



## Eva Kor Spoke of Forgiveness at 2014 LCAC Annual Luncheon



Left to Right: Nikki Ourso, Dr. Lilly Allen, Dr. Neila Donovan, Mrs. Eva Moses Kor, Dr. Katie Cherry, and Dr. Loren Marks

The LCAC hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Partners luncheon on Friday, March 21, 2014. Our keynote speaker was Eva Mozes Kor, the Executive Director of CANDLES Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Terre Haute, IN. Eva Mozes Kor is a survivor of the World War II Holocaust; specifically, the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and extermination camp. During the Holocaust, Eva together with her identical twin sister, Miriam, became part of the atrocious experiments in the Nazi death camp, Auschwitz, under direction of Dr. Josef Mengele. For many years after liberation, Mrs. Kor carried her emotional trauma deep inside her. It was

until 1995 that she chose to publicly forgive all the Nazis, including Mengele, for what they had done.

Mrs. Kor provided a keynote address entitled, "Triumph Over Tragedy: The Healing Power of Forgiveness." She described her horrific experiences, which began in May of 1944 with a four-day journey packed in a cattle car. She spoke of the humiliation and torture that she and her sister endured at Auschwitz and their eventual release on January 27, 1945. In her address, she explained how the philosophy of forgiveness helped her to heal after fifty years of pain. She also shared her three "life lessons" which were: 1) *Never Give Up on Yourself or Your Dreams*; 2) *Do Not Judge a Person Based on Prejudice* and 3) *Forgive Your Worst Enemy and Everyone Who Has Hurt You-- It Will Heal You and Set Your Soul Free*. Her message of forgiveness was exciting and relevant to LCAC members and community friends. Our 11<sup>th</sup> annual luncheon was a huge success made possible by sponsorships from the LSU College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Psychology, College of Human Sciences and Education; Schools of Social Work and Kinesiology, and Amedisys Home Health Services.

### Sigma Phi Omega Annual Luncheon Induction Ceremony

Sigma Phi Omega (SPO) is a national academic honor and professional society of gerontology. Angelo Sayo (Kinesiology), Nikki Ourso (Communication Sciences & Disorders), and Tera Andrew (Kinesiology) were inducted into the Delta Upsilon Chapter at LSU at the 2014 LCAC luncheon.

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## A Tribute to Donna Douglas



*Donna Douglas with LCAC student, Trevor Johnson at the 2014 LCAC Annual Luncheon.*

It is with our deepest sympathy that we inform the passing of longtime LCAC supporter and actress Donna Douglas. Douglas was best known for her portrayal of Elly May in *The Beverly Hillbillies*. Born near Baton Rouge, LA, as a young girl she expressed her tomboy tendencies through sports and outdoor play on her grandparents' farm. Later moving to New York, she appeared in several commercials and television guest roles before landing her major role in *The Beverly Hillbillies*. She is quoted as saying, "[t]oday the role of Elly May has been a beautiful opportunity, a wonderful little door opener for me to share my heart with others, whether speaking in churches, ladies conferences, youth groups, schools, conventions, and various civic organizations, or 'one on one.' A slice out of my life. Amazing what God can do with a life, if given the opportunity!" Donna's compassion and activism will be missed in the LCAC family.

to negotiate challenges occurring due to changes in demographics in the Louisiana in particular and the US in general. This certificate program will enhance LSU's mission to produce a highly trained interdisciplinary graduate student workforce for the state of Louisiana and the surrounding regions. The older population, i.e., individuals 65 years and older, is an important and growing segment of the US population according to an issued brief by the Census in November 2011. The number of older adults in the US increased with 15.1% between the census of 2000 and 2010, while the total population only increased with 9.7% during this period. Another important statistic is that the South had in 2010 the largest number of older people. These statics show that there is an urgent need to educate and thus increase knowledge to help the community to face challenges occurring due to an increase of the aging population. However, the focus should not be only on an aging population, the important development of children into adults is also of the utmost importance, especially in the south where 37.4% of the US population up to 19 years of age resides. The LSS certification program will directly address the national trend for interdisciplinary science – the science that crosses several disciplines and yet is not found to be located in any one traditional department. Furthermore it will provide trained graduates that can help to address life span related issues encountered by companies, agencies, and the community in general.

For more information about this exciting new certificate program, please contact the coordinator for the LSS certificate program, Dr. Arend W. A. Van Gemmert at [gemmert@lsu.edu](mailto:gemmert@lsu.edu) or (225) 578-9142.

## Life Span Studies Certificate

LSU will be offering a new graduate certificate in Life Span Studies (LSS; approved, March 2015, by the LA Board of Regents) which is based on the research unified in the LSU's Life Course and Aging Center. The LSS certificate provides the opportunity for students to enhance their education through an interdisciplinary distribution of courses that are not the core of a traditional discipline. The LSU's Life Course and Aging Center is comprised of the fields of Communication Science and Disorders, Kinesiology, Psychology, and Social Work, that play a large role in understanding the challenges encountered by society to deal with and/or focus on different age groups and

## LCAC Alumni Corner

**Zhujun Pan, Ph.D.**, graduated in August 2014 with a doctoral degree from Louisiana State University in Kinesiology under the mentorship of Dr. Arend Van Gemmert. She is now an assistant professor at Mississippi State University. Her current research interests



*Zhujun Pan, PhD*

include effects of aging and Parkinson's disease on the control and learning of fine movements, in particular related to inter-limb transfer and bimanual coordination.

## New Faculty Highlights

**Matthew Calamia, Ph.D.** A native of Baton Rouge, Matthew Calamia received his BS in psychology from Louisiana State University in 2007. He obtained his PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Iowa and completed a predoctoral clinical internship at the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2014 with major rotations in neuropsychology and health psychology. After years of enduring brutal winters in the Midwest, he was thrilled to return home in August as an Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department at Louisiana State University. His research interests are in the clinical assessment of cognitive abilities and psychopathology in individuals with neurological disorders. He is also interested in issues related to the measurement of changes in cognitive aging, such as the effect of repeated testing in longitudinal studies on test scores.



*Matthew Calamia*

**Amanda E. Staiano, Ph.D., M.P.P.**, is Assistant Professor and Director of the Pediatric Obesity & Health Behavior Laboratory at Pennington Biomedical Research Center and an adjunct Assistant Professor in the LSU Department of Psychology. Dr. Staiano is a Developmental Psychologist with an interest in using technology to prevent and treat childhood obesity. Her research has examined how technological devices like exergames motivate youth to be physically active. Her “Wii Active” study, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, was a 20-week school-based intervention for overweight and obese African American adolescents. The “Klub Kinect” project to demonstrate the feasibility and efficacy of conducting a 12-week exergaming physical activity intervention for weight loss among overweight and obese adolescent girls. Her partnership with healthcare organizations throughout south Louisiana recently launched the Childhood Obesity Treatment Toolkit (<http://www.pbrc.edu/obesitytoolkit/>) as a summary of best practices to assist primary care providers in preventing and treating obesity among pediatric patients. Visit Dr. Staiano’s lab website: <http://labs.pbrc.edu/pediatric-obesity/>.



*Amanda E. Staiano*

## Current LCAC Students

**Christopher Aiken** is a fourth year doctoral student studying Motor Learning and Control under the direction of Dr. Arend Van Gemmert. He was awarded a 2015 LSU Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship for his dissertation titled “Motor learning effects of two types of stressors: Implications for practice specificity”. His research interests include how learner controlled feedback influences skill learning across various age groups.

**Beth Lyon** is a third year graduate student in the Cognitive and Developmental Psychology Ph.D. program, working under the direction of Dr. Katie Cherry. Beth completed her master’s thesis research in 2014 and is currently conducting a study on prospective memory in younger and older adults.

**Missy Mitchell-Williams** is a second year doctoral student in the school of social work and Louisiana Board of Regents/Southern Regional Education Board Scholar. She received the 2014 Association of Gerontological Social Workers Pre-Dissertation Award. Missy’s research interests are cognitive impairment among aging prisoners and the general increases in the aging prison population and the financial strain those increases have placed on the criminal justice system.

**Antonius Skipper** is a Huel D. Perkins Diversity Fellow and second year doctoral student in the School of Social Work. His current research interests include coping and resiliency in African American communities, the role of spirituality in healthcare decisions for older adults, and falls risk in older adult populations.

**Katie Stanko** is a first year graduate student studying cognitive and developmental psychology under the direction of Dr. Katie Cherry. Her current interests include cognition and development across the lifespan, particularly in old age, and illicit drug use trends and implications in older adults.

**Chantelle Varnado** is a third year doctoral student under the direction of Dr. Neila Donovan. She expects to defend her dissertation “Treatment effect of manual therapy on speech outcomes in children with spastic cerebral palsy” April 2015. Her research interest include abdominal binding, establishing normative data for syllables per breath unit, and the development of a manual therapy protocol to improve respiratory function for increased speech outcomes.

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

## **Community Partners**

- Barbara Auten, Executive Director Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area
- Dana Territo, Director of Services, Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area
- Tom Farrell, President/CEO St. James Place
- Gwen Moore, PhD, Blue Cross / Blue Shield
- David Aguillard, Executive Director, Catholic Charities
- Darlene Woods, Foster Grandparent Program, Catholic Charities
- Todd Hamilton, Executive Director, O'Brien House
- Kathy Vilas, JD, LCSW, Executive Director, Grief Recovery Center
- Kathryn Grigsby, CEO, Hospice of Baton Rouge
- Karen Giradot, LCSW, Hospice of Baton Rouge
- Linda Beauvais, Executive Director, Capital Area Agency on Aging
- Teri Fonenot, President/CEO, Woman's Health Foundation
- Leigh Loe, Women's Hospital
- Dr. Susan E. Nelson, Medical Director, PACE of Baton Rouge
- Tara LeBlanc, Interim Assistant Secretary, LA Department of Health and Hospitals
- Robin Wagner, Deputy Assistant Secretary, LA Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Aging and Adult Services
- Jane Arieux Thomas, Governor's Office on Elderly Affairs

## **Faculty**

- Priscilla Allen, PhD, LCAC Associate Executive Director & Director of Development, School of Social Work
- Mark Batzer, PhD, Department of Biological Sciences
- Jennifer Baumgartner, PhD, School of Education
- Teresa K. Buchanan, PhD, School of Education
- Matt Calamia, PhD, Department of Psychology
- Renee M. Casbergue, PhD, School of Education
- Jane Cassidy, PhD, School of Music
- Katie Cherry, PhD, LCAC Executive Director, Department of Psychology
- Amy Copeland, PhD, Department of Psychology
- Cyndi DiCarlo, PhD, School of Education
- Neila Donovan, PhD, LCAC Director of Community Outreach, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Margaret-Mary Sulentic Dowell, PhD, School of Education
- Emily Elliott, PhD, Department of Psychology
- Kenneth Fasching-Varner, PhD., School of Education
- Gary Gintner, PhD, School of Education
- Cecile Guin, PhD, School of Social Work
- Petra Munro Hendry, PhD, School of Education

- Ed Holton, PhD, School of Human Resource Development and Workforce Education
- Jan M. Hondzinski, PhD, School of Kinesiology
- Neil Johannsen, PhD., School of Kinesiology
- Eugene Kennedy, PhD, School of Education
- Maria Kosma, PhD, School of Kinesiology
- Melda Kunduk, PhD, CCC-SLP, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Sean Lane, PhD, Department of Psychology
- Catherine Lemieux, PhD, School of Social Work
- Loren Marks, PhD, School of Social Work
- Michael MacLellan, PhD, School of Kinesiology
- Janet McDonald, PhD, Department of Psychology
- Katherine Stamps Mitchell, PhD, School of Social Work
- Pam Monroe, PhD, Professor, School of Social Work
- Janna Oetting, PhD, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Loretta Pecchioni, PhD, Department of Communication Studies
- T. Gilmour Reeve, PhD, School of Kinesiology
- Tracey Rizzuto, PhD, School of Human Resource Development and Workforce Education
- Sudipta Sarangi, PhD, Department of Marketing
- Amanda Staiano, PhD, Dept of Psychology Adjunct Faculty, PBRC
- George M. Strain, PhD, Comparative Biomedical Sciences
- Arend W.A. Van Gemmert, PhD, School of Kinesiology
- Scott Wilks, PhD, School of Social Work
- Sara Winges, PhD, School of Kinesiology

## **LCAC Adjunct Faculty**

- Charles Cefalu, MD, MS, Department of Family Medicine, Louisiana State University - Health Science Center
- Marion Cahill, PhD, Our Lady of the Lake College
- Alo Dutta, PhD, Department of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies, Southern University
- John Fortenberry, PhD, Louisiana State University – Shreveport
- Erin C. Dupuis, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, Loyola
- Edward Golob, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, Tulane University
- Jackie Guendouzi, PhD, Southeastern University
- S. Michal Jazwinski, PhD, School of Medicine, Tulane University
- Jeffrey Keller, PhD, Pennington Biomedical Research Center
- Micah Klumpp, PhD, Our Lady of the Lake Neuropsychology
- Russell Nolan, MA, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Baton Rouge Community College
- Stacy Overstreet, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, Tulane University
- Todd Pourciau, Director of Teaching and Learning, Baton Rouge Community College
- Eric Ravussin, PhD, Pennington Biomedical Research Center
- Meghan Collins Savage, PhD. Southeastern University
- Lisa Skemp, PhD. Our Lady of the Lake Medical College
- Wanda Spurlock, PhD, School of Nursing, Southern University
- Tiffany Stewart, PhD, Pennington Biomedical Research Center
- Carl Weems, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, University of New Orleans
- Helen Wise, PhD, Louisiana State University – Shreveport