
LIFE COURSE AND AGING CENTER

LSU'S INTERDISCIPLINARY CENTER FOR TODAY, TOMORROW, AND BEYOND

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Dr. Elizabeth Zelinski Visits LSU

The LCAC hosted the 6th Annual Community Partners luncheon on Friday, March 13th, 2009. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Elizabeth Zelinski, a widely recognized expert in the area of adult cognition, language and memory. Her research expertise also includes training to improve cognition in older adults. Dr. Zelinski is a Professor of Gerontology and Psychology and the Rita and Edward Polusky Chair in Education and Aging at the Leonard Davis School of Gerontology at the University of Southern California. She is a past-President of the Adult Development and Aging Division of the American Psychological Association.



(left to right, front row), Wanda Spurlock, Gwen Moore, Liz Zelinski, Lilly Allen; (back row), Katie Cherry, Todd Pourciau, Steven Scott, Emily Elliott

Dr. Zelinski provided a keynote address entitled, “Brain Plasticity: Cognitive and Memory Improvements in Older Adults” where she discussed her current research on cognitive aging and the use of video gaming in memory training for older adults.

In her address, she noted that brain plasticity is the brain’s lifelong capacity for physical and functional change. She made the point that brain size and connections may be associated with life experience, including early experience, education, environmental complexity, and personal activities. She described findings from several recent experiments where she and her collaborators found evidence of transfer in extended practice. Overall, her visit was a great success and her presentation was very relevant to many of the members of the LCAC.

Life Course and Aging Center Updates

- The Life Course and Aging Center received a 5 year Center status approval from the LSU Board of Supervisors and Louisiana Board of Regents
- Sigma Phi Omega will showcase LCAC student research on LSU Day, April 24, 2010
- Our first Dementia Training Course was held on February 10, 2010 at the Alzheimer Services office
- Visit our website: <http://www.lsuagingstudies.com>

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Year End Celebration for Peripheral Neuropathy Studies



Pictured above (front row): Kevin Reilly, M. Jayne Fleener, Maria Kosma (back row): Yajun 'Thomas' Zhuang, Li Li, Gil Reeve, Jan Hondzinski

LSU celebrates the Department of Kinesiology's Peripheral Neuropathy Studies program on December 16, 2009. Participants performed Tai Chi, listened to guest speakers discussed the latest developments in peripheral neuropathy research, and enjoyed a big band music performance and lunch. The LSU Peripheral Neuropathy Studies program was started in 2004 and is directed by LCAC member, **Dr. Li Li**.



New Faculty Highlights



Margaret-Mary Sulentic Dowell, Assistant Professor of Reading, Department of Educational Theory, Policy & Practice, College of Education, has been selected as a reading alignment panelist for WestEd's National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) alignment pilot study. Panelists were selected based on background, experience and knowledge of large scale alignment. We are proud of Dr. Sulentic Dowell and wish her well as she serves as a panelist in the NAEP study!

LCAC Faculty Highlights

Lilly Allen served as a resource faculty for the Asian Productivity Organization's meeting in Seoul, Korea on Aging Societies in August and December of 2009. She provided talks on retirement and workforce participation and opportunities for women and retirees in the United States.

Arend Van Gemmert was elected President-elect of the International Graphonomics Society at their 14th conference held September 13-16, 2009 in Dijon, France. At this conference, Dr. Van Gemmert presented two papers ("The intermittency of braille reading finger velocities" and "Complex bimanual coordination is performed accurately using verbal instructions in Parkinson's disease patients") and he was co-author of the presentation of Jane Yank ("Visuo-motor tracking in a pursuit loop-drawing task").

Zahra Kadivar and **Jan Hondzinski** presented their findings on how auditory cues enhanced functional retention abilities in Parkinson's patients at the 2009 Society for Neuroscience annual conference. Hondzinski and LCAC colleagues in Kinesiology (**Li** and **Van Gemmert**) are currently testing the effects of Tai Chi training in this population.

Sudipta Sarangi gave 3 invited talks in England. He presented a paper on "Age Effects and Heuristics in Decision Making" at Exeter and Queens University, Belfast. He also presented a paper on corporate spying in a multi-market environment at Cambridge University.



Sigma Phi Omega 2009 Induction Ceremony



Pictured (left to right): SPO Faculty Advisor, Dr. Jan Hondzinski, SPO inductees: Amanda Van Lamsweerde, Alicia Briganti, Jared LeDoux, Johanna Thomas, Marisa Sullivan, Laura Meiki, and SPO president, Jennie L. Silva.

This year's LCAC luncheon featured the induction of LCAC students into Sigma Phi Omega (SPO). SPO is a national academic honor and professional society of gerontology. Inductees were from Departments of Psychology and the School of Social Work.

LCAC's Sigma Phi Omega Collects Used Cell Phones to Help with Medical Bills

Jennifer Warnke, a 24 year old Texan mother of two has no health insurance. Jennifer, a family friend of Dr. Katie Cherry, was struck by a vehicle as she was walking across a street. Jennifer was in a coma for several weeks after the accident. Sigma Phi Omega launched a public service project to collect used cell phones and ink jet printer cartridges to assist the family in paying for medical bills. 278 cell phones and ink cartridges have been collected so far. Please save your old inkjet printer cartridges and used cell phones for us! Contact Marisa Sullivan for a list of drop off points (msulli2@lsu.edu).

Community Partners' Corner

Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area is collaborating with LCAC faculty and LSU Continuing Education to offer a new Dementia Training Course in response to Louisiana Legislative Act No. 571 which defines requirements for dementia training in Adult Residential Care and Nursing Facilities. As outlined in this Act, a range of training levels must be provided to facility employees who interact with patients diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders.

We are pleased to inform you that we have recently been granted certification and approval from the OLOL Health Career Institute. We are the ONLY certified agency in the state of Louisiana to date, and we are currently offering the required curricula for nursing home and assisted living staff members (adult residential facilities licensed under DHH) who work in dementia care environments. Our next session will be held on April 12, 2010 at the Alzheimer's Services Office, 3772 North Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806. To register for the training, please visit our website: www.BRhope.com.



LCAC director, Dr. Katie Cherry and research assistant, Kelli Broome help with service drive.

2009 LCAC Student Graduates



Zahra Kadivar, Department of Kinesiology, received a 2009 LSU dissertation fellowship for her work entitled, *Does practice of multi-directional stepping with auditory stimulation improve movement performance in patients with Parkinson's disease?* Kadivar completed her work under advisor, **Dr. Jan Hondzinski**. Currently, Dr. Kadivar accepted a post-doctoral position at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas.



Photo courtesy of Drury University

Jennie L. Silva, Department of Psychology, Sigma Phi Omega president and LCAC enhancement recipient received her degree in August 2009. Silva completed her dissertation entitled, *Apolipoprotein Status and Cognitive Functioning in Adulthood: Role of Physical Health and Social Network Characteristics* under the direction of her advisor, **Dr. Katie Cherry**. Currently, Dr. Silva is on faculty at Drury University, located in Springfield, Missouri.



Pictured above are: Drs Katie Cherry, Micah Klumpp, and Jan Hondzinski

Micah Klumpp, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, defended her dissertation entitled, "The Effects of Aging and Unilateral Vestibular Disorders on the Kinematic Performance of Vestibular Rehabilitation Exercises and Physical Function" in December. Micah was the first LCAC Aging Fellowship recipient.



Established in early 2007, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Louisiana State University (OLLI at LSU) is a vibrant educational and social environment serving more than 1000 seasoned learners in the Greater Baton Rouge area. Anyone age 50 or older who enjoys learning is eligible to become a member. It offers a comprehensive selection of more than 150 courses a year, field trips, nature walks, and coffees that span subjects from literature and history to science, politics, current affairs, philosophy and the arts. With the receipt of a \$1,000,000 endowment designed to support the OLLI at LSU from the Bernard Osher Foundation in March, 2010, even more people will be able to benefit from this exciting, fun program. Learning takes a lifetime - come join us at OLLI at LSU and have the time of your life! For additional information, please call 225.578.6763 or visit our website: www.outreach.lsu.edu/olli.

Student Highlights

Alicia Briganti - Department of Psychology

Alicia is a second year doctoral student in the cognitive and developmental program in the psychology department under the direction of Dr. Emily Elliott. She graduated with her bachelor's degree in psychology from Louisiana State University in 2003 and received her master's degree in developmental psychology from the University of Texas in Austin in 2007. While in Austin, she completed her master's thesis entitled: "Examining the role of social cues in early word learning," which she hopes to get published soon. She is currently studying working memory and the irrelevant speech effect in both children and adults.

Jenny Y. Denver - Department of Psychology

Jenny is a fifth year cognitive/developmental psychology doctoral candidate working under the direction of Dr. Katie Cherry. She is also an advanced year student in the MSW program and is currently working as a social work intern for the Baton Rouge General Family Medicine Residency Program. Jenny previously received bachelor's and master's degrees in Psychology from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Jenny's research is related to cognitive and social aspects of aging. She is currently working on her dissertation project, which is entitled *Ageism and Psychological Well-Being in Older Adulthood*.

Zhujun Pan – Department of Kinesiology

Zhujun is a first year doctoral student in the motor behavior division in the Kinesiology department under the direction of Dr. Arend W A Van Gemmert. She graduated with her bachelors in Electronic Science and Technology from the SouthWest Jiaotong University in 2005. She graduated from Capital Institute of Physical Education with her Masters degree in sport and exercise psychology in 2009. She is interested in changes and its neural mechanism of fine motor tasks, like handwriting and drawing, due to aging and neurological disease.

Shuqi Zhang – Department of Kinesiology

Shuqi Zhang is a first year doctoral student in Kinesiology Department and study Biomechanics as special area with Dr. Li. In 2009, she graduated from Shanghai University of Sport with Bachelor degree. She is focusing on the neurological mechanisms related to movement disorder due to Peripheral Neuropathy. Here she presents the paper entitled: *Loss of Foot Sole Sensation Affects Pressure Distribution during Standing and Walking*.

Marisa Sullivan – Department of Psychology

Marisa is a second year doctoral student in the cognitive and developmental program in the psychology department under the direction of Dr. Katie Cherry. She graduated with her bachelors in psychology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in 2006. She graduated from Western Carolina University with her Masters degree in experimental psychology in 2008. She is currently the President of Sigma Phi Omega, the gerontological honors society. She has recently finished a project examining the influence of personality traits on perceived positive outcomes on older adults after a natural disaster. She will be presenting this data at the Southern Gerontological Society in Richmond, VA in April. She will also be presenting data from her thesis on the role of optimism in memory for personal events at the Association for Psychological Science conference in Boston, MA in May.

Johanna Thomas – School of Social Work

Johanna is a fourth year doctoral student in the School of Social Work under the direction of Dr. Catherine Lemieux. She graduated with her bachelors in Sociology/Corrections from the University of Akron, Ohio in 2002. She graduated from Louisiana State University with her Masters of Social Work in 2006. She is currently ABD and working on her dissertation involving an evaluation of Louisiana's statewide truancy program, the Truancy Assessment and Service Centers (TASC). She presented her dissertation work in January of this year at the Society for Social Work and Research in San Francisco California. Her expected date of graduation is Fall of 2010.

Amanda van Lamsweerde – Department of Psychology

Amanda is a third year doctoral student in the cognitive/developmental program studying visual attention and memory with Dr. Melissa Beck. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of California, Irvine in 2006 and recently completed her master's thesis titled Attention is not required to maintain feature bindings in visual working memory at Louisiana State University. She will present this work at the Vision Sciences Society conference in May 2010.

The Life Course and Aging Center *is an interdisciplinary research center headquartered at LSU involving faculty and students from higher education institutions throughout Louisiana.*

Community Partners

- Barbara Auten, Executive Director Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area
- Liz Berzas, Our Lady of the Lake College
- James Bulot, PhD, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs
- Susie Folse, Administrator of Ollie Steele Burden Manor
- Teri Fonenot, President/CEO, Woman's Health Foundation
- John Graham, President/CEO St. James Place
- Todd Hamilton, Deputy Director, Catholic Charities
- Twanda L. Lewis, Baton Rouge Area Foundation
- Gwen Moore, PhD, St. James Place Retirement Community
- Susan E. Nelson, MD Geriatrics, Lake Senior Care
- Michael Pitts, Amedisys Home Health Services
- Fr. Kenneth Ritter, Rector, Trinity Church
- Kathy Vilas, JD, LCSW, Executive Director, Grief Recovery Center

Faculty

- Katie Cherry, PhD, LCAC Executive Director, Department of Psychology
- Priscilla Allen, PhD, Associate Executive Director of LCAC & Director of Development, School of Social Work
- Brittan Barker, PhD, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Mark Batzer, PhD, Department of Biological Sciences
- Jennifer Baumgartner, PhD, School of Human Ecology
- Teresa K. Buchanan, PhD, Department of Educational Theory, Policy, & Practice
- Renee M. Casbergue, Department of Educational Theory, Policy, & Practice
- Jane Cassidy, PhD, School of Music
- Neila Donovan, PhD, LCAC Director of Community Outreach, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Margaret-Mary Sulentic Dowell, Department of Educational Theory, Policy, & Practice
- 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
- Cecile Guin, PhD, School of Social Work
- Petra Munro Hendry, PhD, Department of Educational Theory, Policy, & Practice
- James E. Henry, PhD, Department of Chemical Engineering
- Jan Hondzinski, PhD, Department of Kinesiology
- Geraldine Johnson, PhD, School of Human Resource Education
- Jennifer Jolly, PhD, Department of Educational Theory, Policy, & Practice
- Yoshinori Kamo, PhD, Department of Sociology

- Maria Kosma, PhD, Department of Kinesiology
- Melda Kunduk, PhD, CCC-SLP, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Sean Lane, PhD, Department of Psychology
- Li Li, PhD, Department of Kinesiology
- Loren Marks, PhD, School of Human Ecology
- Johnny L. Matson, PhD, Department of Psychology
- Russell Matthews, Department of Psychology
- Janet McDonald, PhD, Department of Psychology
- Katherine Stamps Mitchell, PhD, School of Human Ecology
- Pam Monroe, PhD, Professor, School of Social Work
- Janna Oetting, PhD, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Carol O'Neill, PhD, School of Human Ecology
- Loretta Pecchioni, PhD, Department of Communication Studies
- Todd Pourciau, LCAC Director of Research, Office of Research and Economic Development
- T. Gilmour Reeve, PhD, Department of Kinesiology
- Tracey Rizzuto, PhD, Department of Psychology
- Paul Russo, PhD, Department of Chemistry
- Sudipta Sarangi, PhD, Department of Economics
- Diane Sasser, PhD, Department of Ag Extension
- George M. Strain, PhD, Comparative Biomedical Sciences
- Georgianna Tuuri, PhD, School of Human Ecology
- Arend W.A. Van Gemmert, PhD, Department of Kinesiology
- Michael Welsch, PhD, Department of Kinesiology
- Scott Wilks, PhD, LCAC Director of Academic Programs, School of Social Work

LCAC Adjunct Faculty

- Charles Cefalu, MD, MS, Department of Family Medicine, Louisiana State University - Health Science Center
- Timothy Church, MD, PhD., Pennington Biomedical Research Center
- Alo Dutta, PhD, Department of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies, Southern University
- John Fortenberry, PhD, Louisiana State University – Shreveport
- Erin C. Goforth, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, Loyola
- Edward Golob, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, Tulane University
- S. Michal Jazwinski, PhD, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center
- Jeffrey Keller, PhD, Pennington Biomedical Research Center
- Micah Klumpp, PhD, Ochsner Health Center
- Ann O'Hanlon, PhD, Department of Human Performance and Health Promotion, University of New Orleans
- Stacy Overstreet, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, Tulane University
- Helen K. Powell, PhD, Louisiana State University – Shreveport
- Eric Ravussin, PhD, Pennington Biomedical Research Center
- Scott Rubin, PhD, Department of Communication disorders, Louisiana State University - Health Science Center
- Wanda Spurlock, PhD, School of Nursing, Southern University
- Tiffany Stewart, PhD, Pennington Biomedical Research Center
- Denese Ashbaugh Vlosky, Ph.D., Amedisys
- Carl Weems, PhD, Department of Psychology, University of New Orleans