American Medical Association's CTP® and RUC (Relative Value Update) Committees to restructure and revalue the testing codes.

Walter said APA's Practice Organization staff had met repeatedly with CMS throughout the year to ask the agency not to make substantial cuts in testing service payments. "We are gratified that CMS listened, and rejected the significant reductions in payments that had been under consideration..." They prevented 44% cuts that would have come when psychologists collect their own test data, said an earlier memo.

Walter wrote that CMS is projecting that on average psychologists will have a 2% increase in Medicare payments for the aggregate of all services, including psychological and neuropsychological testing, psychotherapy, and Health & Behavior codes.

In the most recent announcement, Walter wrote, "Based on a close examination of the proposal we project that the Medicare payment for a six-hour battery of psychological tests would increase 6.3%. The Medicare payment for a neuropsychological test conducted with the assistance of a technician would increase 6.8%, while the payment for a neuropsychological test conducted by a neuro-psychologist her/himself would decrease by just over 3%. The reimbursement rate for a one-hour neuropsychological status exam would increase almost 2%, with reimbursements for a two-hour exam declining 5.3%."

The proposed rule suggests very slight increases for psychotherapy and health and behavior services in non-facility practice expense (overhead) and malpractice expense. Payments for psychotherapy services would

rise by 2% or slightly more, with payments for health and behavior services also receiving a slight increase, said Walter.

APA will be asking psychologists to comment to preserve the reimbursements. Public comments can be accepted regarding the proposed rule until September 10 at CMS. For more information contact the Louisiana Psychological Association or the APA Practice Organization Government Relations Office at Pracgovt@apa.org or (202) 336-5889.

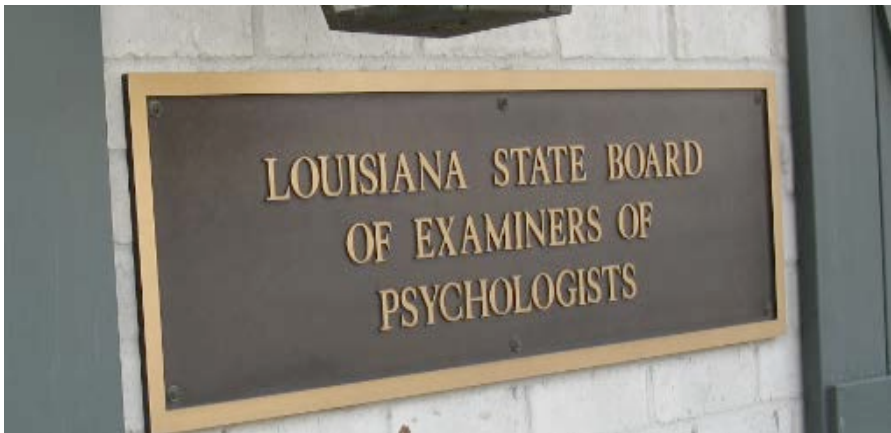
The rule can be reviewed at <https://s3.amazonaws.com/publicinspection.federalregister.gov/2018-14985.pdf>

Rules Noticed for Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Council and Nutritionists in July Louisiana Register

The Department of Health, Office of Aging and Adult Services, Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury (LAC 48:I.Chapter 19) published a "Notice of Intent" to create a new rule. "This proposed Rule amends language in order to align with statute changes to R.S. 46:2631 and R.S 46:2635 (A) approved in the 2018 Regular Legislative Session, ACT 424, and to codify current processes to ensure timely and efficient delivery of services to participants."

The rule addresses several areas, including noting that the Department of Health, Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS), will be responsible for administration of the Louisiana Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund.

The new rule will lay out conditions administrative reviews, "The administrative review is the first level appeal process used by individuals for a timely resolution of disagreements pertaining to eligibility decisions or a denial of services." Also, "Advisory Board Review. In the event that a disputed decision is not resolved through the administrative review process, the individual may request a second level appeal before the advisory board." Matters of Program Eligibility are



LSBEP Budget Better But Still Digging Out

According to the online reporting for Louisiana Boards & Commissions, the Psychology Board is on track for 2018 spending totaling \$290,063. This represents a substantial decrease from the expenditures in 2017 which came to \$400,388.

The boards fund balance for 2018 is listed as a negative \$346,800, representing spending from legal fees that had been mounting up for a number of years.

The legal fees for 2018 are estimated to be \$91,000 whereas in 2017 they were \$149,774. Legal fees are projected for 2019 at \$52,000.

To help with budgetary concerns, the board laid off the clerical assistant and expenditures for total salaries went from \$166,417 in 2017 to a figure for this year which is estimated at \$107,037.

The board is self-funded and the state report notes that the actual income from licenses for 2017 was \$234,190. Projected 2018 income for license fees should be \$259,645, and projected for year 2019 is \$258,550.

The primary financial problems for the board have been in legal fees. In January 2017 the *Times* reported on the skyrocketing legal fees that related primarily to a contract attorney, Mr. James Raines, and the Complaints subcommittee. Mr. Raines had submitted invoices for \$52,000 in a short period of time, perhaps as short as six weeks. Before that he had submitted invoices for \$66,597 and the board still owed him \$44,000. The totals were well over the contract which began at \$15,000 and then was raised. In a June 2016 report, the Louisiana Legislative Auditor reported that the board was found to have inadequate controls, under the previous Executive Director.

also included: In order for an individual to be determined eligible for services, the individual must: meet the definition of spinal cord injury or traumatic brain injury, be a resident of the state and domiciled here, and have a reasonable expectation to achieve improvement, and other requirements. Limitations are set at \$15,000 for a year and \$50,000 for lifetime.

A public hearing on this proposed Rule is scheduled for Monday, August 27, 2018 at 9 a.m.

Registered Dietitians and Nutritionists are proposing to amend its current regulations.

For the section on Nutrition Counseling, definition includes psychological facts: "... therapeutic approach to treating medical conditions and their associated symptoms via the use of a specifically tailored diet devised and monitored by a licensed and/or registered dietitian/nutritionist. Nutrition counseling provides individualized guidance on appropriate food and nutrient intake for those with special

metabolic needs, taking into consideration health, cultural, socioeconomic, functional and psychological facts from the nutrition assessment. Nutrition counseling may include advice to increase or decrease nutrients in the diet; to change the timing, size or composition of meals; to modify food textures; and in extreme instances, to change the route of administration."



The “Gary P. Dohanich Professor in Brain Sciences,” has been created at Tulane for the Tulane Brain Institute. Dr. Jill Daniel has been named the inaugural appointee for the position. Above, Dr. Dohanich presents at a previous conference.

New Tulane Professorship Endowed in Dr. Dohanich’s Honor, Dr. Daniel Appointed

An alumnus who was inspired with a “thirst for knowledge” and helped to set new priorities in his life by Professor Gary Dohanich, has established the “Gary P. Dohanich Professor in Brain Sciences,” in the Tulane Brain Institute. Dr. Jill Daniel has been named the inaugural appointee for the position. Dr. Daniel is Professor in the Tulane Psychology Department and Director of the Neuroscience Program at Tulane.

Mr. Wayne Teetsel, who earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology in 1987 and an MBA in 1990 from Tulane, attributes Dr. Dohanich with inspiring him and helping him begin to take his education seriously, reported Kirby Messinger for *Tulane News*.

Gary Dohanich, PhD, is a Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience at Tulane University. He is the co-founder of Tulane’s major and masters programs in Neuroscience, and is the current director of Tulane’s doctoral program in Neuroscience. Dohanich is the recipient of Tulane University’s highest teaching awards, including the 1996 Sheldon Hackney Award for Excellence in Teaching, the 2007 Weiss Presidential Fellowship for Undergraduate Education, and the 2014 President's Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching.

Teetsel said to *Tulane News*, “When I started at Tulane in 1983, I didn’t really take school that seriously. Every class was a chore,” he said. “It all changed after I met Dr. Dohanich. I realized that I had this really fantastic opportunity. I wanted to take advantage of the resources I had at my disposal.”

“By honoring Gary, I hope I’m showing that teaching matters – that students matter,” said Teetsel. “It’s not just about research and grants. That’s important but at the core it’s about education.”

According to *Tulane News*, Mr. Teetsel recently retired as a General Partner at Stonehill Capital Management, LLC, which is an advisor to Stonehill Institutional Partners L.P. and Stonehill Offshore Partners LLC, located in NYC. Both funds specialize in distressed and special situation

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Stress Solutions

by Susan Andrews, PhD

“The greatest weapon we have against stress is our ability to choose one thought over another.”

William James

This reminds me of a saying I once saw on a T-shirt: “Meditation: It IS what you think.” Of course, William James is taking for granted that most people are capable of controlling their minds well enough to actually choose to think about one thing and NOT to think about something else. Obviously, if everyone could do that, the world would be a much more relaxed and stress-free zone. The trouble seems to be coming from 2 possibilities: (1) many people do not realize that stress can be managed by controlling what they are thinking about and (2) too many people in the world today lack the ability to control what they are thinking.

Stress is absolutely a function of what we think. It is our thoughts about what is happening in the moment that actually trigger stress. And, as James points out, humans can choose to think about something that would normally cause them stress whereas non-humans do not have that choice. For example, mice can be exposed to chronic stress in a laboratory a number of ways, such as by keeping them in a small space for 21 days. Mice, thus treated, show behavioral and brain cell changes in the amygdala associated with anxiety and depression¹.

Research indicates that “reappraising” our situation – i.e., changing the way we think – can actually improve our body’s physiological and cognitive reactions to a stressful event. A team of Harvard and UC San Francisco researchers¹ tested this theory by simply instructing participants in a reappraisal condition to think about their physiological arousal during a stressful task as “functional and adaptive.” There were two control conditions: attention reorientation and no instructions.

The participants instructed to “reappraise” their physiological arousal by thinking of the arousal as being more adaptive or functional showed measurably better cardiovascular stress responses (in terms of increased cardio efficiency and lower vascular resistance) and decreased attentional bias. Thus, changing our thoughts and thereby our perception can significantly improve the effects of stress on our body.

The suggestion to reappraise how we are looking at a stressful situation so that we think of it as somehow benefiting us or helping us do something better may be a much easier way to help people learn to control what they are thinking. Often when clients are instructed to try to control what they are thinking and NOT to think of the “X” that is upsetting them, they respond by saying they cannot control what they are thinking. Thus, using the suggestion of “reappraising” or reframing how they think about something may be much more successful at getting a stressed client to think differently – and feel less stressed.

¹ T Lau, B Bigio, D Zelli, B S McEwen, C Nasca. Stress-induced structural plasticity of medial amygdala stellate neurons and rapid prevention by a candidate antidepressant. *Molecular Psychiatry*, 2016.

² Jamieson, J. Nock, M. and Mendes, W. Brief Report: Mind Over Matter: Reappraising Arousal Improves Cardiovascular and Cognitive Responses to Stress. 2012. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General* 2012, 141, 3, 417-422.



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.

Tulane Professorship for Dr. Gary Dohanich, Dr. Daniel Appointed continued

investing and together manage approximately \$3 billion in capital.

Dr. Dohanich has published over 65 research articles, scholarly reviews, and book chapters, and held grants from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. He regularly teaches courses in Stress and Trauma, Psychopharmacology, and Behavioral Endocrinology. His research has focused on the roles of gonadal and adrenal hormones as moderators of cognitive, affective, and reproductive functions, as well as the impact of biological sex on the development and expression of behavior.

The first appointee, Dr. Jill Daniel, is a founding director of the transdisciplinary Tulane Brain Institute, which was established in 2016 to coordinate and expand neuroscience research and education across all campuses of the university. Dr. Daniel is Professor in the Tulane Psychology Department.

“Gary taught me how to be a scientist,” Daniel said to Barri Bronson of *Tulane News*. “I owe so much of what I have accomplished in my career to his mentorship.”

Research from Daniel's lab has contributed to the understanding of mechanisms by which estrogens and androgens impact areas of the brain that are vital to cognition.

“I’m intrigued by the fact that these hormones, the primary function of which is to control reproduction, exert powerful effects throughout the brain, including on areas involved in learning and memory,” Daniel said. “Our work aims to understand why and how this occurs.”

Daniel's work is focused on the impact of estrogens and androgens on the brain and cognition across the lifespan, snf supported by awards from the National Institutes of Health.

Her and her team’s research aims to help understand the mechanisms of estrogens and androgens and how these impact areas of the brain,

according to her website. Of special importance is the issues of cognition and memory. She and her group of master’s and doctoral students look at the impact of hormones on both the brain and cognitive function across the lifespan. Daniel publishes in journals such as *Psychopharmacology*, *Hormones and Behavior*, and *Endocrinology*. With her efforts, she hopes to guide understanding of how hormones help organize mammalian brains as male or female, and also what impact these have on the aging brain.

Drs. Jill Daniel and Edward Golob, researchers in neuroscience and faculty in the Tulane Psychology Department, had their work featured in the *Tulane Magazine*, “Brain Signals: The Mysteries of the Brain Lead Tulane Researchers Down Paths of Discovery.”

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Nicholls State University
Department of Psychology, Counseling and Family Studies

Assistant Professor, tenure-track
Immediate Opening - position advertised through August 1, 2018, or until filled

Minimum Qualifications:

- Earned doctorate in school psychology from NASP or APA approved program
- Minimum Licenses Required: License as school psychologist (or eligible to apply) by LA State Board of Examiners

Other Minimum Requirements: n/a
Test(s) Required: n/a
Preferred Education: n/a

- Preferred Experience: Graduate-level teaching; history of employment as a full-time school psychologist; supervision of school psychologists; proven or demonstrated potential for scholarly productivity; solid evidence of an Applied Behavior Analysis background in training, publication, and work history.
- Preferred Licenses: Licensed Psychologist (or eligibility for licensure) with a declared specialty in School Psychology by the Louisiana Board of Examiners of Psychologists. BCBA certification also a plus.

Salary Range: commensurate with experience

Duties & Responsibilities:

10% Participate in Program; Department; and Unit accreditation processes; assume role of university-based supervisor for field experiences upon licensure
10% - Serve on faculty committees
10% - Scholarly activities and research
20% - Advise students and mentor undergraduate research projects; advise graduate students
50% - Teach Graduate Course work in School Psychology and undergraduate courses.

Please find the position application at <http://jobs.nicholls.edu>

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.



Algiers Neurobehavioral Resource, LLC

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Michael Chafetz, PhD, and Melissa Dufrene, PsyD
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New Orleans, LA 70114
work: 504-636-6120
fax: 504-208-3138

Ψ

We Remember

Dr. Fred E. Davis

Fred E. Davis, PhD, died on June 30, 2018, following some months of declining health. He was age 80. Dr. Davis was a cherished colleague to many in the state and especially to those in the New Orleans area. He was known for his wit and sense of humor, his enjoyment of colleagues, his loyalty to psychology and standards of excellence, and his love of both teaching and learning.

“Anyone who knew Fred, knew he loved psychology, especially psychotherapy,” said Dr. Carolyn Weyand, New Orleans psychologist and psychoanalyst. “He loved learning, teaching, and practice. He was a member of the Crescent City Area Psychological Society (CCAPS) and a participant in our Depth Psychology Study Group. Although his health had become too challenging for him to continue practicing, he loved psychotherapy so much that discussing other’s cases brought him much joy. Fred generously contributed from his wealth of wisdom, knowledge, and years of practice.”

“Fred was an amazing guy and a wonderful psychologist,” said Dr. Michael Chafetz, who first met him in the 1970s at Tulane. “Fred was the consummate professional psychologist,” Chafetz said. “Later, as a professional psychologist, I found him to be always helpful to the next generation of psychologists, providing many insights.”

“He was vital, energetic, and compassionate,” said Chafetz. “I will miss him greatly.”

Dr. Fred Edward Davis was born December 15, 1937, and grew up in Dallas, Texas. He joined the Army after high school and spent two years in Germany, where he traveled extensively and earned honors as a highly skilled marksman.

After his military service he entered the University of Texas at Austin and earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in clinical psychology. This was followed by a PhD in counseling psychology from the University of Kansas.

After he settled in New Orleans in the 1970s, and was licensed to practice with



Dr. Fred Davis with one of his grands.

Louisiana License #189, he worked in a variety of roles and positions.

He served as the Director of the Tulane University Counseling Center, a position he held for nearly a decade.

From the 70s to the 90s, Dr. Davis also served as Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Tulane University School of Social Work, where he taught courses in the treatment of depression, statistics, research design, and supervised masters research projects and served as chair on doctoral dissertation committees.

“He was extremely popular with his students,” said wife Cynthia, “to the point that they had to limit enrollment in his classes so that other professors would have enough students in their courses.”

As a skilled researcher, Dr. Davis assisted numerous students with psychological concepts, research design of their doctoral projects, and in the writing of their dissertations.

“When the Tulane School of Social Work adopted a rule that only professors with Social Work degrees could teach at the school, Davis had to leave, which he regretted, explained Cynthia. “He absolutely loved teaching.”

Dr. Davis also worked in private practice at his firm, Davis and Associates, and was active in the firm for almost 40 years. During this time, he consulted at the Burdon Smith Psychiatric Clinic and DePaul Hospital. He provided counseling and psychological testing services

for a wide variety of patients. He served as a consulting psychologist to the Tulane University Law Clinic, where he taught methods for interviewing clients and provided psychological services for cases. He also taught law students how and when to use experts in cases and role-played testimony in the trial practice program.

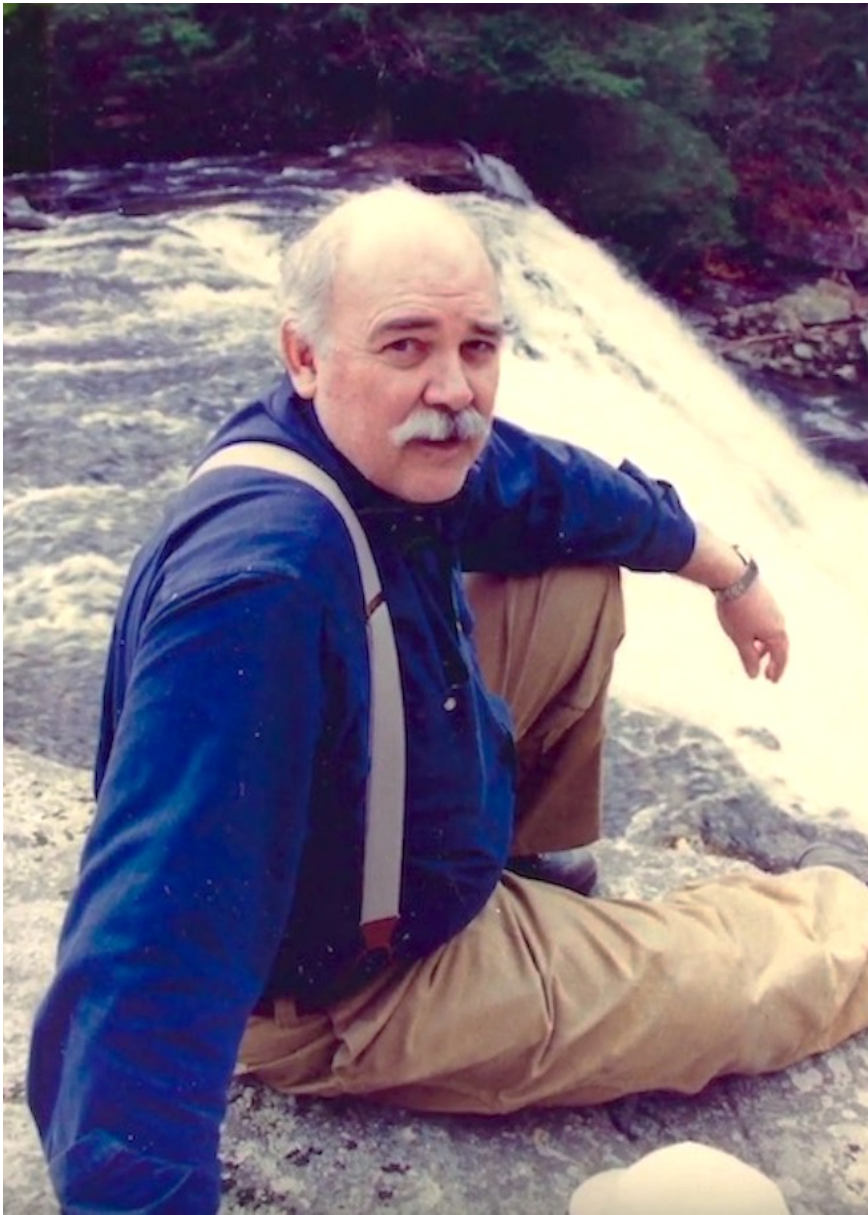
He was also called upon to serve as an expert witness in numerous court cases. His ability to take complex concepts and make them easily understandable was one of the many reasons students liked him and why attorneys and judges valued his input and testimony.

Dr. Davis served as the Psychological Consultant for Waterford III and Riverbend Nuclear Plants for Hillsman Psychiatric Associates, providing interviews, screenings, and MMPI data for thousands of candidates.

In 1997, Dr. Davis returned to graduate training at the University of New Orleans, where he obtained post graduate work in neuroanatomy and physiology, clinical neuropsychology, and ethics.

Davis was also an avid sportsman, enjoying fishing, hunting, diving and boating, and a long-time New Orleans Saints fan and season ticket holder.

During his career, Dr. Davis served on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, was a member of the Crescent City Area Society of Psychologists, and was a long-standing member of the Louisiana



Dr. Fred Davis, cherished colleague and consummate professional psychologist, passed away in June at the age of 80.

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We Remember Dr. Fred E. Davis



Dr. Fred Davis enjoyed the outdoors and was an avid sportsman, enjoying fishing, hunting, diving and boating.

Psychological Association, where he participated in the committee on education and conventions.

"After Katrina, Dr. Davis sheltered himself and his practice," in Baton Rouge at the office of Dr. Darlyne Nemeth and NCLA, said Dr. Nemeth. "Watching him cope and care for his patients was one of the highlights of my life," she said. "He was truly a remarkable man and a gifted clinician. I will miss him."

"It was my pleasure to serve on the Board of Examiners with Dr. Fred Davis in the eighties.," Nemeth said. "He was always the consummate scientist-professional and a superb clinician, the perfect gentleman. But there was more. He had the ability to look beyond—to see the real person, to ask the unexpected question, which allowed the examinee to reveal his or her true self. In this day and age of technical competence, Dr. Davis' wisdom went beyond."

"Fred was a model professional psychologist as well as a really nice person," said Dr. Charles Burchell.

President of the Louisiana Psychological Association, Dr. Julie Nelson, worked with Dr. Davis in the Education Committee. "He always had the most clever and insightful one—liner to offer, especially during a dust-ups. He had a marvelous way of relieving tension and transcending a problem with humor. And he was firm when it came to principles," she said. "We've lost a great colleague."

"He was also the life of parties," Michael Chafetz said, "always with good stories. I will miss him. I think he will be remembered very well by our community."

A devoted family man, he is survived by his wife Cynthia Stewart Davis, his brother Louis Freeman Davis (Kathy), his two children Susan Davis Gryder (Edmond) and Richard Davis (Julia), and grandchildren Charles Gryder, Claudia Gryder and Jane Davis. Survivors also include his stepchildren Kristin Neelis (Robert), Brian Clark (Ana), and Jeremy Clark, and step-grandchildren Brianne Tully, Brendan Tully, Zowie Kemery, Jonathan Alfaro, Nathan Clark, and Ethan Clark.

Friends and relatives are holding a Celebration of Life service on Saturday, August 4, 2018 at Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home in New Orleans, Louisiana. Interment will be private with military honors.

[Editor's Note: The *Times* staff wishes to thank family members for photos and comments for this article, and offer our most sincere condolences.]

Science & Education

LSU's Dr. Tracey Rizzuto Named Jacobs Professor of Excellence

Dr. Tracey Rizzuto, industrial-organizational psychologist and Associate Professor at the LSU School of Leadership and Human Resource Development has been named the recipient of the 2018 Jacobs Professor of Excellence Award.

This is the first year for Jacobs to sponsor the Award, a partnering effort between the LSU's Cox Communications Academic Center for Student-Athletes and community sponsors, recognizing work by professors advancing lives of student-athletes by the principles of leadership and social change.

"Dr. Rizzuto is a great example of what Jacobs represents. She is a dedicated researcher who is passionate about social change. Her life's

work is critical to the profession of leadership development and to the brand of LSU," said LSU Assistant Vice Chancellor and Executive Director of the Cox Communications Center, Kenneth O. Miles, to *LSU News*.

Dr. Rizzuto works on developing human capital and organizational capacity through technology-mediated processes, with the goal of increasing access to the knowledge, expertise, and resources needed in the workplace. She has helped gather together over \$9 million in grants from state and federal sources for various research projects and her work has been reported in the *New*



Dr. Tracey Rizzuto.
(Courtesy photo)

York Times and National Public Radio's *Marketplace*.

She also applies quantitative multilevel and network modeling to describe person and environment inter-actions, and studies attitudinal and behavioral responses to large-scale organizational change across a wide variety of settings and technologies used to support post-secondary education and professional training. Her research also includes workforce aging issues and reactions to workplace disasters.



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A Shrink at the Flicks

Three Identical Strangers: A Review

by Alvin G. Burstein, PhD

This is a powerhouse film, deeply stirring emotionally, and raising profound questions about morality and the nature of truth.

Three Identical Strangers is an indie film by Neon/CNN, produced by Tim Wardle. It won raves at this summer's Sundance Film Festival, and is now beginning general release. I will do my best to outline how it achieves its impact while avoiding spoilers that would dilute its impact.

It begins with one of the three identical twins that are its focus addressing the camera, documentary style. He describes to the viewer his arrival for his freshman year on campus. Puzzled by the warmth and familiarity with which he is greeted, he shortly learns he is being taken for another student who had attended the year before, but had not returned. A buddy of that predecessor realizes that the newcomer must be an identical twin, and immediately barrels the twins into a meeting. The publicity around the surprising encounter leads a third identical triplet to emerge.

What ensues is an account of how it happened that, at six months of age, these male triplets had been placed by a Jewish adoption agency with three different sets of parents and of their lives subsequent to the reunion.

It emerges that they were subjects of a research project conducted by the noted child psychoanalyst, Peter Neubauer, who wanted to study the effects of varying parenting on similar children, and who had arranged with the agency to facilitate his study of identical twins—and triplets—with different families.

Either by design or intentionally, the three adoptive families differ, with a focus on fathers that is clear, though not explicit. That of the triplet that opens the film, Bobby, is middle class. The father, described as very warm, runs a small retail store. Eddy, his brother, is placed in a different setting. His father is a teacher, described as stern and demanding. The third triplet, David, has a new family headed by prosperous but very busy physician.

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 film documents the boys' lives subsequent to the astonishing and joyful reunion with an artful mix of narration, photos, home movies and re-enactment. The three become media celebrities, diving into a 60's farrago of highlife and hijinks.

The documentation includes contemporary interviews with some of those originally involved—surviving members of the families, Neubauer's former research assistants and Neubauer himself—burnishing the authority of the re-enactments. But some of the reconstructions, for example a celebratory toasting by the adoption agency staff, seem doubtful.

As the film goes on, the mood darkens and the emotional reaction of the three brothers to what they have learned becomes more complicated. In addition, the very striking physical similarity of the three brothers develops a subtle psychological counterpoint.

A crucial part of the film's depth lies in questions about nature vs. nurture. Another issue is that of authenticity and the nature of truth. The film raises questions about Neubauer's motives for not publishing this study. The film makes no allusion to the 1960's furor about the Tuskegee study of the course of untreated syphilis and the Willowbrook study of infant hepatitis. Those studies were castigated for failing to involve consent from the subjects. Those familiar with the psychoanalyst's work know that he sought to contextualize the view that maternal failures—remember the 1950's shibboleth about refrigerator mothers and autism—with an exploration of paternal contributions. Arguably an important question. But had he obtained informed consent?

And I will end with a combination paradox and teaser. Bobby's father, about whom the triplets clustered as young adults, had a Yiddish nickname, "Bubeleh". It means "Little Grandmother."

Gone Fishing—
*We never tire of
Dr. Tom Stigall's
photography.*

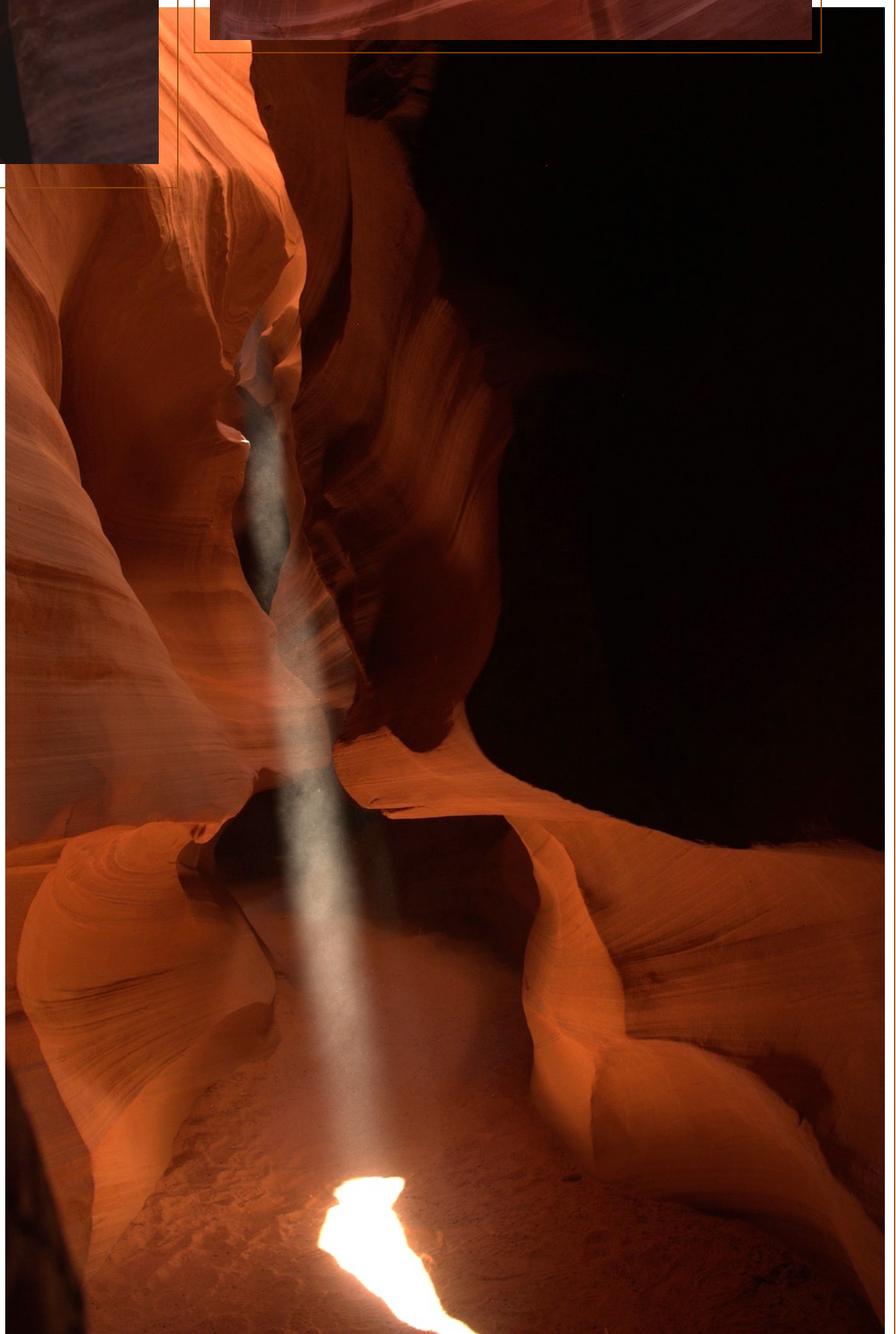


***Antelope
Canyon
Navajo land near
Page, Arizona***

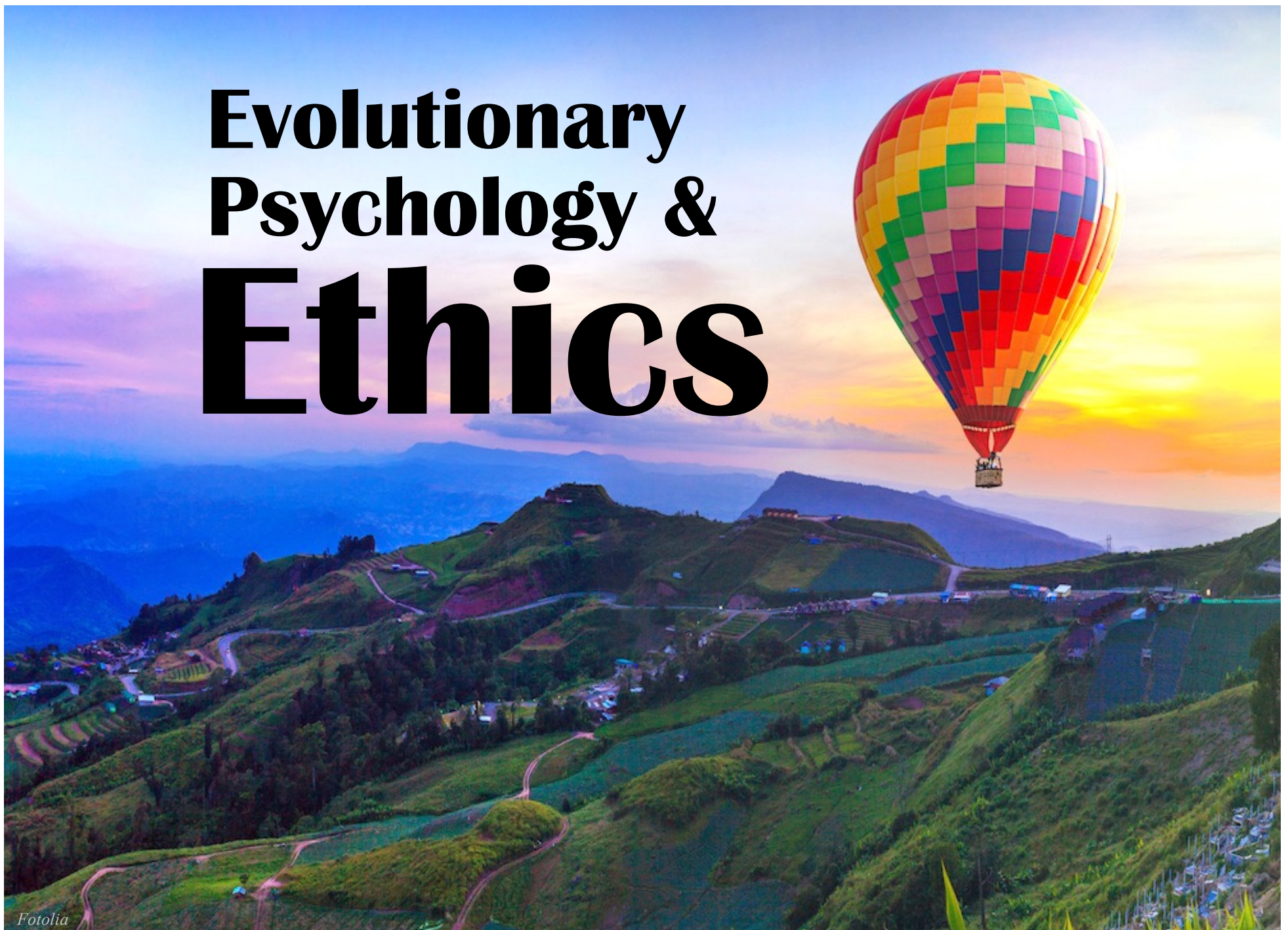
The dramatic formations in Antelope Canyon are due to the erosion of Navajo Sandstone. Over time, passageways have formed with deep corridors, flowing shapes, and mysterious light sources that create intense patches of illumination.

Tom named the large photo, “Lightbeam from Above.”

“There are several places in the canyon where these occur when the sun is in just the right position,” Tom said. “The landscape in this part of the country is spectacular and begs to be photographed.”



The Louisiana Psychological Association
is proud to present an extraordinary 70th Anniversary event



Evolutionary Psychology & Ethics

Featuring the legendary **Robert Trivers, PhD**, evolutionary biologist who explained the scientific foundations of *reciprocal altruism* and *self-deception*. *Time Magazine* named him one of the top 100 scientists and thinkers of the 20th Century. Steven Pinker has said, “I consider Trivers one of the great thinkers in the history of Western thought. It would not be too much of an exaggeration to say that he has provided a scientific explanation for the human condition...”

For this special event we will also have Dr. Jack Palmer, from U. of Louisiana Monroe, author of *Evolutionary Psychology: The Ultimate Origins of Human Behavior*, and Dr. Matthew Rossano, from Southeastern Louisiana University, author of *Supernatural Selection: How Religion Evolved*. In applications we'll have Dr. Michael Chafetz who has done extensive work in malingering research, and Dr. Denise Newman, chair of the LPA Psychotherapy Interest Area and a psychoanalytic psychologist.

Join us to Celebrate 70 years of Psychology in Louisiana



Friday, November 9, 2018
Hotel Monteleone, New Orleans

Registration Opens August 10 at
<http://louisianapsychologicalassociation.org/>

LPA to Host Evolutionary Psychology Legend, Robert Trivers

continued

In a series of brilliant papers beginning in the 1970s, he laid out the evolutionary logic and foundational theory for major areas of human social interaction. His combining of psychology and evolutionary biology opened the door to a better understanding of the deep connections of love, cooperation, competition and the unconscious conflicts that accompany them.

In 1971, with, “The evolution of reciprocal altruism,” Dr. Trivers put the heart back into the psyche: Being moral, good, and fair, had in fact, evolved right alongside our purely selfish traits.

The model is where “friendship, dislike, moralistic aggression, gratitude, trust, suspicion, trustworthiness, aspects of guilt, and some forms of dishonesty and hypocrisy” could be explained as important adaptations to regulate the reciprocal-altruistic system, sensitive to developmental variables and selected to their specific social environment.

Trivers’ theories inspired a staggering amount of research and discussion with bestsellers like E.O. Wilson’s *Sociobiology* and Richard Dawkins’ *The Selfish Gene*, and later books like *The Adapted Mind*, *The Red Queen*, *Born to Rebel*, *The Origin of Virtue*, *The Moral Animal*, and *Evolution of Desire*.

As the explosion of research continued, Trivers wrote that some of the ideas had “...almost biblical proportions.” He said, “... you could see how a kind of social heaven and social hell could evolve right here on earth. The social hell was perpetual isolation, perpetual inability to link up with others in a positive way, never being cheated by others to be sure, but at the cost of eternal loneliness. The social heaven was not heavenly in some naïve way, dancing around the mulberry bush together without regard for selfish possibilities. Instead, cooperation required perpetual vigilance to enjoy its fruits, ...”

Together, Trivers’ work helped explain evolved tendencies in romantic relationships between females and males (“Parental Investment and Sexual Selection”) relationships between parents and children, and between siblings (“Parent-offspring conflict”), and how friends deal with friends, acquaintances and strangers (“The evolution of reciprocal altruism”).

In the 1990s, Trivers took another leap and explained an evolutionary logic of self-deception. (“The crash of Flight 90: Doomed by self-deception?” co-authored with Black Panther leader, Huey P. Newton; and “The elements of a scientific theory of self-deception”).

Dr. Trivers has stated that he “... was eager to contribute to building social theory based on natural selection, because a scientific system of social theory must, by logic be based on natural selection, and getting the foundations correct would have important implications for understanding our own psyches and social systems.”



Helping others who are unrelated genetically was a conundrum in evolutionary thinking until 1971 when Robert Trivers unwrapped the math and logic of how natural selection would favor reciprocal–altruism. He is the keynote speaker at a one-day event the Louisiana Psychological Association is holding this fall.

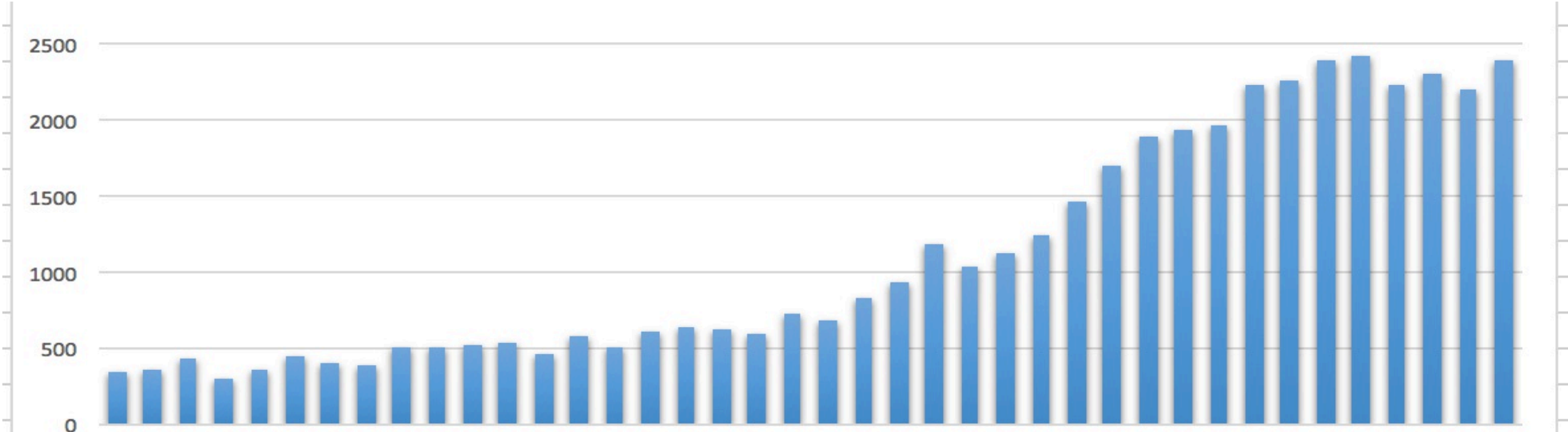
Today, while psychology includes vast amounts of fascinating data and interesting partial theories, it still lacks a foundational, meta-theory, say evolutionary psychologists William Von Hippel and David Buss. In their survey, the two found that almost 90% of social psychologists accept Darwin’s ideas *in general*, but only about 50% believe that evolved characteristics apply to the human mind and social tendencies.

Trivers himself wrote that he expected his work would be welcomed—he viewed himself to be “on the side of the angels,” he said. Instead, it was labeled “regressive.”

In the past, evolutionary theory may have seemed harsh, and even to be a theory that gives permission for inequality, something psychologists work against. Von Hippel and Buss point to the mistaken idea of “genetic determinism”—the belief that genetic behavior is fixed, and also to the confusion between evolved preferences and actual behaviors in modern humans, as contributing to discomfort with embracing evolution as a meta-theory.

Today, a stronger understanding that the expression of these predispositions is plastic, fluid, varying and context-dependent, has worked its way into psychologists’ thinking, along with the

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Evolutionary views of psychological tendencies have been gaining in popularity, but fairly slowly over time. The data in this graph comes from # of citations per year listed on Google Scholar for Robert Trivers’ papers, for the last 40 years.

Up Coming Events

LPA to Host Evolutionary Psychology Legend, Robert Trivers, continued

acknowledgement that the discipline cannot ignore important science only because it may at times be uncomfortable.

“But Trivers’ ideas are, if such a thing is possible,” said Pinker in an interview with the *Edge*, an intellectual think tank, “even more important than the countless experiments and field studies they kicked off. They belong in the category of ideas that are obvious once they are explained, yet eluded great minds for ages; simple enough to be stated in a few words, yet with implications we are only beginning to work out,” Pinker said.

This may be the case. Trivers Google Scholar citations, now over 44,500, are continuing to increase. Citations for his 10 major papers are much higher now than they were for the first 30 years after publication.

The Louisiana Psychological Association will host the evolutionary theorist at their winter workshop, to be held Friday, November 9, at the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans.

The one-day event, “Evolutionary Psychology & Ethics,” will address the scientific foundations of self-interest, reciprocal-altruism, cooperation and deception in human relationships, and the evolutionary logic that predicts this complex psychological terrain.

Dr. Trivers will speak on “Ethics and Social Theory: The Evolution of Reciprocal Altruism,” and then on “The Logic of Deceit and Self-Deception.

“I will define natural selection, the basis social traits, then concentrate on altruism and quickly move to reciprocal,” he said, and explain gross and subtle cheating, sense of justice and other traits.

In “The Logic of Deceit and Self-Deception,” he will start with the co-evolutionary struggle between deceiver and deceived, the intrinsic bias in favor of the deceiver, and the invention of self-deception to facilitate deception.

Also presenting and participating as discussants will be Dr. Jack Palmer, from University of Louisiana Monroe, author of *Evolutionary Psychology: The Ultimate Origins of Human Behavior*.

Dr. Matthew Rossano, from Southeastern Louisiana University, author of *Supernatural Selection: How Religion Evolved*, will also present.

Dr. Michael Chafetz, known for his extensive work in malingering research, and Dr. Denise Newman, chair of the Louisiana Psychological Association Psychotherapy Interest Area and a psychoanalytic psychologist, and others.

Brilliant and controversial, Robert Trivers has attracted attention for his immensely original thinking and also for his unconventional activities. He currently lives in Jamaica, which he loves, and where he studies body symmetry in elite runners, and where he recently completed an autobiographical memoir—*Wild Life: Adventures of an Evolutionary Biologist*.

Registration opens August 10 at louisianapsychologicalassociation.org



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