

# Aging Exchange

News about the study of aging at Purdue University

Fall 2000

## Gerontology Professorship

William and Sally Hanley recently gave the School of Consumer and Family Sciences more than \$1 million to fund a faculty position in gerontology. Named the William and Sally Berner Hanley Professor of Gerontology, the position should be appointed by fall 2001. Sally is a 1961 home economics and child development graduate, and William is a 1960 industrial management graduate.

"I particularly wanted to do this in honor of my wife because of her support and work for the elderly," William Hanley said. "Sally has a natural affinity for older people. She's been a volunteer with Meals on Wheels, both as a coordinator and a driver to take meals to older people. We decided that this is something we both want to do for Purdue."

The Omaha, Nebraska couple understands the need for a gerontology professorship. "We'd like this gift to teach others about how to help the elderly live healthier and more fulfilling lives, and hopefully inspire others to give," Sally Hanley said.

Nomination and applications should be directed to: Douglas Sprenkle, Department of Child Development and Family Studies, FWLR. ([sprenkled@cfs.purdue.edu](mailto:sprenkled@cfs.purdue.edu))

## New Faculty Associates

We would like to welcome several new faculty associates to the Gerontology Program. They are:

- X **Wayne Campbell**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Foods and Nutrition
- X **Nancy Crigger**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Nursing
- X **James Fleet**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Foods and Nutrition
- X **Kevin Hannon**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Basic Medical Sciences
- X **Elizabeth Kiss**, M.S., Instructor of Consumer Sciences and Retailing
- X **Harry Morrison**, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry and Dean of the School of Science
- X **Timothy Owens**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology
- X **Robert Proctor**, Ph.D., Professor of Psychological Sciences
- X **Shirley Rietdyk**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Health, Kinesiology, and Leisure Studies
- X **Eileen Rossen**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Nursing
- X **Heather Servaty**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Educational Studies

## Symposium

### *Mechanisms and Consequences of Aging*

**April 5, 2001  
Purdue University**

The symposium will focus on biological mechanisms of aging and feature Purdue researchers and several invited speakers. Please mark your calendars. Confirmed speakers include:

- Frank Bellino, Ph.D., Biology of Aging Program, National Institute on Aging, Bethesda
- Robert Floyd, Ph.D., Head, Free Radical Biology and Aging Research Program, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Oklahoma City
- Leonard Hayflick, Ph.D., Professor, School of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco
- Arlan Richardson, Ph.D., Professor, University of Texas San Antonio Health Sciences Center
- David Waters, D.V.M., Ph.D., Associate Professor, Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Purdue University

## Transitions

**Dr. Randall Gretebeck**, Foods and Nutrition, is now at Wayne State University in the Division of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. **Dr. Amy Wohlert**, Audiology and Speech Sciences, left Purdue to become the Chair of the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at the University of New Mexico.

**Dr. Aimee Surprenant**, Psychological Sciences, and **Dr. Ruth Wukasch**, Nursing, were promoted to Associate Professor. **Dr. Lisa X. Xu**, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering, received tenure.

**Dr. Connie Weaver**, Foods and Nutrition, was awarded a distinguished professorship by the Purdue University Board of Trustees on June 1, 2000.

**Dr. Ann Hunt**, Professor of Nursing, has retired. **Ahmad Othman** was a May 2000 Ph.D. graduate in Health, Kinesiology, and Leisure Studies. **Stephen Owens**, Psychology, graduated in August 2000 and is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow in Clinical and

Health Psychology at the University of Florida. **Jody Wilkinson** received her Ph.D. in Sociology and Anthropology at the August 2000 commencement and is living in Tucson, Arizona.

### Early Detection of Alzheimer's

The brains of people with a genetic risk for Alzheimer's have to work harder than normal to perform simple memory tasks long before any outward symptoms of the disease develop, a University of California study suggests.

The findings suggest that the measuring technique used in the study could develop into a kind of mental stress test for early detection of Alzheimer's, much like treadmill tests for heart abnormalities.

Zaven Khachaturian, former director of the Alzheimer's Research Office at the National Institutes of Health, said the study is exciting because it bolsters hope of identifying patients who could benefit from early drug treatment.

"There's something wrong already, but you can't see it clinically," he said.

The study was conducted by scientists at the University of California at Los Angeles and was published in the August 17, 2000 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. They recruited 30 people ages 47 to 82, all of whom had tested normal on conventional memory tests.

They were checked for APOE E4 allele, a gene variant already known to be associated with Alzheimer's. Then their brains were scanned with magnetic resonance imaging while they recalled words memorized from a list.

Those with the Alzheimer's gene produced scan signals that were about twice as strong and more widespread than those of other participants. The magnetic signals indicate greater blood flow—and thus greater mental effort—in regions of the brain near the temple and forehead, the researchers say. [Jeff Donn, The Associated Press, *Journal and Courier*, August 17, 2000.]

### Recent Grants

P.L. Ziemer, D.M. Abraham, **Dr. Carl Botan**, Communication, and **Dr. James McGlothlin**, Health Sciences, from Argonne National Laboratory, February 15, 2000 through September 30, 2000, "Technical support services for risk related material."

**Dr. Sharon DeVaney**, Consumer Sciences and Retailing, from United States Department of Agriculture, CSREES, September 1, 2000 through August 31, 2001, "Retirement and estate planning for farm families."

**Dr. Sharon DeVaney**, Consumer Sciences and Retailing, and W. Bailey, from National Endowment for Financial Education, September 1, 2000 through August 31, 2001, "Understanding retirement and

estate planning by farm families."

**Dr. Kenneth Ferraro**, Sociology and Anthropology, and S.F. Badylak, from Public Health Service, July 1, 2000 through October 31, 2000, "Panel study of aging, BMI and health among men and women."

**Dr. James McGlothlin**, Health Sciences, from Eli Lilly and Company, November 15, 1999 through September 1, 2000, "An ergonomics program to reduce musculoskeletal injuries and illnesses among operators at the Lilly Technology Center, North."

**Dr. James McGlothlin**, Health Sciences, from University of Cincinnati, February 1, 2000 through June 30, 2000, "The development assembly, and pilot testing of a video exposure assessment system."

**Dr. Shelley MacDermid**, Child Development and Family Studies, from Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, August 1, 2000 through July 31, 2003, "Understanding the first job."

**Dr. Dorothy Morré**, Foods and Nutrition, and D.J. Morre, from Pharmanex, April 1, 2000 through March 31, 2001, "tNox-A tea catechin and coenzyme Q target."

**Dr. Kevin Sowinski**, Pharmacy Practice, from Geltex Pharmaceuticals, July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2002, "Fluoroquinolone bioavailability when co-administered with RenaGel."

**Dr. Kevin Sowinski**, Pharmacy Practice, from American College of Clinical Pharmacy Research Institute, Aventis Pharmaceuticals Research Fellowship, July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2002, "Gender differences in the relationship between levofloxacin Vss and body weight."

**Dr. Kevin Sowinski**, Pharmacy Practice, from Bristol Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals, July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2002, "Effect of enteral feeding products on gatifloxacin pharmacokinetics."

**Dr. Aimee Surprenant**, Psychological Sciences, from National Science Foundation, July 15, 2000 through December 31, 2001, "Memory for words in noise."

M.A. Green, P.S. Low, and **Dr. David Waters**, Veterinary Clinical Sciences, from Public Health Service, March 7, 2000 through February 28, 2001, "Radiopharmaceuticals targeted to tumor folate receptors."

**Dr. David Waters**, Veterinary Clinical Sciences, L.T. Glickman, and D.W. Knapp, from the Iams Company, January 1, 1999 through December 31, 2003, "Aging and chemoprevention research initiative."

J.P. Gore, I. Mudawar, R. Singh, J.E. Sojka, and **Dr. Lisa Xuemin Xu**, Mechanical Engineering, from 21<sup>st</sup> Century Research and Technology Fund, January 10, 2000 through January 9, 2002, "21<sup>st</sup> Century infrared sensing for safety and quality in biomedical, food, environmental & manufacturing applications."

**Purdue Research Foundation Awards**

**Dr. Sharon DeVaney**, Consumer Sciences and Retailing, "Small business owners, human capital, and planning for the future"

**Dr. Michael Flynn**, Health, Kinesiology, and Leisure Studies, "Cytokine production following high intensity resistance exercise in women aged 69-89"

**Dr. George McCabe**, Statistics, "Statistical problems related to nutrient requirements"

**Dr. Nicholas Popovich**, Pharmacy Practice, "Development and validation of an instrument to assess the self-confidence of students enrolled in the advanced pharmacy practice experience component of the Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum"

**International Travel Grants**

**Dr. Carol Baird**, Nursing, "6<sup>th</sup> International Self-Care Deficit Nursing Theory Conference," Bangkok, Thailand

**Dr. Sharon DeVaney**, Consumer Sciences and Retailing, "International Society of Quality of Life Studies," Gerona, Spain

**Dr. Ronald Johnson**, Educational Studies, "XXVII International Congress of Psychology," Stockholm, Sweden

**Dr. Robert Proctor**, Psychological Sciences, "Attention and Performance XIX," Kloster Irsee, Germany

**2000-2001 Freshman Class**

Each year Beloit College in Wisconsin compiles a list to try to sensitize faculty to the mindset of that year's incoming freshmen. Here is a sampling of this year's list:

- Most were born in 1982.
- They have no meaningful recollection of the Reagan Era.  
Where's the beef?  
I'd walk a mile for a Camel, or  
De plane, de plane.
- Kansas, Chicago, Boston, America, and Alabama are places, not groups.
- The Vietnam War is history to them much like WWI, WWII and the Civil War.
- They are too young to remember the space shuttle blowing up.

**Aging and Disabilities Services**

Family Services, Inc. assists elderly disabled individuals to remain safely in their own homes by providing homecare services to frail adults who are at risk of premature placement in nursing homes or a loss of independence. Clients receive help with basic needs through regular visits by trained homemakers who assist with cleaning, laundry, meal preparation, and shopping. "I have grown to have more respect for the elderly and what their needs are," said one homemaker assistant.

Public funding comes from Medicaid and Area IV Agency on Aging and Community Services. Contributions, especially from United Way of Tippecanoe County, make it possible to offer services on a sliding fee scale to those not eligible for government funding.

Through AmeriCorps/TippeCorps the homecare program has been expanded. AmeriCorps is a national service program that provides a small living stipend and an education award in exchange for a year or two of community service. TippeCorps is an extension of AmeriCorps that focuses on homemaking assistance, especially for the elderly and disabled, and offers students about \$13,000 per year for participation.

There is a waiting list for elderly people who want homemaking services. For more information about TippeCorps, call Family Services at 423-5361 or 800-875-5361 and ask for Joe Hemersbach.

**AFAR Grant Announcement**

The American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) is now accepting applications for its 2001 Grant Programs.

AFAR is a leading, national nonprofit organization, dedicated to supporting biomedical aging research. In 2001, AFAR will award more than \$9 million to some 200 talented junior faculty, fellows and students.

**AFAR Research Grants**

AFAR provides up to \$50,000 for a one- to two-year award to junior faculty (M.D.'s and Ph.D.'s) to do research that will serve as the basis for longer term research efforts. AFAR-supported investigators study a broad range of biomedical and clinical topics. Since 1981, over 500 AFAR Research Grants have been awarded. In addition, AFAR will offer eight \$25,000 awards for postdoctoral fellows. Deadline for receipt of application is December 15, 2000.

**AFAR/Pfizer Research Grants in Hormones and Aging**

This program was created to address specific areas of research that focus on age-related research. The focus of the 2001 program will be on hormones and aging. Projects may involve basic, clinical or epidemiological research. It is anticipated that 4 grants of up to \$50,000 will be awarded in 2001. Preference will be given to candidates in the first or second year of a junior faculty appointment. The deadline for receipt of application is December 15, 2000.

Application materials can be obtained by contacting: AFAR, 1414 Avenue of the Americas, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10019; telephone: (212) 752-2327; fax: (212) 832-2298; e-mail: amfedaging@aol.com; [www.afar.org](http://www.afar.org).

---

**Graduate Courses in Gerontology at Purdue, Spring, 2001**
**Primary Content**

CDFS	650	Seminar in Family Gerontology (3 cr.), Prof. Usita	T 12:30-3:20
F&N	580	Geriatric Nutrition (2 cr.), Prof. Morr�	MW 8:30
PSY	535	Psychology of Death and Dying (3 cr.), Prof. Cicirelli	TTh 3:00-4:15
PSY	660	Cognitive Functioning in Older Adults (3 cr.), Prof. Cicirelli	TTh 9:00-10:15
SOC	609A	Sociology of Aging (3 cr.), Prof. Wilmoth	T 6:00-9:00

**Related but not primary content**

AUS	531	Language Disorders in Adults (3 cr.), Prof. Weber-Fox	MWF 1:30
AUS	538	Motor Disorders of Speech (2 cr.), Prof. Neel	MW 4:30-6:20 Jan 8-Mar 4
BIOL	562	Neural Systems (3 cr.), Profs. Meisel & Sahley [PSY 512]	MWF 12:30
CDFS	502	Survey of Human Development (3 cr.), Prof. Calahan [PSY 502]	T 6:00-8:50
CSR	690T	Multicultural Marketing (3 cr.), Prof. Snuggs	TTh 1:30-2:45
PSY	502	Survey of Human Development (3 cr.), Prof. Calahan [CDFS 502]	T 6:00-8:50
PSY	512	Neural Systems (3 cr.), Profs. Meisel & Sahley [BIOL 562]	MWF 12:30
PSY	553	Development in the Adult Years (3 cr.), Prof. Cicirelli	TTh 12:00-1:15

The *Aging Exchange* is developed by Ken Ferraro and Marilyn McCammack of the Gerontology Program. We welcome your suggestions for enhancing the *Aging Exchange* to better serve you. Please submit news items to Marilyn McCammack, Gerontology Program, Stone Hall [E-mail: [gero@cfs.purdue.edu](mailto:gero@cfs.purdue.edu)]. Visit Purdue's gerontology home page [<http://omni.cc.purdue.edu/~geron/>]

**Volume 10, issue 1**

*Forty is the old age of youth; fifty is the youth of old age.*  
Victor M. Hugo