

Louisiana Psychological Association

April, 2013

Louisiana Psychological
Association: Vol. 4, Issue 2.

President's Column By Bryan Gros, Ph.D.



Apathy: “*Lack of interest or concern, especially for things that others find exciting or moving.*” A common concern I hear from some involved in LPA is member “apathy.” To be honest, I have used that descriptor without giving it much thought. But, is this really the case with LPA? At first glance, the answer may appear to be a resounding “yes.” However, speaking as someone from the inside, I **beg to differ.**

When David White, our executive director, came aboard in January, we discussed what some perceived as apathy.

He has worked with several other state psychological associations, and continues to do so. I viewed two of David’s comments as especially important. 1) Many, if not most, members will gladly pay their dues and let elected leaders “do the work” for, and make decisions in the best interest of, LPA. (Psst- I did this for years.) 2) If you want member involvement, you should provide tangible reasons for members to become involved. The second was right up my alley, and already on my radar.

As you may or may not know, LPA has acted on several initiatives this year, including the formation of several new committees and task forces. In addition to our Magellan/Office of Juvenile Justice task force, we have started committees focusing on serving the needs of early

career psychologists, students, academic psychologists, and medical psychologists. We have also formed committees to enhance LPA’s ability to respond to diversity issues and legal and ethical issues, and increase our response speed and effectiveness in times of disaster. We are also broadening LPA’s reach through social networking. Some of these initiatives will develop more quickly than others.

“Okay, great,” you say. Now, let’s go back to my proposition that, just maybe, members are not an apathetic bunch, after all. What I’ve learned, through your EC’s attempts to increase member involvement in these new initiatives is that, in my opinion, “diffusion of responsibility” is alive and well. General calls for committee volunteers were some-

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“... in my opinion, ‘diffusion of responsibility’ is alive and well.”



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times met with little response, or something similar to "If no one has volunteered yet, I would be interested." In contrast, when I, or other EC members, personally asked members for a commitment, not only were the answers "Yes," but members indicated they were appreciative and eager to play a greater role in the organization. We were met with a similar lack of response in generic calls for self-

nominations for LPA elections, until we asked members individually. Imagine that! - Why would psychologists be above a principle that is one of the cornerstones of social psychology?

In closing, let me briefly discuss the use of another psychological principle, that being "reinforcement"- the most basic of them all. As previously announced on the listserv (details else-

where in this newsletter), each of you now has the opportunity to be "reinforced" with one year of free membership. By recruiting a

new LPA member, you will have at least a 20% chance to have next year's dues waived. I hope many of you are able to partake, and in return I plan to bring similar ideas to the table for some tangible "goodies" to reinforce those who bring new LPA members aboard. In the future, as the above mentioned programs and initiatives develop, I sincerely hope that member involvement will spread like a virus. But in the meantime, your EC and I will happily knock on your doors with calls to arms. Please answer.



Dr. Gros describes the progress of new initiatives to EC members.



EC Members listen to updates on the new committees.



Notes From Your Executive Council Meeting! By John Fanning, PhD, President-Elect



Members of the LPA Executive Council met at the office of Dr. Alicia Pellegrin on Saturday, April 6. After a review and approval of the minutes, Dr. Bryan Gros began with the president's report. Bryan recently contacted the president of the Louisiana Counseling Association, and was invited to attend a meeting of the LCA's core board. Bryan said that he did not go to the meeting with a specific agenda, but wanted "to create a dialogue" with them to "improve and repair our relationship with that organization." Bryan thought the meeting went quite well, and he found the LCA board quite receptive to his visit. EC members discussed ways in which some collaboration and co-operative ventures could be developed. One suggested option

involved partnering on continuing education projects. Bryan said his LCA hosts were receptive to this idea. Alicia said that she is planning to meet with LCA's legislative group, chaired by Cindy Nardini. A motion was made to establish an EC committee for liaison with other professions. This motion was unanimously approved. Bryan will serve as the initial chairperson of this committee.

Bryan said he also wanted LPA to establish a medical psychology advisory committee, whose goal would not be primarily legislative in nature, but geared towards providing continuing education and organizational involvement opportunities for medical psychologists. A motion to establish this committee was also unanimously passed. Dr. Darlyne Nemeth will chair this committee.

Bryan said that our Facebook page has had approximately 45 hits per week, thus far, and that he has gotten positive feedback on the e-clips which have been sent to psychologists in the state. The e-clips

will soon be sent only to LPA members, and will be an ongoing quick news format for members.

Bryan also reported that the Louisiana Coalition for Violence Prevention is seeking feedback from LPA for resolutions for legislation to reduce violence. He asked that members who have suggestions or ideas contact him informally.

Other committee chairs reported, as well. Dr. Lucinda DeGrange, chair of LPA's diversity committee, met with the EC. There was dis-

cussion about membership for this committee, particularly with respect to the composition of the committee. Would it be better to limit committee membership to psychologists who are members of various underrepresented groups (racial, ethnic, LGBT, etc.), or would it be better to have the committee open to anyone with an interest in diversity matters? There was discussion of this question, with a number of EC members expressing opinions in this regard, but there was no decision made at the meeting. There was a general preference for very informal recruitment for members of all LPA committees. However, this was not a view held

"Bryan thought the meeting went quite well, and he found the LCA board quite receptive to his visit."



Drs. Nemeth and Griffin listen to discussion of proposed LPA Medical Psychology and Mental Health Liaison Committees.



Notes from Your EC Meeting...continued from page 3

by all EC members. EC members do not want to limit committee involvement to psychologists serving on the EC, as this would inevitably result in a highly insular organization.

We have had encouraging membership growth thus far this year, with 36 new members since January.

Two representatives of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (executive director Kelly Parker and board member Dr. Darla Burnett) met with the EC to discuss the continuing issue of regulation of behavior analysts (BAs) in the state. This is an issue which is still in legislative process. There was extended discussion of this issue. In particular, if LSBEP is to oversee this regulation of the BAs until they are able financially and organizationally to operate and finance a board of their own, who will bear the costs? Alicia asked the LSBEP representatives if psychologists will be stuck (via increased licensure fees) with covering added costs of regulation of the BAs. Kelly said that a projection of BA

numbers for the first year has yielded estimated cost figures, but these do not include administrative, accounting, and legal fees.

Kelly said that she hoped this would not lead to an increase in licensure fees for psychologists, but said that she did not know the answer to this question.

She said a memorandum of understanding with the BAs would have to be developed (re: cost-sharing).

Another question had to do with means of funding development of a BA board. The BAs have talked about using donations as a source of funding. Alicia suggested that, depending on the source of any such donations, there might very well be conflict-of-interest concerns.

Another issue had to do with scope of practice. Applied behavior analysis activities remain within the scope of practice of psychologists with expertise in



Kelley Parker and Dr. Darla Burnett address LPA concerns about proposed BA Board cost-sharing.

this area. However, under the proposed legislation, use of the term "behavior analyst" would be restricted. A psychologist who wanted to use this title would need to go through licensure in the BA system. There are psychologists in the state practicing in the area of applied behavior analysis who could refer to themselves as board-certified in behavior analysis, but not as licensed BAs. There were still other questions regarding supervision of line staff. The available information suggests that there will not be a legal barrier to supervision by psychologists of line staff,

"(Kelley Parker) said a memorandum of understanding with the BAs would have to be developed (re: cost sharing)."

though not towards BA licensure of the supervised staff members. The question of supervision of line staff by BAs outside the state was also raised by EC members. Kelly said the board would want supervision by BAs licensed within Louisiana. Lobbyist Kevin Hays participated by phone, and said that he would try to attend a meeting of the parties involved.



Notes from Your EC Meeting...continued from page 4

Clearly there will be further developments on the BA issue in the coming months.

Kevin addressed a variety of topics in phone conference. Dr. Paula Zeanah asked him about conversations with state Department of Education personnel about evaluations by psychologists for ADHD. Currently, the board does not accept stand-alone reports by psychologists establishing a diagnosis of ADHD, requiring a sign-off by a physician. Kevin said that the education board has a great many issues in progress, and has not

taken action.

Kevin also addressed other issues at the state level. He said that the Department of Health and Hospitals has experienced a great many problems in the current fiscal environment, and had significant layoffs the day before the EC meeting. He said that the issue of reimbursement disparities (between medical and non-medical psychologists) for the same service has been resolved. However, Alicia noted that there is no reimbursement whatsoever for a number of psychology-specific

services. Kevin also said that DHH is in the process of finalizing resolution of some issues with the new CPT codes.

Alicia said that the legislative committee met earlier in the morning of the EC meeting. She and Kevin discussed issues with some upcoming bills, including HB281 (regarding substance abuse treatment providers), HB226 (with respect to potential issues for psychologists who treat sex offenders), and HB557 (having to do with mandatory reporting).

Dr. Jesse Lambert has been very active in working on reimbursement within the state mental health and legal systems on a variety of fronts, and briefly spoke to the EC. He said that there has been a "pretty large flurry of activity," but that the situation is "very, very fluid." He said that DHH may be turning over authorization and reimbursement of testing to Magellan. He said that Magellan has not been paying for court-related assessment activity. He said that judges in the juvenile justice system have expressed

"...the issue of reimbursement disparities (between medical and non-medical psychologists) for the same service has been resolved."

support for getting funding for psychological evaluations, but that even if such testing is funded it may be capped in terms of reimbursement level. He said that some juvenile courts have paid for testing with their own funds. Magellan has also refused to pay for intellectual or achievement testing, though there may have been some exceptions to this.

Dr. Phil Griffin, chair of the elections committee, reported that we still need an additional candidate for APA Council representative, and one candidate for a director position, since a minimum of two candidates is required by our bylaws for all elective positions.

Dr. Kim VanGeffen, chair of the professional affairs committee, said that the LSBEP has modified proposed changes to CE require-

LPA lobbyist, Kevin Hayes, participates in the EC legislative discussion by phone.





Notes from Your EC Meeting...continued from page 5

ments after receiving considerable feedback from psychologists in the state. She said it is likely there will still be an increase in the number of required CEUs to 40 hours per two-year reporting period. There will once again be an opportunity for comment on the proposed changes. The board is also interested in development of standards for professional wills, she reported.

The annual spring convention is rapidly approaching, and will be held on May 30-31 at the Holiday Inn Crowne



Plaza in Baton Rouge. David and I described the lineup of presenters who will speak at the convention. This year's convention will be held over two days, and will not involve a

Dr. Lucinda DeGrange attended the EC meeting to discuss APA's State Leadership Conference and the composition of the LPA Diversity Committee.

Saturday agenda. The annual business meeting will be held on Thursday evening, and will provide an opportunity for member-based governance measures.

David also talked about Casino Night, a fundraising activity for our PAC. Dr. Wes Brockhoeft has made his condo in Costa Rica available as a prize for Casino Night. There are plans for a Calcutta drawing, a re-

verse drawing in which the last ticket drawn is the winner. We will solicit prizes for the event. Tickets for the event will be \$100, and the proceeds will fund our PAC. There will be a cash bar.

Sounds like fun! Ya'll come!

LPA is offering a chance to win a free year of membership!

Here's a chance to help the LPA network and win one year of free membership in the process!

Full Members who successfully recruit friends and colleagues for a Full Membership will be entered into a drawing for one year of free membership in LPA. If you recruit one new full member, your chances of winning will be 20%. If you recruit more than one full member who joins, your chances of winning will increase.

Associate and affiliate members are also eligible for the fun, by recruiting associate, affiliate, or full members.

The deadline is May 30th, 2013. Membership applications and student verification forms are available at www.louisianspsychologist.org or through Dr. Bryan Gros at DrBryanG@aol.com or Dr. Susan Dardard at drsusan@auduboncable.net. Just have new member applicants write on the application that they were referred by you. Alternatively, applicants may join on-line at www.louisianapsychologist.org. In those cases, simply e-mail Dr. Gros with the name of the new member you recruited.



**Louisiana Psychological Association
Political Action Committee
Casino Night**



6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

May 30, 2013

WANT TO WIN?

**7-NIGHTS IN AN EXCLUSIVE
COSTA RICA CONDO + AIRFARE****

Stay in Costa Rica's most exclusive, all-inclusive resort!

Purchase a raffle ticket to win a 7-night stay at an exclusive Costa Rica condo.

Purchase a raffle ticket from any LPA PAC member for \$100 for a chance to win!

Up to \$350/ticket airfare included

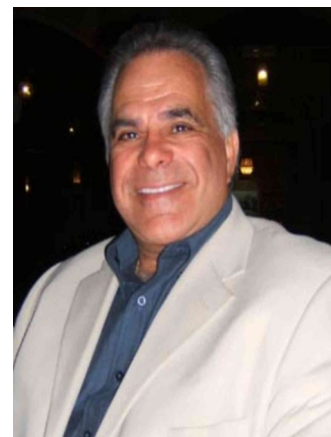
Valued at approximately \$8,000!!

All Proceeds Benefit the Louisiana Psychological Association Political Action Committee

From the Public Affairs Committee

Joe Tramontana, Ph.D.

Dr. Joseph Tramontana brought up the fact that at the February, 2013 EC Board meeting there was discussion about the whether the Public Education Committee, chaired by Dr. Sherry DeSelle, should really be a sub-committee of Public Affairs (as we had it structured) or a free-standing committee, as APA suggests. A vote of the EC resulted in a determination that, henceforth, the Public Education Committee will be a free-standing committee. Dr. Tramontana continues to forward articles from APA Public Affairs to the general membership of LPA.





Report of the Professional Affairs Committee by Kim VanGeffen, PhD



As Chair of the Professional Affairs Committee, I am continuing to serve as a liaison to the Louisiana Board of Examiners of Psychologists. In this role, I attended the long-range planning meeting of LSBEP, which was held on March 14, 2013, as well as the Public Hour of the April LSBEP meeting. During the long-range planning meeting, the Board discussed a number of topics regarding licensure issues for psychologists. These included changes in the rules for continuing education, regulation of telepsychology, and multilevel licensure. LSBEP is forming a task force which will address the topic of certification/licensure for school psychology specialists. The Board solicited members of the task force from internship training sites,

as well as from universities which offer the Ph.D. in psychology. The Board is also creating a task force to examine the issue of awarding psychology licensure immediately after the completion of the doctoral degree and internship.

The new rules for continuing education will increase the requirement from thirty hours every two years to forty hours every two years. The Board is planning to expand the types of learning experiences which will be allowed for CE credit. For example, self-directed learning, peer consultation, practice outcome monitoring, graduate level teaching, publications and conference/workshop presentations and attendance will all be allowed in the future for psychologists to fulfill the CE requirement. Psychologists will also be allowed to count professional activities such as serving on national, regional or state psychological association boards or committees as well as serving as a board member of a psychology regulatory body. The broadening of CE categories is in recognition of the many opportuni-

ties available to psychologists to continue their professional development. When the new rules go into effect, psychologists will be required to obtain CE credit from a least two of the different categories described by the Board. Psychologists will be allowed to determine how much credit they obtain in any given category, so long as two categories are chosen. The complete CE rule proposal can be found online in the August, 2012 edition of the Louisiana Register.

(<http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/reg/1208/1208.pdf>)

At the April Public Hour, the Board also addressed the topic of Special Accommodations for taking licensure examinations. This opinion, which is available on the LSBEP website, notes that "any candidate with documented disabilities or impairments may be granted the opportunity to be tested under nonstandard conditions so long as

appropriate supporting information is supplied to the Board along with the request for special accommodations." The documentation must be from a current treating physician or psychologist who evaluated the individual within the past three years.

LSBEP is awaiting the results of the proposed legislation to license and regulate the practice of applied behavior analysis. Dr. Lacey Seymour and the LPA Legislative Committee have been working on this issue with LSBEP. It is anticipated that a Behavior Analysts (BA) licensing board will be created to function, at least initially, under LSBEP. Ultimately, it is anticipated that the BA licensing board will function as an independent entity. The LPA Legislative Committee and LPA lobbyist will be closely monitoring the progression of the proposed bill through the legislature.

Psychologists wishing to receive notices of LSBEP meeting agendas, legislative updates and quarterly newsletter can do so by providing their email address on the LSBEP website.

"...self directed learning, peer consultation, practice outcome monitoring, graduate level teaching, publications and conference/workshop presentations and attendance will all be allowed in the future for psychologists to fulfill the CE requirement."



Legislation Matters By Alicia Pellegrin, Ph.D.

As you know, your legislative committee is very busy this time of year. We have been working on and tracking a number of bills, the most immediate of which is SB 134, which is the bill regulating behavior analysts. After two years and much hard work by many, especially Dr. Lacey Seymour (who was LPA's designated member of the commissioned group to address this issue), a bill has been filed by Senator JP Morrell creating a practice act for behavior analysts that also creates a separate board and a resource sharing arrangement with LSBEP. There will be an ex officio LSBEP member on their board to give them guidance as they work their way toward autonomy over the next five years, which is when the law

will sunset.

After a great deal of negotiation, consideration, and due diligence, the EC voted to support this bill.

Through the work of Dr. Seymour and Kelly Parker of the LSBEP, we were able to include language that exempts Licensed Psychologists from this bill, meaning that any psychologist who practices behavioral analysis, which falls under our practice act, is exempt from the requirements of the bill. In addition, LPA was instrumental in ensuring that there would be no non-psychologists on the LSBEP with the ability to vote on issues pertinent to psychology.



The most important thing that the bill does is to regulate

behavior analysts, whose numbers have increased exponentially since they are now reimbursed for services for autism. Ongoing practice of behavior analysts without regulation, the LSBEP felt and we concurred, could pose a threat to public safety. We owe much gratitude to Dr. Seymour who worked tirelessly on this issue, which appeared, at more than one juncture, as though it might fall apart. Many thanks also to our lobbyist, Kevin Hayes, LPA President Bryan Gros, and legislative committee member Bob Storer. By the time the newsletter is published, the bill will have been heard in committee and we expect that it will pass without any problems.

Other bills we have been tracking that af-

"Ongoing practice of behavior analysts without regulation, the LSBEP felt and we concurred, could pose a threat to public safety."

fect psychology include:

SB107: This simply provides for a task for the integration of management systems for At-Risk youth, which is sorely needed and which we support. As some of you may know, Dr. Jesse Lambert has been working with our lobbyist to address the many problems with the Coordinated System of Care (CSOC), which is neither coordinated nor caring. He and Mr. Hayes have been working with Magellan and with state judges to devise a way to get At-Risk youth properly evaluated. We will keep you updated on our progress in this regard.

SB281: This bill is extremely confusing in its language but is intended to do nothing more

Dr. Pellegrin and Zach (care of The Psychology Times)



Contributions to the LPA PAC can be made by mail: **Reisman and White; C/O David White; PO Box 1448; Cedar Park TX; 78630** or through the **website** <http://www.louisianapsychologist.org/>



Legislation Matters ...continued from p. 9

than to address licensing fees for agencies that provide substance abuse services to the state. Because of the confusing way it was written, Mr. Hayes and Dr. Bob Storer met with DHH to clarify the intent of the language and draft it in such a way that individual psychologists would not be adversely affected. Thanks to Dr. Storer for his efforts.

SB71: This bill provides for a mental health court where certain non-violent offenders can be referred for treatment as part of their adjudication, with the funding presumably to come from court fees. We support the idea behind this bill but we are following it closely to ensure that it

does not involve management by Magellan, given their dismal record of accomplishment in the proper authorization of psychological services.

SB86: This bill addresses background checks and licensing fees for LPCs. We are following this bill to ensure there are no additions/amendments to the bill on the floor.

HB226: This bill provides for specific legal prohibitions against mental health providers having sex with their clients. While this has long been an ethical prohibition, this bill seeks to make it a legal one. We certainly support the intent of the bill, but the language in the bill which specifies which body

parts may not be touched would cause problems for sex offender treatment providers who use plethysmography. We are working now on language to exempt plethysmography from the bill.

Finally, we are still working with DHH on their Medicaid reim-

bursement schedule that excludes reimbursement for most psychological services. We have been assured that these issues WILL be addressed, but there is little that gets done quickly when dealing with state government. We will keep you informed as this is resolved.

None of this would be possible without your dues and your support. Please invite colleagues who are not members to join LPA so we can continue our legislative efforts. And please, if you have not done so, make a PAC donation today. These funds allow us to have influence in the legislative process.

Also, please tell your friends and family about PAC Casino Night at the upcoming LPA convention. You DO NOT have to be an LPA member to come and play and we have amazing prizes to offer.

Please come prepared to have fun!!!

Update from the Diversity Committee

Lucinda DeGrange, Ph.D.

The LPA has formed a new Diversity Committee. The aim is to foster diversity of culture, gender, physical ability, ethnicity, and lifestyle orientation within the LPA as well as to serve as a place for those who treat a diverse population and are interested in issues associated with multiculturalism. The Diversity Committee will also make recommendations on diversity-related issues and coordinate activities and programs related to diversity. This committee is welcoming membership. The chair of the committee is Dr. Lucinda DeGrange, Diversity Delegate to APA. For more information, discussion, or to join the committee, please contact Dr. DeGrange at lucindadegrange@yahoo.com.

LGBT Concerns Update by Sherry Desselle, PhD

APA News Release: There is no valid scientific basis for denying same-sex couples the right to legal marriage, or to deprive them of considerable benefits of the institution, according to legal briefs filed with the U.S. Supreme Court by the American Psychological Association and other leading mental health associations.

"Empirical research demonstrates that the psychological and social aspects of committed relationships between same-sex partners largely resemble those of heterosexual partnerships," the briefs state. "Like heterosexual couples, same-sex couples form deep emotional attachments and commitments. Heterosexual and same-sex couples alike face similar issues concerning intimacy, love, equity, loyalty and stability, and they go through similar processes to address those issues." Denying recognition to legally married same-sex couples stigmatizes them, according to the "friend of the court" briefs filed in the cases of *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, which challenges California's Proposition 8, and *U.S. v. Windsor*, which challenges the federal Defense of Marriage Act. *Perry* is slated to be argued before the court on March 26; *Windsor* will be argued on March 27.

The briefs cite empirical scientific evidence that demonstrate that "homosexuality is a normal expression of human sexuality, is generally not chosen and is highly resistant to change." Likewise, "there is no scientific basis for concluding that gay and lesbian

parents are any less fit or capable than heterosexual parents, or that their children are any less psychologically healthy and well-adjusted," according to the briefs. "In drawing conclusions, we rely on the best empirical research available, focusing on general patterns rather than any single study," the briefs state. All the studies cited in the brief were critically evaluated to assess their methodology, including the reliability and validity of the measures and tests employed, and the quality of data-collection procedures and statistical analyses.

APA President Donald N. Bersoff, PhD, JD, noted that the association has a long history of supporting equal access to legal marriage based on years of scientific research. "There is no scientific basis for denying marriage to same-sex couples particularly when research indicates that marriage provides many important benefits," Bersoff said. "The research shows that same-sex couples are similar to heterosexual couples in essential ways and that they are as likely as opposite-sex couples to raise mentally healthy, well-adjusted children."

Joining APA in filing the *Windsor* and *Perry* briefs were: the American Academy of Pediatrics; American Medical Association; California Medical Association; American Psychiatric Association; American Psychoanalytic Association; and National Association of Social Workers. Also joining the *Windsor* brief were: the New York City and New York state chapters of the

National Association of Social Workers and the New York State Psychological Association. Also joining the *Perry* brief were the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy; the California Chapter of NASW and the California Psychological Association.

For further Information:

Amicus Briefs

[Hollingsworth v. Perry](#)

[Windsor v. U.S.](#)

Dr. Desselle is APA's Public Education Campaign Coordinator for Louisiana and Louisiana's Liaison to APA's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns Office.





Campus Psi Chi Updates

This year, Tulane Psychology Club and Psi Chi Honor Society held events for its 41 active members including “How to Get into Graduate School,” “4+1 Masters Degree Info Session,” and “How to Obtain a Research Position,” aiming to inform students about life after their undergraduate education in psychology. In addition to these information sessions, the club invited Richard Wakeman, PhD., to talk about his activities as a clinical neuropsychologist in the New Orleans area. This event had a considerable draw from students interested in neuroscience, popularizing the club to the undergraduate community outside of psychology. Finally, we will be inducting 21 new members into the Psi Chi Honor Society on April 23rd. Their names are: Erin Albert, William Bass, Keia Castle, Datonye Charles, Jolie Demuth, Jillian deRosas, Kristen Flanagan, Sarah Goldberg, Sarah Griffith, Aimee Karstens, Johanna Kester, Brennen Orkin, Kimberlin Patton, Elena Pueraro, Catherine Rochefort, Jacqueline Schornstein, Michael Seiden, Elaine Shih, Dana Steinberg, Melisa Valmoria, and Jeremy Waldron.



-Submitted by Chris Anderson and April Hartman



The Psi Chi chapter at Southeastern Louisiana University kicked off the Spring 2013 semester with a number of activities and events encouraging the participation of members, both old and new. The chapter took part in numerous volunteer projects to serve both local and national charity organizations. Psi Chi participated in a food drive to benefit the Tangi Pantry in Hammond, two raffles, and the March of Dimes March for Babies annual walk-a-thon. The chapter also hosted monthly meetings in which guest speakers came to educate the members about current events and research in the field of psychology. At the February meeting, Psi Chi invited Dr. Patrick O’Callaghan, the director of behavioral medicine at East Jefferson Hospital in Metairie, LA, to talk about psychology in primary care settings. At the March meeting, Psi Chi hosted the annual “Careers in Psychology” talk hosted by Southeastern’s own Dr. Varnado-Sullivan. Lastly, at the April meeting, Psi Chi invited another faculty member, Mrs. Christina Parker, to educate members on her research regarding implicit attitudes toward individuals who meet the criteria for anorexia. Having guest speakers at the meetings provides Psi Chi members with invaluable information about what current research is going on in the field, current research opportunities for them, and what to expect after graduation.

Two of Southeastern’s Psi Chi members were given the opportunity to attend the Southwestern Psychological Association’s annual conference in Fort Worth, Texas. Chapter President Sarah Ryals and member Kara Leger attended the three-day conference at which they were able to participate in a number of workshops about different therapy techniques and hear many lectures from some of the top individuals in the field today.

At the close of the spring semester, the chapter will present fifteen new members and eight graduating seniors at the spring induction at Jacmel Inn in Hammond, LA. At the ceremony, new and current members will be sworn in and new officers for the upcoming year will be announced, followed by a special dinner to honor their accomplishments. This semester has certainly been a fun and successful one for Southeastern’s Psi Chi chapter, and the officers and members look forward to another successful year.

- Submitted by Sarah Ryals



Campus Psi Chi Updates... Cont'd from p. 12



The University of Louisiana at Monroe's Chapter of Psi Chi will host our Spring initiation ceremony on April 29th, 2013, and we are excited to welcome our new members. Currently, our officers are: Mary Hall – President, Krystal Kemp – Vice President, Whitley Aswad – Treasurer, Laura Folse – Secretary, and Caprice Wright – Historian. After initiation, we will have 12 total members.

During the Spring 2013 semester, we designed and implemented an experiment to study the effects of authority on eyewitness testimony in the courtroom. We are currently analyzing our data and are excited to review and submit our results. We have two community outreach

events on the horizon: hosting a Bingo night at a local nursing home, and reaching out to local high schools around the Monroe area with an anti-bullying campaign.

Mary Hall, Laura Folse, and Krystal Kemp have been invited to become members of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi; this organization recognizes and encourages superior scholarship in all academic disciplines. Additionally, Laura Folse has accepted the position of Student Vice President of the ULM Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi. Another one of our members, Jennifer Seng, has been invited to participate in the Disney College Program from August 2013 to January 2014. She will have the exciting job of being a Character Performer during her internship.

Three of our members will graduate with Bachelor of Arts degrees in Psychology in May: Mary Hall (graduating Cum Laude), Krystal Kemp (graduating Cum Laude), and Jennifer Seng. Krystal has been accepted into the Graduate Clinical Psychology program at Northwestern State University and will begin in Fall of 2013. Janease T aylor will graduate in May with her M.S. in Psychology. She is currently an intern and psychological examiner for Pennington Biomedical.

-Submitted by Laura Folse

The LSU Psychology Club and Psi Chi is one of the fastest growing clubs on campus, and we are thrilled to induct 23 new members into Psi Chi for the 2012-2013 academic year! Club members have been able to learn about the career options available to them after graduation from a variety of guest speakers, including Rhett Covington, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Reentry of the LA Department of Public Safety & Corrections; Dr. Verdi Lethermon from the Houston Police Department; Joan Gallagher from LSU Career Services; and current graduate students in Dr. Tyler Renshaw's School Psychology Lab. Members have also gotten "psyched" about community service by participating in canned food drives, interviewing homeless men and women for the Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless' Survey of Vulnerability, volunteering at BREC's Zippity Zoo Fest, and serving the Baton Rouge community at the inaugural Geaux BIG day of service with nearly 1,000 other LSU students, faculty and staff! Some of our members have even laced up their running shoes to support the Muscular Dystrophy Association's MDA Pajama Run, March of Dimes' Turkey Trot, and the Resource Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders' Active for Autism 5k runs! We are so proud of our members, and we wish all our graduating seniors the best of luck in their future endeavors!



-Submitted by Kelsy Moeller



Campus Psi Chi Updates... Cont'd from p. 13



This semester, the Northwestern State University Psi Chi chapter has been involved with a number of different events. We began the semester by holding a raffle fundraiser for a trip to the Angola Prison. We were able to raise ample funds for our trip. The trip to the Angola Prison was one that benefitted students on a variety of levels. Students had the opportunity to talk to psychology staff at the prison, which was helpful for those who wish to pursue this area of study. A tour of the prison and its facilities was also part of the trip and this allowed everyone to see what it is like in a maximum-security prison setting.

NSU Psi Chi has also taken part in several service events. Members from the organization devoted every Tuesday and Thursday of the semester to running a small coffee shop/stand with supplies donated from around campus. The proceeds from this shop went directly to the Empower Nepali Girls organization, which serves to aid underprivileged families in Nepal to clothe and feed themselves, and to also send their daughters to school. NSU Psi Chi also took part in the campus-wide event "Up Til' Dawn," which is a fundraising campaign for the St. Jude Research Hospital. Both events helped communities both locally and internationally.

The organization also had several members involved with professional events. Suni Pool presented research at the Southeastern Psychological Association's annual meeting and at NSU's Annual Research Day, while Amelia Bertrand, Catlin LaCour, and Cory Artis represented Northwestern and Psi Chi by presenting their undergraduate research both at Research Day and at the University of Louisiana System's Academic Research Summit.

NSU's Psi Chi society has several members graduating this semester. Some are undergraduates who are pursuing further education in NSU's Clinical Psychology master's program or PsyD programs in areas such as Hawaii and Chicago. Other graduating members are graduate students who will be working in the field or who have been accepted into PhD programs located in Tennessee, Georgia and Texas.

Because of the large number of graduating members, new members were welcomed into the organization this semester, all of whom have met the strict requirements of the honor society. These members were proudly inducted at a ceremony held by Psi Chi. Mr. Steve Gruesbeck, one of NSU's psychology faculty members, gave an inspiring speech at the ceremony, to the enjoyment of new and old members. The new members were also presented with lifetime membership certificates and member pins signifying their inclusion in the society.

-Submitted by Suni R. Pool and Christopher McLin

From the Editor...

Michele Larzelere, PhD

LPA Needs You!

As Dr. Gros has noted in each of his President's Columns, LPA is only as vibrant as its membership. We would love to have more involvement from members. Specifically, we are looking for members in the following areas:

- ♦ Would you like to prepare an article for the newsletter? We are looking for writing of all types, by members of all educational levels. Case studies, topic area reviews, brief research reports, opinion pieces.... All are welcome!
- ♦ Do you have close connections to individuals within other mental health disciplines? Please contact Dr. Gros to become an LPA goodwill ambassador as we seek to partner more effectively with other professions.
- ♦ Students, please consider becoming part of our Student Advisory Committee. Help us shape LPA to be more responsive to your needs.
- ♦ Academic psychologists, how can LPA serve you? Please tell us through participation in our Academic Advisory Committee.

Please don't let diffusion of responsibility win out! Engage with us so we can become the LPA you want us to be!



The Louisiana Psychological Association welcomes the following new full members:

Marceline Brown, PhD

Norma Charles, PsyD

Christiane Creveling-Benefield, PhD

Tracy Dossett, PhD

Erich Duchman, PhD



Louisiana Psychological
Association

2013 Annual Convention
May 30 – 31, 2013

Crowne Plaza
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Word cloud containing terms: Louisiana, Disability Evaluation, Psychoanalytic Topics, LPA, Legislative Update, Therapy, Violence Risk Assessment, PTSD, Music, Bullying, May, Baton Rouge, LGBTQ, Exposure Therapy, Convention, Risk Assessment.

Join LPA in Baton Rouge for our 2013 Annual Convention!

Speakers will present on: Mindfulness in Working with Children, Music in Therapy, LGBTQ, ICD-10, Bullying, Exposure Therapy in PTSD, Psychoanalytic Topics in Therapy, Issues in Disability Evaluation, and Violence Risk Assessment and Management Post Sandyhook

****Discounted LPA room rates available at the Crowne Plaza. Deadline April 29****

| Locate your membership category on the left and enter total dollar amount below: | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Registration Category: | Early Bird May 1 st | Regular May 15 th | On-Site Registration |
| LPA Member | \$185 | \$200 | \$215 |
| Non-Member | \$240 | \$255 | \$270 |
| LPA Student Member | \$30 | \$45 | \$60 |
| Student Non-Member | \$45 | \$60 | \$75 |

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In Person

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Read More →

Opportunities

EVENTS

Fall Conference
Spring Convention

CONNECTIONS

LPA Listserv
LPA Website

ACTIVITIES

Join a Committee
Run for Office

TRAINING

CE Workshops
CE Webinars

Options

MEMBER GROUPS

Full Member: Doctorate in Psychology
Associate: Master's in Psychology
Affiliate: Student/Bachelor's in Psychology

ELDER STATUS

Exempt: 65+, 10+ year member, retired
Discount: 65+, 10+ year member, part-time
Discount: 70+, 10+ year member; part-time

CENTURY SUPPORT CLUB

Platinum: \$500 plus per year
Gold: \$250 to \$499 per year
Silver: \$100 to \$249 a year

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The mission of LPA is
to support and advance psychology
as a science, as a profession,
and as a means of promoting health,
education, and human welfare.