

Aging Exchange

News about the study of aging at Purdue University

Fall, 1997

Awards and Honors

Ann Hunt, Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing, received the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award in Memory of Charles B. Murphy.

Nicholas Popovich, Professor of Pharmacy Practice, was awarded the School of Pharmacy and Pharmacal Sciences Professor Henry W. Heine Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Transitions

Nancy Edwards, the first person to earn the gerontology minor at Purdue University has joined the faculty as an assistant professor of nursing. (Nancy's research interests were highlighted in the Spring issue of the *Aging Exchange*.)

Paula Usita has joined the faculty of Child Development and Family Studies as an assistant professor. She earned the Ph.D. from Virginia Tech and specializes in parent-child relations, family diversity, and educational gerontology.

Priya Rajagopalan is Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics in the School of Management. She received the Ph.D. from Wayne State University and specializes in health economics, public finance, and asset accumulation over the life course.

Sowinski Attends NIA Workshop

Kevin Sowinski, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, attended the 1997 National Institutes on Aging's (NIA), Summer Institute on Aging Research. The institute is an intensive week-long workshop for *new* investigators, which focuses on current issues, research methodologies and funding opportunities related to research in aging. The Summer Institute is

held annually during July and is sponsored by The Brookdale Foundation and the NIA and located at The Airlie Conference Center in Airlie, Virginia. A typical day at the Summer Institute begins at 7:30 A.M. with breakfast and ends at approximately 9:00 P.M., after the final small group discussion of the day. All meals, travel and accommodations are provided by the sponsors of the conference.

The Summer Institute included lectures, seminars and small-group discussions on research design relative to aging. This includes, but is not limited to discussions regarding aging research in racial and ethnic minorities and women's health issues related to aging. The 1997 program included lectures on: research programs and priorities of the NIA, The Brookdale Fellowship Program, methodologic aspects of aging research, Alzheimer's disease, cognitive aging, caregiving research, cellular aging, aging genetics, cardiovascular aging, pharmacoepidemiology, osteoporosis, exercise intervention, cancer research, subject recruitment and NIA support mechanisms and application processes. The Summer Institute faculty consisted of clinicians, extramural and intramural researchers and NIA staff. As illustrated by the topics presented, the presentations covered a very diverse set of topics and thus provided excellent exposure to areas nearly all areas of aging research.

Another valuable experience during the Summer Institute was the small-group discussion sessions held during the evening hours. These sessions were led by the faculty who lectured that day as well as members of the NIA's four extramural programs: Biology of Aging Program, Behavioral and Social Research Program, Neuroscience and Neuropsychology of Aging Program and Geriatrics Program. Typically these sessions focused on presentations of research ideas and protocols by

Summer Institute participants. These discussions were valuable in that they provided ideas from Summer Institute faculty and participants regarding research protocol refinement.

Finally, probably the most valuable experience during the conference was the mock study section. Conference participants were divided into four groups and given an actual NIA grant application submission from a previous year. On the last day of the conference each group participated in a mock study section review of their grant. Groups received feedback from the Summer Institute faculty and participants and learned how their evaluation of the grant compared to that of the actual NIH study section review. This exercise provided much insight into the NIH review process.

The participants at the Summer Institutes come from biologic, clinical, behavioral and social science disciplines. A doctoral degree in any of these disciplines and *less than three years of post-doctoral experience* is necessary to be eligible to apply for the Summer Institute. Next year's Summer Institute will be held from July 18-24 in Airlie, Virginia. Sowinski felt the experience was superb: "the Summer Institute was extremely beneficial in expanding my understanding of issues in aging research and NIA research priorities and mechanisms of funding. I would highly recommend that young investigators with an interest in aging research apply to future Summer Institutes."

Aging ArtNet

Anne Eldredge Harris has an intriguing art site at ArtNet. The site contains her series, "Experiencing Old Age." The URL is: <http://www.art.net/Studios/Visual/Anne/home.htm>

Anne is an 83 year old artist who has worked in a number of different media for the past 60 years. The work has attracted a great deal of interest from gerontological and elder care communities.

Anne does all of her computer art using the mouse as the input device.

NIH Announces New Criteria for Reviewing Unsolicited Applications

Researchers submitting unsolicited research project grant applications to the National Institutes of Health will have a new set of review criteria. The new criteria apply to R01, R29 and P01 applications submitted after September, 1997.

Five Review Criteria Areas

Significance: Does this study address an important problem? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts or methods that drive this field?

Approach: Are the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses adequately developed, well-integrated and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?

Innovation: Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches, or methods? Are the aims original and innovative? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies?

Investigator: Is the investigator appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers (if any)?

Environment: Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed experiments take advantage of unique features of the scientific environment or employ useful collaborative arrangements? Is there evidence of institutional support?

New Books

New books by gerontology faculty include:

Gerontology: Perspectives and Issues, edited by **Kenneth F. Ferraro**, 1997, Springer.

The Laboratory Rabbit by **Mark A. Suckow** and Fred A. Douglas, 1997, CRC Press.

Longevity Research

We draw to your attention a recently published article by three members of Purdue University's School of Veterinary Medicine: Gary J. Patronek, **David J. Waters**, and Lawrence T. Glickman, 1997. "Comparative Longevity of Pet Dogs and Humans: Implications for Gerontology Research," *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* 524:B171-B178.

Graduate Courses in Gerontology at Purdue, Spring, 1998

(please post)

Primary Content

F&N 580	Geriatric Nutrition (2 cr.), Prof. Morré	MW 8:30-9:20
PSY 678P	Seminar in Clinical Geropsychology (2 cr.), Prof. Swensen	Arrange
PSY 679E	Clinical Gerontological Practicum (1-6 cr.), Prof. Swensen	W 10:30-12:20

Related but not primary content

AUS 519A	Augment. & Alter. Com. Assess. (2-3 cr.), Prof. L. Lloyd	M 4:00-5:50
AUS 531	Language Disorders in Adults (3 cr.), Prof. Wohlert	TTh 1:30-2:45
AUS 538	Motor Disorders of Speech (2 cr.), Prof. Hammen	MF 10:30-11:20
CDFS 502	Survey of Human Development (3 cr.), Prof. Frazier	W 6:00-9:00
PSY 502	Survey of Human Development (3 cr.), Prof. Frazier	W 6:00-9:00
SOC 475	Social Gerontology (3 cr.), Prof. Wilmoth	MWF 10:30-11:20
SOC 574	Social Organization of Health Care (3 cr.), Prof. Anderson	TTh 12:00-1:15
SOC 674	Seminar in Medical Sociology (2-3 cr.), Prof. Ferraro	Th 3:00-4:15

Age

*Age is a quality of mind
 If you have left your dreams behind,
 If hope is lost
 If you no longer look ahead
 If ambition's fires are dead--
 Then you are old.
 Cecilia Payne Grove
 (1889-1990)*

The *Aging Exchange* is developed by Ken Ferraro and Marilyn McCammack of the Gerontology Program with the assistance of the Division of Sponsored Programs. This publication is distributed to faculty on the DSP keyword listing for "aging and gerontology" and is intended to foster communication among Purdue faculty, staff, and graduate students interested in the study of aging. We welcome your suggestions for enhancing the *Aging Exchange* to better serve Purdue. Please submit news items to Ferraro, Sociology, Stone Hall [E-mail: ferraro@sri.soc.purdue.edu]. Visit Purdue's gerontology home page [<http://omni.cc.purdue.edu/~geron/>]