

# Psychology Newsletter



LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Spring 2010

## News



Dr. McDonald

A multidisciplinary team of researchers consisting of Dr. Janna Oetting, professor of Communication Disorders, Dr.

Janet McDonald, professor of Psychology and interim Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Michael Hegarty, associate professor of English, recently received a \$1.8 million grant from the National Institute of Health. The goal of the grant is to study language acquisition, with a focus on children with specific language impairment in the context of Louisiana dialects.



Drs. Elliott, Hicks, and Lane (pictured above) received an enhancement grant of \$42,000 from the Louisiana Board of Regents. The grant supports the acquisition of brand-new computers in three laboratories that are networked together using a secure server. The new equipment provides a platform for doing large-scale research on memory and provides the researchers with the ability to quickly deploy new computer programs, collect data, and archive results.

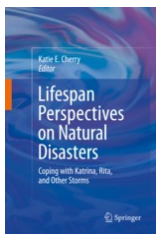
In a recently published guest editorial in the *Journal of Attention Disorders*, Dr. Claire Advokat outlined the evidence that ADHD medications don't appear to have the long-term effects that many people think they do. With a recently funded grant from the Spencer Foundation, Dr. Advokat and her department colleague, Dr. Sean Lane, are hoping to discover why drugs that are well-known to improve atten-



Dr. Advokat

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**Dr. Cherry's new book released - "Lifespan Perspectives on Natural Disasters"**

This book is one of a kind in the disaster science literature, surely to be a widely referenced resource for disasters from a developmental perspective.

**Amanda Van Lamsweerde and Dr. Lane to Attend NIH-Sponsored fMRI Training Program.**

Amanda Van Lamsweerde, a 3rd-year student in the Cognitive/Developmental Psychology doctoral program, and Sean Lane, Associate Professor of Psychology, were recently chosen to attend an NIH-sponsored fMRI training program at the Uni-

versity of Michigan. The two-week program will take place in August, and travel, room and board is provided.

## Dr. Russell Pella



Dr. Russell Pella

Dr. Pella, a graduate of our clinical program, was recently selected to receive the outstanding dissertation award from the National Academy of Neuropsychology. His doctoral dissertation, completed under the direction of Dr. Wm. Drew Gouvier, was entitled "Evaluation of Embedded Malingering Indices in a non-litigating, relief seeking sample: A partial cross-validation using control, clinical and derived groups."



Dr. Jill Talley Shelton

## Dr. Jill Shelton

Dr. Jill Talley Shelton received her PhD in Cognitive Psychology from LSU in 2008. She is currently a post-doctoral fellow at Washington University in St. Louis, working with both Dr. Dave Balota on aging research and Dr. Mark McDaniel on prospective memory.

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## Dr. Dennis Combs



Dr. Dennis Combs

Dr. Dennis R. Combs is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at The University of Texas at Tyler. His expertise is in the assessment and treatment of schizophrenia and psychotic disorders. He has published over 40 research articles and book chapters on schizophrenia and his research has been funded by the NIMH. Dr. Combs received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from LSU in 2002.



Dr. Bill Sallas

## Dr. Bill Sallas

Dr. Bill Sallas received his Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology from LSU in 2008, under the direction of Dr. Mathews. He works for Huron Consulting Group in the Chicago area, and credits the program with training him well for his current position. Dr. Sallas and his wife just welcomed their second child into their family. Congratulations!

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## Dr. Jeff Starns



Dr. Jeff Starns

Dr. Jeff Starns received his Ph.D in Cognitive Psychology from LSU in 2006, under the direction of Dr. Jason Hicks. He was then awarded a post-doctoral fellowship at Ohio State University, working with Dr. Roger Ratcliff. He will be joining the faculty at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst as an assistant pro-

fessor, where he will continue to explore his research interests in formal models of memory and memory for source information.

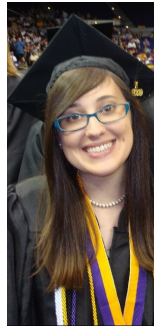
## Alumni News—Undergraduate Students

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**Josh Rawson**—Graduated May, 2009

Currently in I/O Psychology Master's program at Louisiana Tech University



**Suzette Tassin**  
Graduated May, 2009

Winner of the 2008-2009 Paul C. Young Award.

Currently in I/O Psychology Master's program at George Mason University and working at Defense Manpower Data Center



**Lauren Sherrer**—  
Graduated May, 2008

Working as a program developer in Baton Rouge for the Governors Office of Elderly Affairs



**Amanda Exner**—  
Graduated May, 2007

Currently in developmental psychology PhD program and the masters of public policy program at Georgetown studying childhood obesity prevention.



**Matt Calamia**—Graduated May, 2007

Attending graduate school for a PhD in Clinical Psychology at University of Iowa.



**Dr. Erlanger Turner** graduated from LSU in May 2004. He received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology in 2009 from Texas A&M University. Currently, he is completing a postdoctoral fellowship at Kennedy Krieger Institute/ Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in the Department of Behavioral Psychology. Dr. Turner's research and clinical interests include child-family

psychology with a focus on applying behavioral medicine treatments for use with ethnic minority populations.

# Current Faculty—Research

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## Clinical

**Dr. Phillip Brantley:**

My primary area of research examines factors which moderate psychosocial adaptation and treatment adherence in individuals with chronic medical conditions including diabetes, hypertension, chronic pain and obesity.

**Dr. Julia Buckner:**

Primary focus concerns understanding the nature and treatment of anxiety disorders, with a particular interest in the relations between anxiety and addictive behaviors.

**Dr. Alex Cohen:**

My laboratory focuses on understanding how emotional and neurocognitive abnormalities contribute to social dysfunction in schizophrenia.

**Dr. Amy Copeland:**

My research interests focus on cognitive and affective variables in substance use initiation, maintenance, cessation, and relapse.

**Dr. Thompson Davis:**

My research interests focus on the assessment and treatment of anxiety disorders in children, adolescents, and young adults. In particular,

my work has been on the phenomenology, etiology, assessment, and treatment of specific phobias.

**Dr. William Drew Gouvier:**

Neuropsychological assessment, treatment, and forensic issues are the primary focus of research in our research laboratory.

**Dr. Mary Lou Kelley:**

My research has focused on the behavioral assessment and treatment of children and adolescents. Topics of interest have included ADHD, home and school interventions for children with externalizing problems, and the

psychological effects of violence exposure.

**Dr. Johnny Matson:**

My interests have focused on the field of intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorders. Using a behavioral/biological approach, my research has ranged from teaching social skills to the evaluation of side-effects of psychotropic medications.

## Biological

**Dr. Claire Advokat:**

My primary interest is in understanding the clinical effectiveness and the mechanism of action of drugs used in the treatment of mental illness.

**Dr. Alan Baumeister:**

My research focuses on developments in psychiatry during the first half of the 20th century, including the psy-

chopharmacology revolution of the 1950s.

**Dr. Paula Geiselman:**

Relationships among acute fat and other specific macronutrient intake, fat preference, and habitual levels of dietary fat intake in men and pre- and post-menopausal women with and without exogenous female sex hormones.

**Dr. Mike Hawkins:**

My research focuses on historical developments in neuroscience and on the neuro-anatomical and neuropharmacological systems which regulate stress responding in animals.

## Industrial/Organizational

**Dr. Tracey Rizzuto:**

The focus of my research is large-scale organizational change processes and outcomes, with particular interest in technology implementation across a wide variety of settings and system types.

**Dr. Russell Matthews:**

The primary focus of my research is on how working adults manage their work and family lives and how work and family stressors affect outcomes such as health and work motivation.

# Current Faculty—Research

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## Cognitive/Developmental

**Dr. Melissa Beck:**

The research in my laboratory focuses on understanding the cognitive processes involved in the perception of a complete and continuous visual world.

**Dr. Katie Cherry:**

Cognitive aging, especially memory processes in healthy older adults; Memory interventions for cognitively-impaired older adults; Interdisciplinary studies of healthy aging.

**Dr. Emily Elliott:**

My research focus includes the areas of short-term memory and working memory, and also the interaction of attention with memory performance.

**Dr. Kevin Grobman:**

I conduct developmental psychology research into how we solve problems in our everyday lives, from the origins of problem solving during infancy to creative problem solving efforts in pre-schoolers and adolescents.

**Dr. Jason Hicks:**

Most of my work concerning source memory is aimed toward an understanding of the various memorial qualities people retrieve in making inferences about the source of a memory. In addition, the extent to which these decision processes are influenced by non-episodic factors (e.g., preexisting knowledge, stereotypes) is an interest of mine.

**Dr. Sean Lane:**

The general goal of my research program is to understand how memory and cognitive processes are deployed in complex real-world events.

**Dr. Robert Matthews:**

My research focuses on applying cognitive science to enhance learning. Several projects in my lab involve experiments on ways to integrate experiential (hands-on learning) with reflective (theory based) knowledge.

**Dr. Janet McDonald:**

My research is done within the field of psycholinguistics. I am specifically interested in first and second language acquisition, bilingualism, and language comprehension.

## School

**Dr. Clayton Cook:**

My research is done within the field of psycholinguistics. I am specifically interested in first and second language acquisition, bilingualism, and language comprehension.

**Dr. Frank Gresham:**

My research interests involve the use of data-based decision making in the schools using a problem solving model of consultation for children and youth experiencing academic and social behavioral difficulties.

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**Dr. George Noell:**

My work focuses on interventions for young children (ages 2-12 years), at-risk children, and children with disabling conditions. My team works with challenging behaviors, academic problems, and social/adaptive behavior concerns exhibited by children.

**Dr. Jeffrey Tiger:**

My students and I conduct research related to behavior-analytic methodology and principles with the goal of improving practices related to the care, education, and treatment of individuals with learning, developmental, and/or sensory disabilities.

## Current Graduate Students

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### *CLINICAL*

Dr. Julia Buckner:

Dr. Amy Copeland:

Dr. William Drew Gouvier:

Dr. Johnny Matson:

Dr. Alex Cohen:

Dr. Thompson Davis:

Dr. Mary Lou Kelley:

### *BIOLOGICAL*

Dr. Claire Advokat:

Dr. Alan Baumeister:

Dr. Paula Geiselman:

Dr. Mike Hawkins:

### *I/O*

Dr. Tracey Rizzuto:

Dr. Russell Matthews:

## Current Graduate Students

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### *COGNITIVE*

Dr. Melissa Beck:

Dr. Emily Elliott:

Dr. Jason Hicks:

Dr. Robert Matthews:

Dr. Katie Cherry:

Dr. Kevin Grobman:

Dr. Sean Lane:

Dr. Janet McDonald:

### *SCHOOL*

Dr. Clayton Cook

Dr. Frank Gresham

Dr. George Noell

Dr. Jeffrey Tiger



# Thank you for reading!

Department of Psychology

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LSU Day, April 24, 2010

10:00 am—4:00 pm

Please join us for an exhibit featuring “The Science of Psychology”.

We will be in the LSU quadrangle, near Audubon Hall. Members of

our faculty will be present to discuss their current research projects, and to provide information about credible treatment resources in the community. Representatives from the Psychological Services Clinic will be present, along with members of the student organization, the Psychology Club. We hope to see you there. Bring along the family for a fun-filled day of all things LSU. For more detailed information, see the website for LSU Day at [www.lsuday.com](http://www.lsuday.com). *Geaux Tigers!!*



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Come and visit us on the web,  
[www.lsu.edu/psychology](http://www.lsu.edu/psychology)

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## Developing a Graduate Student Travel Fund

The Department of Psychology proudly recognizes the research efforts of our faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students. To this end, we would like to create a travel fund that would go directly to support the financial needs of graduate students who are participating in research conferences.

Many of our graduate students would like to travel to conferences, to gain the knowledge of research that can come from such experiences, but oftentimes they are limited by financial resources. In addition to research knowledge, the networking opportunities from

conferences create links to other researchers, and builds relationships for future internship and post-doctoral fellowship opportunities.

Please contact Emily Elliott, [eelliott@lsu.edu](mailto:eelliott@lsu.edu), if you are interested in obtaining more information about this exciting opportunity.



Current LSU graduate students [Noelle Brown] (far left) and Benjamin Martin (middle right) with former LSU PhD student Jill Shelton (far right) and Dr. Elliott (middle left) presenting a research poster at Psychonomics 2009.