

LIFE COURSE AND AGING CENTER

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

Volume 10, Issue 1, Fall, 2010



Dr. Daniel Corcos on LSU's Campus

The LSU Life Course and Aging Center (LCAC) held its 7th annual spring community partners luncheon at the Lod Cook Alumni Center March 12, 2010. Dr. Daniel Corcos, a movement control specialist and expert in Parkinson's dysfunction, was the keynote speaker. Dr. Corcos is Professor of Movement Sciences, Physical Therapy, and Bioengineering in the Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), and Professor of Neurological Sciences at Rush University Medical Center. He is also the Program Director of Human and Therapeutic Neuroscience track in the Graduate Program in Neuroscience at UIC.



(left to right), Jan Hondzinski, Doris Carver, Daniel Corcos, Mike Martin, Katie Cherry, and Lilly Allen

Dr. Corcos discussed his research on the study of movement in a talk entitled, "Exercise as Therapy for Disease". One emphasis of the presentation involved functional comparisons between older adults with no known neurological problems to those with Parkinson's disease. The luncheon audience was one of first to observe the one year findings of his randomized control exercise intervention study in Parkinson's patients. The group was also reminded of the protective benefits and therapeutic effects of exercise for all individuals throughout their lifespan.

Dr. Corcos' visit was made possible by funding provided by Amedisys Home Health Services and LSU's Department of Kinesiology. The LCAC extends a special thanks to Drs. Todd Pourciau, Lilly Allen, Gil Reeve and Jan Hondzinski for their contributions in this regard.

LSU School of Social Work

The LSU School of Social Work has a new Gerontology Certificate Program (Certificate) as a part of the LSU MSW Program. The Certificate requires an interdisciplinary curriculum on healthy aging, field internships in older adult settings, and also requires its students to be involved with LCAC as student members. In its second year, 9 students to date are participating in the Gero-Ed Certificate Program. The cohort exceeded our projection of six students, relationships between numerous agencies across the state have been formalized to secure rotation placements in aging-related social work practice (direct and indirect).

Inside this issue

- 2 Faculty Highlights
- 3 Community Partners' Corner
- 3 Sigma Phi Omega
- 4 Recent Students
- 4-5 Student Highlights
- 5 Alumni
- 6 LCAC Partners and Members

LCAC Faculty attend the Gerontological Society of America Conference in New Orleans



(left to right), Betsy Garrison, Jennifer Silva Brown, Lilly Allen, and Katie Cherry

In November, 2010, members of the LCAC participated in the 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA). Katie Cherry and Jennifer Silva Brown presented a poster on Health-Related Quality of Life after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita based on data from the Louisiana Healthy Aging Study. This work has recently been published in the journal, *Health Care for Women International*. Betsy Garrison and Katie Cherry also presented their first findings from the post-Katrina Resilience and Recovery study that is currently in progress in St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes. In other GSA activities, LCAC Associate Executive Director Lilly Allen participated in two symposia, both working to prepare social workers to meet the growing needs of an aging population. One explored psychosocial needs of nursing home residents and the other discussed specialized gerontology curriculum.

Faculty Research in Kinesiology

LSU faculty from the *Parkinson's Research Program* acknowledge the major benefits of physical activity for individuals with Parkinson's disease and

emphasizes the necessity of staying active for individuals from this population. The Department of Kinesiology faculty in the College of Education offer safe exercise protocols that can be performed by individuals with Parkinson's at various stages of the disease and study ways to achieve more effective training techniques which can help this population maintain or increase their level of function. In July 2010 the Reilly Family Foundation generously provided \$100,000 to support the LSU *Parkinson's Research Program*, under the direction of Dr. Jan Hondzinski, who led the initial investigation of physical function training specifically designed for those with Parkinson's disease.

New LCAC Faculty



Dr. Jennifer L. Jolly received her Ph.D. in educational psychology with a concentrate in gifted education from Baylor University. Her research interests include the history of gifted education and parents of gifted children. She also serves

as editor-in-chief of the National Association Gifted Children's publication *Parenting for High Potential*. Each summer she holds a summer camp in partnership with the Louisiana State Museum in Baton Rouge for gifted children. She recently co-edited *Parenting Gifted Children: An Authoritative Guide* (Prufrock Press, 2010).

Dr. Susan A. Dumais is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology with interests in social inequality, the sociology of education, and the sociology of culture. My past research has used nationally-representative datasets to examine social class differences in parental



involvement for children throughout the elementary school years. Currently, she is working on a grant-funded (Board of Regents) project with Tracey Rizzuto of the Psychology Department to assess the CALL (Center for Adult Learning in Louisiana) program and study the supports and barriers that adults face as they return to school to complete their degrees.

Community Partners' Corner

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Louisiana State University (OLLI at LSU) was established in early 2007 through a



Osher Foundation. 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 225.578.5076, or 225.578.4540.

New Dementia Training Course.

Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area is collaborating with LCAC faculty and LSU Continuing Education to offer a new online 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. For more information on Act 571 see:

<http://www.legis.state.la.us/billdata/streamdocument.asp?did=503729>

This 2-hour Dementia Training Course is certified and approved by the OLOL Health

Career Institute. To register for the new online course which is administered through LSU Continuing Education, please visit the LSU CE website:
<http://reg.outreach.lsu.edu:8080/QuickAdmit/listSections.action?offeringid=1002>.

We also offer the 4-hr and 8-hr required curricula for nursing home and assisted living staff members (adult residential facilities licensed under DHH) who work in dementia care environments at the Alzheimer Services Office, 3772 North Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806. We have recently developed a Train the Trainer model for administrators who will be training personnel within their home facilities. To register for the training, please visit our website:
www.BRhope.com.



Dementia training instructors from February 10, 2010: (left to right), Dana Territo, Rose Colley, Katie Cherry, and Neila Donovan. This was the first of three training events provided in 2010.



Sigma Phi Omega 2010 Induction Ceremony

The Department of Kinesiology's Zhujun Pan and Shuqi Zhang were inducted into the Sigma Phi Omega (SPO) society at this year's LCAC luncheon. SPO is a national academic honor and professional society of gerontology.

2010 LCAC Student Graduates



Emily Boudreaux, Department of Psychology, worked under the direction of Dr. Katie E. Cherry, Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Director of the LSU Life Course and Aging Center. Emily's research and clinical interests include cognitive aging and behavior problems of individuals with developmental disabilities. She completed a pre-doctoral internship at Kennedy Krieger Institute and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Emily currently resides in Baltimore, Maryland, where she is completing a post-doctoral fellowship at Kennedy Krieger Institute and the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.



Jenny Y. Denver, Department of Psychology and School of Social Work. Jenny received her PhD in cognitive/developmental psychology in August 2010. She completed her dissertation entitled, Ageism and Psychological Well-Being in Older Adults under the direction of her advisor, Dr. Katie Cherry. Jenny also received her Master of Social Work degree in May 2010 under the direction of her advisor, Dr. Priscilla "Lilly" Allen. She completed an internship at the Baton Rouge General Family Medicine Residency Program with Ms. Betsy Wilks as well as an internship at the Grief Recovery Center of Baton Rouge with Ms. Kathy Vilas, who is an LCAC Community Partner. Jenny is currently living in Chattanooga, Tennessee and working as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

LCAC Student Studies in the Netherlands



Ryan Russell has been studying diabetes metabolism for 1½ years under the guidance of Dr. Arnold Nelson for a PhD in Kinesiology. Recent projects and publications include: *Metabolic Inflexibility: The link Connecting Diabetics with First and Second Degree Offspring of Diabetes?*, *Reduced Lipotoxicity Markers in Diabetic Offspring and Controls with Resistance Training*, *Effects of Acute Cyclooxygenase Inactivation on Glucose Tolerance in Diabetic Offspring*, and *Fasting Blood-glucose Changes in Diabetic Offspring and Controls with Seven Weeks of Resistance Training*.

In May of 2010, Ryan was invited by Luc van Loon to spend the Fall semester studying continuous 24-hour glucose monitoring systems (CGMS) in his lab at Maastricht University in the Netherlands where he collaborated on two independent projects with students in Dr. van Loon's lab. Ryan will present his work at two upcoming presentations. The first presentation will be at the American College of Sports Medicine National conference in Denver, CO, and the second at the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology National conference in Washing D.C.

Following his return from Maastricht, Ryan was also invited to study as a guest in the labs of Dr. Alan Goldfarb in Greensboro, North Carolina, and the Boshell Diabetes research group at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama.

Ryan is expected to finish his PhD and graduate in the Spring of 2011. His future plans include stratifying metabolic and cardiovascular risk factors in diabetes offspring.

Student Highlights

Alicia Briganti - Department of Psychology

Alicia is a third year Ph.D. student in the Department of Psychology at Louisiana State University. After growing up in Louisiana and receiving her bachelor's degree at LSU, she moved to Austin, TX where she earned her M.A. in psychology at the University of Texas under the direction of Dr. Leslie Cohen. She then returned to LSU to finish pursuing her doctorate degree, and she is currently working in Dr. Emily Elliott's lab in the area of Cognitive/Developmental Psychology. Alicia's research interests include examining the role of attention in the irrelevant speech effect, and more recently, she became interested in examining how time of day preferences affect performance in cognitive tasks in both children and adults.

Zhujun Pan – Department of Kinesiology

Zhujun is a second year doctoral student in the motor behavior program in the kinesiology department under the direction of Dr. 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 master's degree in sport psychology in 2009. She presented her study of "the effects of auditory stimuli on learning a point-to-point movement sequence" at 2010 LCAC Student Poster Session. At this November, she presented her program of "the asymmetry of bilateral transfer of a visuo-motor rotated aiming task" at the society for neuroscience 2010 conference in San Diego.

Patti Prejean – Department of Kinesiology

Patti is a first year master student working under the guidance of Dr. Jan Hondzinski. She graduated from LSU Spring 2009 with a Bachelors degree in Kinesiology with a Human movement science emphasis. She participated in a research project on multi-directional step training with Parkinson's patients as an undergraduate student. Her current research focus is in the field of motor control with a special interest in working with people with disabilities, including Parkinson's and peripheral neuropathy.

Marisa Sullivan – Department of Psychology

Marisa is a third 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 perceptions of successful aging in the oldest-old. She presented 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 2010.

Amanda van Lamsweerde – Department of Psychology

Amanda is a fourth year doctoral student in the cognitive/developmental psychology program studying visual attention and memory under the advisement of Dr. Melissa Beck. She earned her B.A. in psychology from the University of California, Irvine in 2006 and M.A. in cognitive/developmental psychology from Louisiana State University in 2010. She is currently investigating the role of attention in the ability to remember how features of an object are bound to each other. Research has suggested that this binding process may be difficult for older adults; Amanda is interested in investigating what circumstances contribute to making feature binding difficult.

Shuqi Zhang – Department of Kinesiology

Shuqi is a second year doctoral student advised by Dr. Li Li. In 2009, she graduated from Shanghai University of Sport with Bachelor degree. Her area of research emphasis is in the field of Biomechanics. She is focusing on the neurological mechanisms related to movement disorders due to Peripheral Neuropathy.

LCAC Alumni Corner

Dr. Zahra Kadivar, Ph.D. is a former student of Dr. Jan M. Hondzinski from the Department of Kinesiology. Dr. Kadivar's research interest is in developing effective rehabilitation strategies for elderly with movement disabilities. A manuscript from her dissertation work on multi-directional stepping in Parkinson's disease was recently accepted for publication in the top rehabilitation journal. Zahra currently resides in Houston, Texas, where she is completing a post-doctoral fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Zahra was the recent recipient of the Medical Innovation Award from the Institute of Bioscience and Bioengineering for a project titled "Brain Reorganization after Constraint Induced Movement Therapy Augmented with Robotics for Individuals with Chronic Stroke".

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

Community Partners

- Paul Colomb, PhD, Interim Executive Director, Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs
- John Graham, President/CEO St. James Place
- Gwen Moore, PhD, St. James Place Retirement Community
- Kathy Vilas, JD, LCSW, Executive Director, Grief Recovery Center
- Mrs. Susie Folse, Administrator of Ollie Steele Burden Manor
- Teri Fonenot, President/CEO, Woman's Health Foundation
- Todd Hamilton, Deputy Director, Catholic Charities
- Barbara Auten, Executive Director Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area
- Dr. Susan E. Nelson, Geriatrics, Lake Senior Care
- Twanda L. Lewis, Baton Rouge Area Foundation

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, 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
- Eugene Kennedy, Department of Educational Theory, Policy & Practice

- 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
- T. Gilmour Reeve, PhD, Department of Kinesiology
- Tracey Rizzuto, PhD, Department of Psychology
- Paul Russo, PhD, Department of Chemistry
- Sudipta Sarangi, PhD, Department of Marketing
- 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, School of Social Work

LCAC Adjunct Faculty

- Charles Cefalu, MD, MS, Department of Family Medicine, Louisiana State University - Health Science Center
- Timothy Church, MD, Ph.D., 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
- Todd Pourciau, Director, Center for Teaching and Learning Enhancement, Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas
- 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., Director, Chronic Care Research, Amedisys Home Health Services
- Carl Weems, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, University of New Orleans