

# Aging Exchange

Tracking the Way We Age

Spring 2003  
VOLUME 13 • ISSUE 2



*pictured at left: Smita Iyer, master's student in Foods and Nutrition, works on holiday greeting cards with Roberta Patterson at Westminster Village in December.*

## Gerontology Student Organization

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**T**he Gerontology Student Organization (GSO) has been very busy with the study of aging both in the classroom and on the road. Several students attended the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) in Boston, Massachusetts in late November. Exposure to the wide world of research in their own fields, as well as across disciplines, is invaluable to graduate students, and their help staffing the Purdue University trade show booth is vital to graduate student recruitment for the Gerontology Program. Whether their futures lead to a profession dealing directly with older adults or to improving the lives of elders through research and expanded knowledge of the process of aging, GSA offers students a

glimpse of the larger world of research to which they will soon belong.

Kudos to these graduate students whose work was presented at GSA in 2002:

**Angela Cameron and Jori Sechrist**, "Racial Differences in the Health of the Sandwich Generation."

**Yunqing Li**, "Volunteering and Depression: Do Joint Causal Effects Exist Over Time?"

**Pei Chun Chen** and Dr. Janet Wilmoth, "The Effect of Residential Relocation on Self-Rated Health."

Dr. Kenneth Ferraro, **Angela Cameron**, Dr. Kimberlee Holland, and Dr. Janet Wilmoth, "Prognostic Validity of Physician Evaluations of Obesity."

**Roland J. Thorpe, Jr.**, "Weight Fluctuation and Mortality Among Men and Women 45 Years or Older."

Closer to home, the students of the GSO have had other learning opportunities at Westminster Village, a retirement community in West Lafayette. In October, a group of students provided individual help to residents during an Internet tutorial. Residents received help with their personal computers and the students learned a lot about the engaging elders at Westminster.

A highlight of the fall semester for the GSO and Westminster residents alike was the Christmas card event. A study of holiday greetings by our new

## New Graduate Certificate

Purdue University Gerontology Program announces a new educational program for professionals working with older populations. A background in gerontology will be a valuable asset whether your field is pharmacy, nursing, fitness, nutrition, finance, case management, or a host of other disciplines related to aging.

The Graduate Certificate in Gerontology is designed for people who already have a bachelor's degree but are not enrolled in a degree-seeking graduate program.

The Certificate requires a minimum of 10 credit hours from a wide variety of courses in such fields as biology, sociology, health and kinesiology, and family studies. For more information on the Graduate Certificate in



*Purdue doctoral student Melody Phillips assesses 84-year-old Ann Warren of West Lafayette as a potential candidate for a new research study on strength training for senior women. Health, fitness and strength training are portions of the gerontology program's wide-ranging efforts to enhance quality of life and independence in later years. (Purdue News Service Photo by David Umberger)*

Gerontology, contact Dr. Gerry Hyner, Associate Director, 765-494-3151, or [hyner@purdue.edu](mailto:hyner@purdue.edu).

*"If I'd known I was gonna live this long, I'd have taken better care of myself."*

--Eubie Blake

## GSO

*continued from page 1*

faculty associate, Karen Fingerman, found that older adults use the exchange of holiday greetings as a way to stay connected to their personal past, and as a means of staying embedded in family and social circles. Sending and receiving Christmas cards is very important to many elders, but challenging due to arthritic hands. GSO students and members of the Grace United Methodist church youth group, led by graduate student Jori Sechrist, helped residents of Westminster Village address their holiday greeting cards. A great time was had by all, and the residents were able to maintain their traditional contact with friends and family at the holiday season.

## In the News --

In his new book, *When Every Day is Saturday: The Retirement Guide for Boomers*, retired Purdue University administrator Richard E. "Dick" Grace shows how to assess priorities and plan ahead for a happy, meaningful life after the weekly paychecks stop. He says that financial planning for retirement is not the only issue.

The gift of relative freedom in retirement can be used in volunteering or helping others in some capacity. Grace's book is available by calling iUniverse Press at 877-823-9235.

## Aging Exchange

Aging Exchange is a publication of the Gerontology Program at Purdue University. We welcome your input and contributions of news you can use.

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## Gerontology Program Luncheon features guest speaker Michael Murray, Pharm. D., M.P.H. Bucke Professor of Pharmacy Practice

Gerontology Program faculty associates and graduate students will learn more about pharmacy practice with older populations at a luncheon April 18th.

Dr. Michael Murray will speak on improving drug use in older adults with chronic cardiovascular disorders

Michael D. Murray, Pharm. D., M.P.H., is a member of the Purdue Department of Pharmacy Practice, an adjunct professor of medicine at the Indiana University School of Medicine and a scientist at Regenstrief Institute in Indianapolis, where he directs the health data and

epidemiology section.

In 1996 he received the Award for Excellence in Health Science Research from the Indiana Public Health Foundation, and in 1999 he was named a Purdue Faculty Scholar. Murray is a member of the U.S. Pharmacopeia's expert panels on safe medication use and therapeutic decision making. He is a board member of the American Society of Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics and is a former board member of the International Society of Pharmacoepidemiology.



His research involves developing pharmacy services to improve drug therapy in older adults with chronic disorders, pharmacy services research, health care utilization by low-income minority people and pharmacoepidemiology using large population computer databases.

He completed his residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia in 1977 and a fellowship in pharmacoepidemiology at Regenstrief Institute in 1988. He earned his bachelor's degree in pharmacy and doctorate in clinical pharmacy at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh.

The Bucke professorship is named in honor of William S. Bucke, founder of the local company Lafayette Pharmacal Inc. Bucke and his wife, Edith, both deceased, were longtime friends of the School of Pharmacy. One of their larger gifts furnished the outpatient pharmacy in the Heine Pharmacy Building.

### GSO sponsors Careers in Aging Week

On April 10<sup>th</sup>, the Gerontology Student Organization plans to observe Careers in Aging week. This year, Purdue students will be building on the success of last year's panel discussion. There are many different types of professionals working in the field of aging. Some work directly with older adults, while others work on behalf of older adults through education, research, and advocacy.

This year's panel will address the diverse needs of the students and include speakers on (1) recent advances in aging research, (2) hands-on work with older adults, specifically career opportunities in adult day care centers and retirement/assisted living centers, and (3) special interest groups lobbying for the interests of older adults. Specifically, the presenters will discuss the type of work they do, the career opportunities in their field, and the credentials needed to be competitive for those positions, followed by a question and answer period.

Following the panel discussion, attendees will learn about the Careers in Aging website, the Purdue Gerontology Program, the Gerontology Student Organization, AGHE, ASA, NCOA and GSA. The student organization will have resources on-hand to inform students about fellowships offered by GSA and AGHE, as well as information on community involvement projects, such as volunteering at local retirement/assisted living centers.

# GSA Honors Graduate Students

**Congratulations to Roland J. Thorpe, Jr. – Epidemiology, GSA Doctoral Fellow for 2003-04, and his nominating faculty member, Kenneth F. Ferraro.**

The Gerontological Society of America's (GSA) Minority Doctoral Fellowship Program, funded by the AARP Andrus Foundation, provides special opportunities for doctoral level students who have outstanding leadership potential and are committed to research careers in aging. All candidates are required to be enrolled in an accredited doctoral program. Ten fellowships were awarded for the 2002-2003 academic year.

The one-year fellowship experience began by participating in a specially designed, two-day Technical Assistance Workshop, sponsored by the National Institute on Aging (NIA). This workshop is held just prior to GSA's annual conference in the fall.

At the GSA conference, students have an opportunity to enhance their research skills, as well as form networks with renowned researchers and scholars from across the country and world. The conference's program features more than 375 sessions addressing the latest gerontological research across disciplines. In addition, students have many opportunities to socialize with professional colleagues.

As a Doctoral Fellow, a student becomes a member of a prestigious network of gerontological scholars and receives a quarterly newsletter, *Minority Fellows*



*Roland J. Thorpe, Jr., GSA Doctoral Fellow*

*Network*, which provides important information on gerontological research funding and career development opportunities all over the country.

What has the Doctoral Leadership Development Program meant to Purdue's Roland J. Thorpe, Jr.?

*"The Doctoral Leadership Development Program has been a great experience for me. It has allowed me the opportunity not only to meet renowned researchers but also other doctoral students that have research and career interests that are parallel to mine. It was very refreshing to be among the current leaders in the field of Gerontology as well as the future leaders. This program has aligned me with a cohort of individuals that all have a desire to explore the gerontological imagination."*

**Congratulations to Tariqah Nuriddin, Sociology, NIA Master's Level Emerging Scholar, and her nominating faculty member, Kenneth F. Ferraro.**

Over the course of their two-year experience, Scholars have a faculty mentor and a doctoral student from the 2001-2002 AARP Andrus Foundation Minority Doctoral Leadership Program.

Scholars also receive \$2,500 to carry out their individual learning plan for each academic year of the award. During the first year, this includes travel support to GSA's annual conference. In addition, the fellows become a member of a prestigious network of gerontological scholars and receive a quarterly newsletter, *Minority Fellows Network*, along with an opportunity to work at a Gerontological/Geriatric Research Center.

This program is funded by the National Institute on Aging and administered collaboratively by AGHE and GSA.

The NIA Master's Level Emerging Scholars Program is supported by a bequest to the National Institute on Aging. The program goal is to introduce minority master's students to the rewards and demands of a research career in gerontology as well as to increase the number of ethnic minority professionals trained to pursue research careers and positions of leadership in the field of gerontology.

## Salute to Oliver Wendt

The Gerontology Program salutes Oliver Wendt, a graduate teaching assistant in Educational Studies, enrolled in the gerontology minor. Oliver joins select company as a 2002-03 associate fellow of the Purdue University Teaching Academy.

The Teaching Academy honors and supports excellence in teaching. The academy, which was founded in 1997, now has a total of 143 members.

*"Being invited to join the academy is a major honor," said Phillip Wankat, co-chair of the Teaching Academy Executive Council. "Every fall, no more than 16 fellows and associate fellows who have distinguished themselves as exceptional teachers are inducted."*

Each dean can nominate a faculty member to be a fellow and a teaching assistant or teaching staff member to be an associate fellow. From these nominees, up to five fellows and five associate fellows are selected by the Teaching Academy Executive Council.

*"Members of the academy help conduct a number of programs on the West Lafayette campus," said Wankat, Clifton L. Lovell Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering and head of the division of Interdisciplinary Engineering Studies.*

*"The academy sponsors the Faculty Mentoring Network and Conversations About Teaching, and also works with the Committee for the Education of Teaching Assistants and Center for Instructional Excellence to improve teaching on campus."*

## Gerontology Program Grants reap new research funding

Planting seeds—growing research programs. Two faculty associates have recently been awarded grants as a direct result of work they were able to begin with grants from the Gerontology Program. We encourage all faculty to keep apprised of our various funding opportunities as a way to expand research in the field of aging. Congratulations!

**Michael G. Flynn, PhD**, Associate Professor of Kinesiology, received a grant from the American College of Sports Medicine, entitled "Exercise and Cytokine Signaling: Influence of TLR4." The research is a direct offshoot of the work that was supported by a Gerontology Pilot Grant. Professor Flynn also has NIA and American Heart Association grant applications in review and preliminary data generated using Gerontology grant funds was used in each of these submissions.

**Kevin Roy, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Family Studies, has just received word of funding from the National Institute on Child Health and Human Development. His grant application, "Race/Ethnic Variation in Father Involvement Across the Life Course," was prepared in the summer of 2002 with funding from the Gerontology Program's *Faculty Support to Write an Extramural Grant Application*. The broad long-term objective of this proposal is to identify conditions

that lead to the differential involvement of transitory fathers on the margins of work and family. This research is relevant to the health of children and families in that involved fathers can provide resources and social capital to pull children and families out of poverty.

**Janet Wilmoth, PhD**, former Assistant Professor in Sociology and collaborator on the NIA K07 grant, has received funding from the NIH/NIA for her R03 application "Health, Social Support, and Housing Transitions."

Janet reports from her new position in Syracuse, NY, that her association with the Gerontology Program's K07 grant and summer support to write an extramural grant application were invaluable in securing this funding.

The Request for Proposals for *Faculty Support to Write an Extramural Grant Application* goes to all Faculty Associates of the Gerontology Program in the fall semester, with a January submission deadline. Watch for the RFP and be prepared to grow your research program.

## Gerontology Pilot Grant Awarded

Jacqueline Walcott-McQuigg, Associate Professor in the School of Nursing, has been awarded the 2003 Gerontology Pilot Grant, *Faculty Support to Write an Extramural Grant Application*.

Her proposed study will identify differences in environmental and individual factors (barriers, beliefs, attitudes, self-efficacy and experiences overcoming barriers) influencing physical activity in low-income women who are current or recent participants in an exercise scholarship program offered by an exercise facility and low-income women nonparticipants exposed to information about the scholarship program.

The study will use a descriptive design, using naturalistic inquiry and a structured questionnaire, as well as structured interviews and physical measures to evaluate results.

Congratulations to Dr. Walcott-McQuigg!

## New Faculty Associates

We would like to welcome these new faculty associates to the Gerontology Program. **Karen Fingerman**, Berner Hanley Scholar in Gerontology and Associate Professor in Child Development and Family Studies, investigates social and emotional development across adulthood.

**Alan M. Friedman**, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, whose research involves protein structure and function.

**Harm HogenEsch**, Professor and Head of Veterinary Pathobiology, who specializes in pathology, immunology and the effect of aging on the immune system.

**Janie Long**, Assistant Professor of Child Development and Family Studies, a marriage and family therapy specialist investigating Alzheimer's disease, therapy with aging families, friendship networks, and the experience of the person with Alzheimer's.

The Gerontology Program wishes these new associates great success in their endeavors and a successful association with their colleagues in the study of aging.

## Gerontology Program Funding Opportunities

The Gerontology Program has a variety of funding opportunities throughout the year. In 2002-03, the following grants were available to faculty associates.

**Faculty Support to Write an Extramural Grant Application** - RFP in fall semester with January deadline. Awards up to \$6,000 dollars for faculty summer support.

**Research Support Grant** - \$250-\$1000 grants for any research-related support costs, including research assistants, travel and supplies. Deadline is in February.

**Summer Training Grants** - support for researchers to attend summer training programs to increase their skills and expand their methodological expertise with the aim of studying life course inequality. Deadline is early April.

The Gerontology Program received four **Lynn Fellowships** from the Graduate School for 2003-04. The goal for Gerontology Lynn Fellowships is to foster the interdisciplinary study of aging. Deadline is March.

Faculty Associates receive notice of all funding opportunities and are encouraged to take advantage of programs geared for interdisciplinary research.

Watch for RFP notices in 2003-04 and secure an award from the Gerontology Program!

### *Why become a Faculty Associate of the Gerontology Program?*

Faculty Associates meet regularly with colleagues across disciplines to explore opportunities for interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research and teaching. Funding programs, though small, can often provide the jumpstart to research programs that do not easily fit a discipline-specific funding source. To join the ranks, contact Gerontology Program Director, Ken Ferraro via email at [ferraro@soc.purdue.edu](mailto:ferraro@soc.purdue.edu) or call 494-4707.

# Recent Grants and Fellowships

**James Anderson**, Sociology and Anthropology, and S.R. Byrn, Industrial and Physical Pharmacy, from Indiana University, September 30, 2002 through September 29, 2003, "Rural HIV/Aids Prevention and Education," \$55,000

**Wayne Campbell**, Foods and Nutrition, from American Egg Board, July 1, 2002 through July 31, 2004, "Egg Protein Intake, Resistive Exercise Training, and Muscle Size in Older Men," \$197,810

**Michael Flynn**, Health and Kinesiology, from American College of Sports Medicine, July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003, "Exercise and Cytokine Signaling Influence of TLR4," \$15,000

**Michael Flynn**, Health and Kinesiology, **Wayne Campbell**, Foods and Nutrition, B.A. Craig, Statistics, **Harm HogenEsch**, Veterinary Pathobiology, and P.E. Robinson, Basic Medical Sciences, from American Heart Association, January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2004, "Aging, Physical Activity and Toll-Like Receptor 4," \$110,000

**Aditya Mathur**, Computer Science, from National Science Foundation, September 15, 2002 through August 31, 2004, "Industry/University Collaborative: Monitoring and Control of Next Generation Systems," \$25,000

**Michael Murray**, Pharmacy Practice, from Indiana University, September 1, 2000 through August 31, 2003, "Clinical Pharmacology of Loop Diuretics," \$38,342

**Michael Murray**, Pharmacy Practice, from Public Health Service, September 1, 2002 through August 31, 2003, "Improving Medication Use in Patients with Hypertension," \$508,419

**Michael Murray**, Pharmacy Practice, from Brigham and Women's Hospital, September 16, 2002 through August 31, 2003, "Improving Safety by Computerizing Outpatient Prescribing," \$38,494

**Carolyn Perrucci**, Sociology and Anthropology, from Kinley Trust, August 26, 2002 through June 30, 2003, "Race, Class and Gender Inequality in Employment and Retirement Income," \$20,000

**Robert Proctor**, Psychological Sciences, and D.F. Pick, Behavioral Sciences-Calumet Campus, from Public Health Service, September 30, 2002 through August 31, 2003, "Response Selection as a Function of Age," \$75,000

"What nobler employment, or more valuable to the state, than that of the man who instructs the rising generation?"

-- CICERO

**Shirley Rietdyk** and W.L. McGlothlin, Health and Kinesiology, from University of Cincinnati, July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003, "How Is Postural Stability Affected by Age and Manual Materials Handling in the Occupational Environment?," \$5,025

F.S. Rosenthal, G.P. Carlson, **James McGlothlin**, and N.J. Zimmerman, Health Sciences, from PHS-Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, July 1, 2002 through June 20, 2003, "Occupational Safety and Health Training Grant," \$70,709

A.E. Rundell, Biomedical Engineering, **Harm HogenEsch**, Veterinary Pathobiology, and T.J. Webster, Biomedical Engineering, from Air Force Research Laboratory, June 13, 2001 through June 12, 2004, "Optimizing the Immune-Surface Characteristics for Biosensors and Filters through Modeling and Experiments," \$216,068

**Laura Sands**, Nursing, from Institute on Aging, October 1, 2002 through December 31, 2003, "Evaluating Outcomes of Adult Day Services," \$30,000

**Laura Sands**, Nursing, from Department of Veterans Affairs, October 1, 2002 through September 30, 2003, "Evaluation of Phone Mail Care System for Homeless Veterans," \$14,000

**David Waters**, Veterinary Clinical Sciences, and **Lawrence Glickman**, Veterinary Pathobiology, from Army Medical Research and Material Command, April 1, 2001 through March 31, 2003, "Effect of Selenium Supplementation on Molecular Biomarkers of Carcinogenesis in the Aged Dog Prostate," \$1,800

**Janet Wilmoth**, Sociology and Anthropology, from Public Health Service, September 30, 2002 through August 31, 2003, "Health, Social Support and Housing Transitions," \$75,000

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## Aging Exchange

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### Fall 2003 Gerontology Courses Offered

#### *Primary Content*

Course	Title	Credits	Schedule	Professor
HPER 590M	Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Aging	3	TTh 3:00-4:15	Flynn
PSY 537	Family in Adulthood	3	TTh 1:30-2:45	Cicirelli
PSY 660	Cognitive Functioning in Older Adults	3	TTh 3:00-4:15	Cicirelli
AUS 519B	Aging/Communication	2	TTh 1:30-3:20 (Aug 25 – Oct 1)	Ringel

#### *Related Content*

Course	Title	Credits	Schedule	Professor
AUS 540	Augmentative and Alternative Communication (EDPS 562)	3	TTh 4:30-5:45	Lloyd
BIOL 559	Endocrinology	3	TTh 1:30-2:45	Anderson
CSR 631	Consumer Behavior Theory	3	Th 6:00-8:50	Liu
EDPS 562	Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AUS 540)	3	TTh 4:30-5:45	Lloyd