LCAC Holds 4th Annual Community Partners Luncheon

The LSU Life Course and Aging Center held its fourth annual Community Partners Luncheon on March 15th at the Atchafalaya Room in the LSU Union. More than 50 people attended including LSU LCAC faculty and students, LCAC adjunct faculty and students from Southern University, LSU-Health Sciences Center, University of Louisiana at Monroe, and Our Lady of the Lake College. Community partners included Godfrey White, Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs; Ron Blereau, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs; Dr. Susan Nelson with Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center; Diane Pitts of Catholic Community Services; Beth Veazy of Alzheimer Services; Dr. Gwen Moore and Rosemary Diehl of St. James Place; Susan DeMers and Jim Blouin of the Capital Area Agency on Aging; Theresa Townsend of the Leo S. Butler Center; and Sister Georgeann Parizek of the Baton Rouge Grief Recovery Center.

Guests at the annual LCAC luncheon viewed research posters presented by students from various departments across LSU. Exhibiting posters were Iina Antikainen, Fernanda Holton, Brad Manor, and Delilah Moore, from Kinesiology; Jenny Denver and Emily O. Boudreaux from Psychology; Robin Knowles and Matthew Marrero from Human Ecology; Alison Doherty from Biological Sciences; Mary Kate Bartnik and Tahari Griffin from ULM; and Christy Duncan and Jovelyn Priest from SU. The luncheon concluded with remarks from Dr. Lilly Allen, LCAC Associate Director.

See more LCAC luncheon highlights on page 6

Life Course and Aging Center Updates

- We welcome our new faculty members: Dr. Russell Matthews, Dr. Tracey Rizzuto, and Dr. Neila Donovan
- Our fifth annual luncheon for community partners will be held on March 25, 2008.
- Visit our website: http://www.lsuagingstudies.com
Lilly Allen, associate professor of social work and associate director of LSU’s Life Course and Aging Center, was invited by the Asian Productivity Organization, or APO, to speak at a conference in Taipei, Republic of China.

Allen represented the United States and discussed issues related to global aging and the nation’s policy response. She, along with three other ‘resource persons’ assigned to the meeting, provided policy recommendations after hearing the international perspectives that were shared at the conference.

“The U.S. has unique conditions in regard to our older population, with more than 25 percent projected to be 65 and older by the year 2030,” said Allen. “Globally, developed countries are expected to have at least 30 percent of the population over the age of 65. Japan leads the world with the highest life expectancy, but has a lower fertility replacement rate than the U.S., which will have profound challenges in the workforce.”

Allen added that the 85 and older age cohort is one of the fastest growing in the world, and the most likely in the United States to utilize nursing home care. The United States utilizes nursing and long-term care institutions at a much higher rate than other countries.

“More than 80 percent of elders in America die in an institutional setting, whereas other countries, such as Malaysia, differ with more than two-thirds of older family members residing at home with their children,” said Allen. “We have much to learn from our Asian neighbors, but we also have a lot of beneficial information to share.”

Allen’s presentation focused on the attitudinal changes necessary to shift the common perceptions affecting older persons in the workforce, industry, health-care services and even within families.

The APO is a collective organization out of Tokyo, Japan. The conference, titled “Study Meeting on Productivity in Aging Societies,” focused on discussing international approaches to aging populations and recommendations for enhancing quality of life and productivity of the elderly in society. For more information about the APO, visit www.apo-tokyo.org.

Source: Adapted from LSU Media Relations

The long-term care concentration of the gerontology graduate program at the University of Louisiana at Monroe is now the first in the U.S. to be nationally accredited. The program was recently accredited by the National Association of Boards of Examiner of Long Term Care Administrators (NAB).

The NAB Board of Governors grants accreditation to institutions that meet NAB's criteria for top-quality education and training of long term care administrators. Upon the unanimous recommendation of the site review team and the unanimous recommendation of the NAB Education Committee, the NAB Board of Governors voted unanimously to grant accreditation to the ULM

Delegates of the first Asian Productivity Organization meeting on global aging in Taiwan.
gerontology program's online and traditional long-term care concentration of the M.A. degree in gerontology.

Of this outstanding accomplishment, James Bulot, head of the Department of Gerontology, Sociology and Political Science, said, "This designation recognizes the excellent work of the faculty and students in the gerontology program. Not only do our local students benefit from National Accreditation, but those students enrolled in Texas, New York, and the rest of the United States know their education is on par with the best universities and accepted by the NAB accrediting body across the country. They can readily sit for licensure just about anywhere."

The recent accreditation will increase opportunities for students, said Dale Welch, internship coordinator and professor of gerontology. "It will make it easier for our students to seek administrator-in-training (AIT) opportunities in more areas. It should increase the marketability of our students in areas that are seeking administrators with higher degrees," he said. "We are deeply indebted to the many area nursing home administrators and corporate staff in their support of our program by providing the AIT placements for our students. The AIT is the final segment of our degree that students must complete prior to taking the state and national licensure exams."

Source: Laura Harris; ULM Office of University Relations

Currently, his primary research project involves conceptualization and testing of a cognitive appraisal model of stress and coping among Alzheimer's caregivers. This project is included in an upcoming grant proposal to the John A. Hartford Foundation. Dr. Wilks states that he is honored to have a number of distinguished scholars as collaborators and consultants on this project, including fellow LCAC members Dr. Lilly Allen, Dr. Katie Cherry, and Dr. Pam Monroe, along with Dr. Hector Zapata (LSU Agriculture). According to Dr. Wilks, opportunities like the aforementioned are among the many benefits afforded to him as an LCAC member. Dr. Wilks expresses his gratitude for the overwhelming support from LCAC colleagues and friends as he continues to forge his agenda in caregiving research.

Dr. Neila Donovan, PhD – Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders

Neila Donovan, Ph.D., CCC-SLP has joined the LSU Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders as an Assistant Professor, Director of the LSU COMD Communication Outcomes Research Laboratory, and the LSU Life Course and Aging Center faculty. She specializes in treating adult neurogenic communication disorders that result from stroke, neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's disease, and traumatic brain injury. Dr. Donovan received a Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Science with an emphasis in Communication and Swallowing Neuroscience from the University of Florida in 2005. Her research interests include using objective measurement methodology and computerized adaptive test application to develop treatment outcome measures. To date, her research has been funded by the Veterans Administration Rehabilitation Research Department, and GlaxoSmithKline, Inc. She is a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), the Academy of Neurogenic Communication Sciences and Disorders, the American Heart Association, and the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine. In addition she serves on ASHA Special Interest Division 2 Neurophysiology and Neurogenic Speech and Language Disorders Review Board, and the Veterans Healthcare Administration Task Force for Evidence-Based Practice in Aphasia Treatment.

LCAC Faculty Highlights

Dr. Scott E. Wilks, PhD – School of Social Work

Dr. Wilks' academic background is as follows: Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from LSU (1997); Master of Social Work from Our Lady of the Lake University at San Antonio (2001); PhD in Social Work from University of Georgia (2004). Dr. Wilks' first academic position was at Appalachian State University's Social Work Program. Dr. Wilks recently joined the faculty of the LSU School of Social Work in 2006. His teaching experience includes Social Work Research, Social Work and Aging, and Human Behavior in the Social Environment. Dr. Wilks also maintains his professional licensure in Georgia (licensed master social worker) and Louisiana (graduate social worker).

Dr. Wilks' research interests lie primarily with gerontological social work, particularly understanding coping and resilience with Alzheimer's caregivers.

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LCAC Student Highlights

Emily O. Boudreaux – Department of Psychology
Emily Olinde Boudreaux is a fourth year doctoral student under the direction of Dr. Katie Cherry. She completed her masters last year and is currently working on her intermediate research project. The study is one small component of the Louisiana Healthy Aging Study, in which older adults’ perceptions of their memory is examined. Participants were given memory diaries and were instructed to record their memory successes and lapses each day for a one month period. It is expected that the data will provide insight into older adults’ memory self-efficacy as well as the types of successes and lapses they frequently report, and any changes over time as a result of the exercise. Emily presented her master’s thesis data in a poster session at the 2007 Gerontological Society of America conference in San Francisco.

Meghan Collins – Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders
Meghan is a first year doctoral student in Communication Disorders studying with Dr. Scott Rubin from LSUHSC. She graduated from Hendrix College with a B.A. in Psychology and will receive her M.A. in Communication Disorders from LSU in December. Her thesis is entitled: Expectation in Auditory Processing of Environmental Sounds in People with Fluent Aphasia. Meghan’s current research interests include language disorders post-stroke, studying nonverbal environmental interpretations.

Jenny Y. Denver – Department of Psychology
Jenny is a third year student in the Cognitive/Developmental Psychology doctoral program. Her advisor is Dr. Katie Cherry. Jenny is also a 1st year student in the Masters of Social Work program. She received her B.S. and M.S. in Psychology, from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Jenny’s current interests include: cognitive aging, healthy aging, episodic memory in older adults, the effects of hurricanes Katrina/Rita on the oldest-old, and ageism. Jenny recently gave a presentation about the qualitative examination of the effects of hurricanes Katrina/Rita on the oldest-old at the annual convention of the Southeastern Psychological Association in New Orleans, LA. Jenny is also active in the Association for Psychological Science (APS) as a Student Caucus Executive Board member. Jenny also acted as the RiSE-UP Research Award Symposium Chair during the 2007 convention of the APS in Washington, DC.

André Fortier – School of Social Work
André is a second year student in the Master’s of Social Work program. Her graduate advisor is Dr. Daphne Cain. Before attending LSU’s graduate school, she was an undergraduate double major at the university. During those years André studied in Sociology: Criminology, and Philosophy: Religious Studies. Though both of her degrees were from LSU, she did spend some time away from the university studying. Two of those years were spent at a small Christian school where André was able to gain many credits towards her Philosophy degree. Currently, she is working under Dr. Scott Wilks on her thesis entitled Alzheimer’s Caregiving Appraisal. Andrés’ thesis incorporates each of her undergraduate degrees in a unique way, while focusing on the importance to Social Work, as a profession.

Zahra Kadivar – Department of Kinesiology
Zahra is a recipient of the Lilian Oleson Scholarship, is a third year graduate student pursuing a PhD in Motor Control under advisor, Dr. Jan Hondzinski. She received a B.S. in Physical Therapy from the University of Shiraz Medical Science department in Iran. Her current research interest involves the study of motor improvements in Parkinson’s Disease patients using auditory stimulation. She currently has two manuscripts under review: Temporal aspects of gait during rhythmic auditory stimulation in healthy adults with Drs. Jan Hondzinski and Richard Magill and Low back pain and exertion in healthy adults with Dr. Scott Wilks.

Brad Manor – Department of Kinesiology
Brad Manor is a third year doctoral student studying Biomechanics under Dr. Li Li in the Department of Kinesiology. Upon receiving his undergraduate degree from Western Michigan University, Brad completed a Masters of Science in Biomechanics at The University of Toledo. His research interests include the quantification of gait and postural stability and the effects of aging and chronic disease on these variables. Brad currently manages a large-scale research project examining the effects of acute foot pain relief on postural stability in individuals with peripheral neuropathy. This past year, Brad presented his dissertation research at the American College of Sports Medicine annual meeting in New Orleans, as well as the International Society of Biomechanics bi-annual meeting in Taipei, Taiwan. This research, examining the effects of acute foot sole sensory loss on stability, has been published in “Neuroscience Letters” and accepted to “Experimental Brain Research.”

Delilah Moore – Department of Kinesiology
Delilah Moore is a fourth year PhD student in Kinesiology, with an emphasis in Exercise Psychology, under the direction of Dr. Rebecca Ellis (Georgia State University) and Dr. Maria Kosma. Delilah graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2001 with a B.A. in Communications Studies and from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2004 with an M.S. in Exercise Physiology. Currently, Delilah is working on her dissertation, “A Comparison of Fall-related Psychological Measures in a Community-Based Setting”, which is funded through a Graduate Student Research Grant from the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education,
Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD). She and several members of the LCAC including Drs. Rebecca Ellis, Priscilla Allen, Katie Cherry, Pamela Monroe, and Carol O'Neil recently submitted a manuscript, “Construct Validation of Physical Activity Surveys in Culturally Diverse Older Adults: A Comparison of Four Commonly Used Questionnaires”, that has been accepted for publication in Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport.

**Ryan Russell – Department of Kinesiology**
Ryan is currently in his fourth year in the Kinesiology department studying cardiovascular physiology under Dr. Michael Welsch. Ryan finished his undergraduate at Marquette University in Milwaukee, in 2001 with a BS in Biomedical Science. Currently, Ryan is working under the Louisiana Healthy Aging grant examining cardiovascular pathophysiology in the elderly. Specifically, he is looking at Brachial Artery Flow-Mediated Dilation, and factors affecting cardiovascular health: peroxynitrites, vascular damage/repair, circulating progenitor cells, and pro and anti oxidant balances. Ryan is a member of the National Society of Colligate Scholars. Ryan currently has two publications under review: 1) Ghrelin and PYY: Two newly discovered gastric hormones and their relationship to food and exercise, and 2) Daily Physical Activity and Brachial Artery Flow Mediated Dilation in the Elderly. Ryan hopes to finish his PhD in the summer of 2009.

**Jennie L. Silva – Department of Psychology**
Jennie is a third year cognitive/developmental doctoral student in the Psychology department working with Dr. Katie Cherry. Jennie earned her bachelors and masters degrees in Psychology from the University of New Hampshire, Durham. Her research primarily focuses on the relationship between physical functioning and social support on cognitive ability in older adults. Jennie recently co-authored a chapter in the Handbook of Clinical Psychology with Drs. Katie Cherry (LSU) and Sandro Galea (University of Michigan). The chapter was entitled: Natural Disasters and Successful Aging: Role of Adaptation and Resiliency in Late Life. During this past year, Jennie has presented research at the Southeastern Psychology Association in New Orleans, the Association for Psychological Science in Washington DC, and at the Gerontological Society of America in San Francisco, CA.

**Johanna Thomas – School of Social Work**
Johanna Thomas, GSW is a second year doctoral student in the Social Work Department. Dr. Cecile Guin is her advisor and committee chair. Mrs. Thomas received her BA in Sociology/Corrections from the University of Akron, Ohio. She received her MSW from Louisiana State University. Currently she is a graduate assistant in the Office of Social Service and Research Development working on the Truancy Assessment and Service Center (TASC) Grant. Her interests are truancy and delinquency and the implications of each through the life course.

**Sigma Phi Omega News: 2007 Induction Ceremony**
Pictured above left to right: SPO Faculty Co-Advisor, Dr. Rebecca Ellis, SPO Student President, Jennie L. Silva, SPO inductees: André Fortier, Matthew Marrero, Robin Knowles, and Zahra Kadivar.

This year’s LCAC luncheon featured the induction of LCAC students into the Sigma Phi Omega, a national academic honor and professional society. Inductees were Robin Knowles and Matthew Marrero (LSU-Human Ecology), Zahra Kadivar (LSU-Kinesiology), and André Fortier (LSU-Social Work).

**LCAC Alumni Update: Dr. Karri Hawley**
Karri Hawley is currently in her second year of an associate investigator award through Rehabilitation Research at the Department of Veterans Affairs entitled, Cognitive Aging Effects on Health Management Capacity. Dr. Hawley’s research interests are in cognitive aging and memory interventions for older adults and the impact of cognitive interventions on patient and caregiver quality of life, everyday functional capacity, and health literacy. Dr. Hawley is also faculty at Emory in the Department of Medicine Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology.
Photographic Highlights from the 2007 LCAC Luncheon

Top left: LCAC graduate students Delilah Moore, Iina Antikainen and Fernanda Holton from the LSU Kinesiology department, present their research poster with Dr. Rebecca Ellis.

Top Right: LCAC faculty member Li Li (center) along with graduate students Brad Manor and Alison Doherty during the student poster session.

Bottom left: LCAC faculty members, community partners, and LSU research officials are pictured with 2007 luncheon keynote speaker Dr. Dorothy Hausam from the Georgia Centenarian Study.

Bottom Right: LSU Psychology faculty member Dr. Emily Elliott chats with Dr. Todd Pourciau, the Assistant Vice Chancellor for the Office of Research and Economic Development and Dr. Rebecca Ellis.
Community Partners Corner

Beth Veazey Receives John W. Barton Excellence Award

Beth Veazey, Executive Director of Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area, received the John W. Barton Sr. Excellence in Nonprofit Management Award from the Baton Rouge Area Foundation. Each recipient of the award is a leader in the nonprofit sector who serves as an outstanding and dedicated executive in the nonprofit community; has demonstrated exemplary nonprofit leadership over time; and has acted as a catalyst for significant accomplishments that have had a substantial impact on the Baton Rouge area. The award was presented at the Baton Rouge Area Foundation's Annual Meeting. Three other Executive Director's were selected for the 2007 Award. The award is named after John W. Baton Sr., the founder of the community foundation.

Beth Veazey (left) accepts the award from Mr. Barton's daughter, Annette (middle) and son, John Barton Jr. (right).

Photograph taken by: Lori Waselchuk

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at LSU

“Learning that never retires…Learning for the fun of it…Retooling for a third age career.”

These are just a few of the slogans that apply to the new Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Louisiana State University (OLLI at LSU). The OLLI at LSU was established in early 2007 through a $100,000 grant to LSU Continuing Education from the Bernard Osher Foundation. The new Institute is designed to provide lifelong learning opportunities to those aged 50 and over. Thus far the Institute has one established program - Lagniappe Studies Unlimited (an eight-hundred member program that offers up to eighty learning opportunities each calendar year) - and three other programs that are in the process of being developed: Education/Vacation (a travel and learn program); Financial Planning for Retirement; and Scene Two (an internship program for retirees who wish to pursue their dream occupation). For additional information about any OLLI at LSU program, please call 225.578.5076, or 225.578.4540.

Senior Driving Training Program

Hosted by: University of Louisiana-Monroe, Institute of Gerontology

On August 23rd 2007, ULM Institute of Gerontology hosted a senior driving training program entitled the DriveWell Toolkit. The American Society on Aging (ASA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) have developed and tested the Toolkit for people working with older adults to understand issues related to older drivers, later life independence and mobility. This DriveWell Toolkit program is now available to local communities. This program helps professionals plan and implement informational events for older drivers, their families and loved ones, and other community members and organizations. Briefly, participants attended a half-day orientation to the DriveWell Toolkit. At the end of the orientation, leaders are fully equipped to present the materials to older adults, families, other community leaders and professionals.

For more information on the DriveWell program, please visit: http://www.asaging.org/drivewell/
First Graduate from Gerontology Program at Our Lady of the Lake College

Ashley Brabham will be the first gerontology graduate in the Bachelor’s of Science program at Our Lady of the Lake College (OLOLC). After graduation, Ashley Brabham will pursue her Doctorate in Physical Therapy. She has already earned an Associate of Science in Physical Therapy Assisting at OLOLC. Ashley saw the gerontology degree as a way to better serve her patients.

The Life Course and Aging Center
is an interdisciplinary initiative out of the Office of Research and Economic Development at LSU

Katie Cherry, PhD, Director of LCAC, Department of Psychology
Lilly Allen, PhD, Associate Director of LCAC, School of Social Work
Brittan A. Barker, PhD, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Mark Batzer, PhD, Department of Biological Sciences
Alan Baumeister, PhD, Department of Psychology
Joan Benedict, PhD, School of Human Ecology
Teressa Buchanan, PhD, Department of Curriculum and Instruction
Laura Hensley Chaoate, EdD, Department of Educational Theory, Policy & Practice
Alex Cohen, PhD, Department of Psychology
Rita Culross, PhD, Department of Curriculum and Instruction
Thompson E. Davis III, PhD, Department of Psychology
Neila Donovan, PhD – Department of Communication Disorders
Thomas Durant, Jr, PhD, Department of Sociology
Emily Elliott, PhD, Department of Psychology
Betsy Garrison, PhD, School of Human Ecology
Gary Gintner, PhD, Department of Educational Theory, Policy, and Practice
Kevin Grobman, PhD, Department of Psychology
Maren Hegsted, PhD, School of Human Ecology
Petra Munro Hendry, PhD, Department of Educational Theory, Policy, and Practice, Director of Women and Gender Studies
S. Lee Hong, PhD, Department of Kinesiology
Geraldine Johnson, PhD, School of Human Resource Education
Maria Kosma, PhD, Department of Kinesiology
Melda Kunduk, PhD, CCC- SL P, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Jan Hondzinski, PhD, Department of Kinesiology

Yoshinori Kamo, PhD, Department of Sociology
Roger Laine, PhD, Department of Biological Sciences, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Division; Department of Chemistry; Adjunct, Department of Entomology
Robert Laird, PhD, School of Human Ecology
Roger Laine, PhD, Department of Biological Sciences, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Division; Department of Chemistry
Sean Lane, PhD, Department of Psychology
Li Li, PhD, Department of Kinesiology
Shisheng Li, PhD, Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences
Loren Marks, PhD, School of Human Ecology
Russell Matthews, PhD, Department of Psychology
Janet McDonald, PhD, Department of Psychology
Pam Monroe, PhD, Associate Dean, Graduate School
Janna Oetting, PhD, Department of Communication Sciences Carol O'Neill, PhD, School of Human Ecology
Carol O'Neill, PhD, Department of Human Nutrition and Food Division, School of Human Ecology
Loretta Pecchioni, PhD, Department of Communication Studies
Todd Pourciau, PhD, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Office of Research and Economic Development; Adjunct Professor, ETPP
Tracey Rizzuto, PhD, Department of Psychology
Paul S. Russo, PhD, Department of Chemistry
Diane D. Sasser, PhD, Family, Child and Consumer Science Division, School of Human Ecology
George M. Strain, PhD, Comparative Biomedical Sciences
Georgianna Tuuri, PhD, School of Human Ecology
Michael Welsch, PhD, Department of Kinesiology
Scott Wilks, PhD, School of Social Work

LCAC Adjunct Faculty

Jay Bulot, PhD, Department of Gerontology and Sociology, University of Louisiana – Monroe
Marion F. Cahill, EdD, Department of Arts and Sciences; Our Lady of the Lake College
Charles Cefalu, MD, MS, Department of Family Medicine, Louisiana State University - Health Science Center
Norman A. Dolch, PhD, Louisiana State University – Shreveport
Alo Dutta, PhD, Department of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies, Southern University
Rebecca Ellis, PhD, Department of Kinesiology & Health; Georgia State University
John Fortenberry, PhD, Louisiana State University – Shreveport
Paul J. Frick, PhD, Department of Psychology, University of New Orleans
Bonnie F. Hatchett PhD, School of Social Work, University of Texas
S. Michal Jazwinski, PhD, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, LSU Health Sciences Center
Robert D. Laird, PhD, Department of Psychology; University of New Orleans
Ann O’Hanlon, PhD, Department of Human Performance and Health Promotion, University of New Orleans
Helen K. Powell, PhD, Louisiana State University – Shreveport
Eric Ravussin, PhD, Pennington Biomedical Research Center
Scott Rubin, PhD, Department of Communication Disorders, LSU Health Science Center
Wanda Spurlock, DNS, RN, BC, CNS, Graduate Nursing Programs; Southern University and A & M College
Carl F. Weems, PhD, Department of Psychology, University of New Orleans