Recent Accomplishments
- Co-hosted a visit to the LSU campus by Dr. Pham Thang, Vice-President of the National Gerontology Institute of Vietnam, in collaboration with the Executive Director of International Programs in November, 2000

(Pictured from left to right: Bob Wood, Nguyen Y-Duc, Pham Thang, Tim Dyeson, Ken Miller, Katie Cherry, and Lui Li)

- The development of an undergraduate curriculum in Aging Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences at LSU, which will be offered for the first time in the Fall semester, 2001

- Formation of a community partnership with St. James Place Continuing Care Retirement Community and the LSU Health Sciences Center Medical Residency Program

- Established a method for collecting funds to support LCAC activities through the LSU Foundation

Faculty Activities
Dr. Katie Cherry, Department of Psychology and Director of LCAC, conducted several research projects this year. She completed a series of studies to examine people's perceptions of forgetful behavior in younger and older adults.

This work is currently funded by the National Institute of Aging. She is also developing a memory training program to improve recall of simple information in older adults with probable Alzheimer's disease. She published several papers and presented her research at both regional and national conferences. Cherry has given talks to LSU groups, including the Alumni Association "Golden Tigers" and Retired Faculty and Staff. She served as the past-president of the LSU Faculty Senate. She has provided workshops for the American Heart Association Baton Rouge Chapter, Alzheimer services of the capital area, and Sunrise Assisted Living of Baton Rouge. She also participated in advisory groups for Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center (Division of Elderly Services Advisory Board) and the Capital Area Agency on Aging (Board of Directors). She received the LSU Distinguished Professor award and was recently promoted to the rank of full professor.

Dr. Tim Dyeson, School of Social Work published the following articles: "Toward the Conceptualization and Measurement of Caregiver Burden among Pueblo Indian Family Caregivers" in The Gerontologist; A Survey of Physicians' and Physician Office Managers' Assessment of Managed Care Organizations in the Greater Baton Rouge Area" in the Journal of the Louisiana Medical Society; Burden Self-Image: A Mediating Variable of Depression among Chronically Ill Care Recipients" in the Journal of Gerontological Social Work; and Demographic and Psychosocial Characteristics of Cognitively Intact Chronically Ill Elders receiving Home Health Services" in Home Health Care Services Quarterly. He also made presentations to the following groups: Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology; Sunrise Assisted Living Center; Baton Rouge General Medical Center; Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center; Louisiana Nursing Home Association; and Conference on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. Dyeson serves on the planning committee for Forum on Kinship Care and Grand

Dr. Yoshinori Kamo, Department of Sociology, focuses on family sociology as his primary research area. He has been working on caregiving for elderly family members, elderly persons' living arrangement, and grandparenthood. Many of his studies focus upon minorities and comparative aspects, including African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, and people living in Japan.

Dr. Li Li, Department of Kinesiology, has received a grant from the Board of Regent's Health Excellence Fund and has purchased and set-up a state-of-the-art, $227,000 motion analysis laboratory. This facility is capable of capturing and analyzing a variety range of human activity from balance to locomotion, to reach and grasp, and more. Li has just finished developing a Biomechanics teaching laboratory, supported by LSU's Student Tech Fee. The lab will enable students to learn the most sophisticated art of studying human motion in a hands-on environment. To serve the academic community, Li has delivered a keynote speech to the annual meeting of International Society of Biomechanics in Sports in the Summer of 2000.

Dr. Janna Oetting, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders completed a three year project that focused on children's use of two rural Louisiana dialects. Funded by the National Institutes of Health, Oetting's work documents important similarities and differences between the two dialects as well as illuminates the ways in which a childhood language impairment affects the acquisition of each dialect variety. Dialect research projects by Oetting and other LSU faculty members are receiving national attention. A research paper by Oetting and LSU Psychology Professor Janet McDonald was highlighted in the February, 2001 ASHA Leader, a professional journal of the American Speech Language Hearing Association. In November, 2001, Dr. Oetting and LSU French Professor Sylvie Dubois will discuss children and adults' use of Louisiana Dialects as part of an invited panel for the American Speech Language Hearing Association's annual convention. Over 14,000 professionals are expected to attend this year's convention.

Dr. Loretta L. Pecchioni, Department of Speech Communication and Women and Gender Studies, received the 2001 Phi Kappa Phi award in Humanities and Social Sciences. This award recognizes non-tenured faculty for their research, teaching, and service. Dr. Pecchioni was named by her undergraduate students to the LSU Campus-Community Coalition for Change Faculty Honor Roll for her involvement with students outside the classroom. Her article "Implicit Decision-making in Family Caregiving" was recently published in the Journal of Social and Personal Relationships and her article with Jon Croghan, Masters student in Speech Communication, "Young adults stereotypes of older individuals with their grandparents as targets" has recently been accepted for publication in the Journal of Communication.

Dr. Jill Sutor, Department of Sociology and Director of Women's and Gender Studies, has just begun a new project funded by the National Institute on Aging that investigates within-family differences in parent-child relations in later life. Sutor is collecting data from both parents and all adult children in 600 multigenerational families. This unique design will allow investigation of the degree to which adult children in the same family differ in their relationships with their elderly parents, as well as the causes and consequences of these differences.

Dr. Robert Wood, Department of Kinesiology, notes the exercise training program has recently been recognized by the American College of Sports Medicine as one of 17 Successful Active Aging Programs in the World, and Wood was recently elected co-chair of The American College of Sports Medicine Active Aging Interest Group.

Among the most important contributions that Wood's lab has made to date will be detailed in a paper that will appear in Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise in October. The paper is entitled "Concurrent Cardiovascular and Resistance Training in Healthy Older Adults." This landmark study has identified combinations of different modalities of exercise that appear to be most beneficial in maximizing functional ability in later life.

At present, Wood's investigative team is participating in the development of a proposal to further develop their functional fitness laboratory in an effort to test and refine their exercise protocols in populations of older adults who have significant activity limitations or restrictions.
Plans for the Future

- Continued work on a grant proposal to study disability prevention and quality of life issues in Louisiana’s senior population
- Development of a Children's Research Division of the LCAC Initiative
- Formal application for center status to the LSU Research Council
- Development of a web page including links to home pages of faculty members and appropriate related organizations and associations

(Photograph from left to right: George Strain, Randy Ewing, Teri Fontenot, and Katie Cherry)

We Need Your Help

Our advisory board is important to us and we need your assistance. In order for the LCAC to grow and prosper the following tasks must be addressed with your help.

- Solicit donations to the LCAC foundation account to support our activities
- Develop greater ties in the Greater Baton Rouge community
- Identify community-based resources and research needs that could be addressed by faculty affiliated with the Life Course and Aging Studies initiative

Graduate Student Activities

Susan Brigman, Department of Psychology, has completed her thesis, "Age, Working Memory, and the Development of Skill Acquisition," and was awarded the American Psychological Association Division 20 Retirement Research Foundation's outstanding thesis award. She is now working on her doctoral dissertation proposal. Brigman's research interests involve adult development and cognitive aging issues. She has been involved in all activities of the Life Course & Aging Studies Initiative and coordinated the student-faculty research session that was held in conjunction with Dr. Pham's visit to LSU (see page 1).

Denese Ashbaugh Vlosky, School of Human Ecology, taught a course at St. James Place (SJP) entitled "Caring for Demented Residents in a Long Term Care Setting" and will add “Teaching Empathy: Walking in the Resident's Shoes" this summer. She has also been involved, along with Dr. Pam Monroe, with a research project at SJP collecting data for a study to assess the effects of moving residents with Alzheimer's disease. This will allow her to collaborate with the administrative team at SJP to plan for the relocation effort of all health care residents in September to the new health care center.

Chizuko Wakabayashi, Department of Sociology, has been working on her dissertation which explores women’s economic disadvantages across the life course that result from their obligations to family care, especially care giving to older family members. Research shows that about 1.6 million older Americans need help with their daily living activities (e.g., dressing, eating, or bathing). Most of them are taken care of by their family members, but the family is not the unit of care giving. It is women in the family. Wakabayashi's dissertation attempts to provide estimations of earning losses and retirement-income losses due to care giving for woman care givers, as evidence of a penalty that women pay because of their devotion to family care. At the 46th annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society in April, she presented a paper on the significance of considering care giving in the context of gender inequality and the relevance of focusing income losses as accumulation of economic disadvantages across the life course. Also, she will present the latest findings of this study at the University of California-Irvine.
Community Outreach
The National Senior Games (NSG) will be held in Baton Rouge from July 14 to July 28, 2001. Over 12,000 senior athletes and 15,000 family and friends will converge on the Capital City for two weeks. NSG needs volunteers to handle this enormous event. Volunteer positions range from scorekeeper, media center, database management, handing out water, working in the operations center or VIP hospitality room, umpiring a competition, ticket taker, refreshments, helping with an awards ceremony and more. Volunteer groups are welcome and school credit and internships are also available. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Laura Ransome at 225.578.9129 or by e-mail at lransome@nsnga.com.

Life Course and Aging Studies is an interdisciplinary initiative out of the Office of Research and Graduate Studies at LSU. For more information contact one of the following research group members:

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