

Phase II: Gerontology Comes of Age

The Gerontology Program is pleased to announce reception of an Academic Reinvestment Award to strengthen its research and educational initiatives. Administered by the Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Academic Reinvestment Program is designed to develop centers of excellence at Purdue University.

Several departments and schools are also providing support for Phase II, including, but not limited to, the Schools of Liberal Arts and Veterinary Medicine and the Departments of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Sociology and Anthropology, Foods and Nutrition, Health, Kinesiology, and Leisure Studies, and Consumer Sciences and Retailing.

Objectives of Phase II

One of our main goals is to strengthen research on aging at Purdue University. Our university is home to a number of established scholars on aging and currently over \$1 million dollars of extramural research support. We want to increase the amount of extramural research support as well as the number of investigators studying aging. While the budget of the National Institutes of Health should increase in the next several years, the National Institute on Aging (NIA) anticipates increasing its budget by approximately 50% or more during the next 5 years.

Research on aging is undertaken by faculty in many different departments at Purdue, but we want to target research in the physical and health sciences and engineering during Phase II. We welcome investigators from any discipline. The issues to be studied are unlimited, but include such diverse topics as the aging of red blood cells, biomedical engineering for older patients, auditory loss in later life, and cancer prevention in adulthood.

As an indication of our commitment to strengthening this research arena, we have named Dr. David Waters as our Associate Director for Biological and Medical Sciences. Dr. Waters, Associate Professor of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, is well known for his research on prostate cancer. He is especially interested in animal models of the aging process and is convening a core research group on aging and cancer chemoprevention. Dr. Waters will also be offering a new course in the Biology of Aging (Spring, 1999).

The second major objectives of Phase II is to enhance the educational experience of students

enrolled in the graduate minor in gerontology. To that end, we are pleased to announce that Dr. Gerald Hyner, Professor of Health Promotion, will assume the role of Associate Director for Graduate and Community Education. While Dr. Hyner will coordinate student recruiting and advising, he also brings a wealth of research and intervention expertise to our program. He will also work to enhance relations with state and local community agencies serving older adults and organize appropriate internship sites for our graduate students. Students interested in the gerontology minor should contact Dr. Hyner (hyner@purdue.edu) or visit our web site (<http://omni.cc.purdue.edu/~geron/>).

Recent Research Grants

Dr. Sharon DeVaney, Consumer Sciences and Retailing, received funding from the AARP Andrus Foundation for research entitled "Financial Preparation for retirement: A comparison of self-employed and wage-and-salary workers" for 1999-2000.

Dr. Kenneth Ferraro, Sociology and Director of the Gerontology Program, received funding for an interdisciplinary project entitled "Panel study of aging, body mass index, and health." The project, funded by the National Institute on Aging, is for the period July, 1998-October, 2000. Collaborators include David R. Black, Stephen Badylak, and **Randall Gretebeck**.

"Social ecological influences on immigrant women's lives" by **Dr. Paula Usita**, Child Development and Family Studies, was funded by the National Institutes of Health (National Institute on Aging) for one year, September, 1998-September, 1999.

Dr. David Waters, Veterinary Clinical Sciences, received two grants, one from the Department and Defense and another from the American Cancer Society. The Department of Defense grant entitled "*In vivo* testing of chemopreventive agents using the dog model of spontaneous prostate carcinogenesis" is for the period October, 1998-March, 2001. "Epidemiology of prostatic intraepithelial neoplasia and carcinoma in pet dogs" was funded by the American Cancer Society for a period of three years beginning January 1998.

Gerontological Society of America

Several gerontology faculty and graduate students attended the 51st annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America meeting held in Philadelphia on November 20-24.

Authors and titles of presentations were: **Dr. Victor Cicirelli**, **Peter MacLean** (Psychological Sciences) and Lisa Cox, "Elder's end-of-life decisions: A comparison of two studies"; **Ya-ping Su** (Sociology) and **Dr. Sharon DeVaney** (Consumer Sciences and Retailing), "Pre-retirees without health insurance: Self-employed vs. wage-workers"; **Dr. Kenneth Ferraro** (Sociology) and Jessica Kelley-Moore, "Aging and religious consolation among men and women: Health and situational antecedents"; **Dr. David Waters** (Veterinary Clinical Sciences), Dawn Cooley, Douglas Allen, Nita Glickman, and Lawrence Glickman, "Host age influences the biological behavior of cancer: Studies in pet dogs with naturally occurring malignancies"; **Dr. Janet Wilmoth** (Sociology), "Marital dissolution, remarriage, and pre-retirement wealth"; **Jody Wilkinson** (Sociology) and **Dr. Janet Wilmoth**, "Household composition and labor force participation among unmarried women." **Dr. Dena Targ** (Child Development and Family Studies) coauthored two presentations as part of a symposium entitled "Innovative Strategies for Outreach and Education of Grandparent Caregivers and Practitioners Who Serve Them." The titles of Dr. Targ's presentations were "Developing an inventory of educational resources on grandparents raising grandchildren: A national collaboration" and "Grandparents acting as parents: Disseminating information through high-tech methods."

Article Awards

The Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. (CFP Board) recently awarded two Article Awards to **Dr. Sharon DeVaney**, Consumer Sciences and Retailing, and **Ya-ping Su**, Sociology and Anthropology. A total of 125 articles were received and reviewed by the CFP Board of Examiners in three categories: academic journals, professional and trade publications, and consumer publications. Eight articles were selected as winners. The only two winning entries in the academic journals category, "Factors predicting the most important source of retirement income" published in the Fall 1997 issue of *Compensation and Working Conditions* and "Retirement savings of nonfarm self-employed workers: An explanatory study" published in the *Consumer Interests Annual*, Volume 43, were submitted by Dr. DeVaney and Ya-ping Su.

Travel Award

Jody Wilkinson, Sociology and Anthropology, was selected to receive the A.H. Ismail Interdisciplinary Program Doctoral Research Travel Award. Jody competed with thirty-one nominees from a wide range of interdisciplinary programs. She used this award to attend the Gerontological Society of America meeting.

Special Initiatives Fellowship

Stephen Owens, graduate student in the Department of Psychological Sciences, was awarded the Special Initiatives Fellowship: Health and Effective Functioning in Middle and Later Life: Examining Differences by Gender and/or Ethnicity for 1998-1999. The title of his research project is "The effects of dementing and nondementing illnesses on long-term marital relationships." This proposal was chosen from four applications by a committee of five faculty representatives of the Gerontology Program.

Transitions

Dr. R. Colleen DeTurk, Nursing, **Dr. Gong-Soog Hong**, Consumer Sciences and Retailing, **Dr. Amy Wohlert**, Audiology and Speech Sciences, were promoted to Associate Professor. Congratulations!

NIH Established New Inclusion Policy on Children

The National Institute of Health (NIH) has announced in the March 6 issue of the *NIH Guide to Grants and Contracts*, a new policy in which research investigators must include children in all NIH-supported research involving human subjects. The agency requires all initial applications and intramural projects submitted to NIH for receipt dates after October 1, 1998, to conform with this new policy unless there are scientific or ethical reasons children should not be included.

Investigators must include in their research plan a section entitled "Participation of Children." This section should describe the plans for including children in the research and an explanation of choosing children of a particular age range. If children are to be excluded from the research, then an explanation of the reason(s) need to be stated.

Also as part of this section, explanations should be given of the ability of the investigators to deal with children at the ages included in the study, the suitability of the facilities in which the study will be conducted, and that the number of children chosen for the study will be sufficient to give a meaningful analysis.

Justifications for Exclusion

Children are to be included in all research that involves human subjects except when one of the following reasons for exclusion can be justified:

- 1) Children will not benefit from the research;
- 2) There are laws preventing children from being used in the research;
- 3) Knowledge has already been obtained from previous research or another ongoing study will make this study redundant;
- 4) A separate age-specific study in children would

be preferable;

5) Insufficient data are available in adults to judge whether a study on children would be safe; or

6) Study designs aimed at collecting additional data on pre-enrolled adult study participants.

For more information on this new policy, see the NIH Policy and Guidelines on the Inclusion of “Children as Participants in Research Involving Human Subjects” at:

<http://www.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/not98-024.html>.

Biology of Aging (VCS 602), 1.0 credit

Spring 1999

Dr. Waters

Mon and/or Wed 4-5PM lecture, 4-6PM for discussion sessions

Week

1. Definitions and Theories of Aging
2. Cellular Senescence and Cellular Models of Aging
3. Genetics vs. Environment: Insights from The Youngest and Oldest Old
4. Genetics vs. Environment: Data from Organismal Models
5. Discussion I
6. Immunology and Endocrinology of Aging
7. Rusting Out: The Oxidative Damage Hypothesis
8. Aging and Cancer
9. Caloric Restriction and Aging
10. Discussion II
11. Neurobiology of Aging
12. Musculoskeletal System and Aging
13. Other Models: Mammals, Birds and Organisms with Negligible Senescence
14. Discussion III
15. Wrap Up

The goal of this graduate level course is to provide students with an overview of prevailing theories, experimental data, and human observations pertinent to the biology of aging. One hour lectures will address specific topics including cellular models of aging, response of different organ systems to aging, and the relationship between aging, cancer risk and prognosis. In addition to these lectures, there will be three (3) 2 hour discussion sections. Key papers from the literature will be distributed to students 2-3 weeks prior to each discussion section. Discussion of these papers will emphasize important points previously introduced in the lectures. Students will be evaluated based upon their lecture attendance, active participation in discussion sections, and their performance on a final examination. The decision to have a mid-term examination will be based upon the consensus of students.

This represents the first offering of this course. There are no prerequisite courses and the course is not restricted to students who are concentrating in the life sciences. Interested students should contact Dr. Waters at 4-9271 for further information.

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]. Visit Purdue's gerontology home page [<http://omni.cc.purdue.edu/~geron/>]

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Graduate Courses in Gerontology at Purdue, Spring, 1999
Primary Content

CDFS 650	Seminar in Family Gerontology (3 cr.), Prof. Usita	W 11:30-2:20
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 678P	Seminar in Clinical Geropsychology (2 cr.), Prof. Swensen	Arrange
PSY 679E	Clinical Gerontological Practicum (1-6 cr.), Prof. Swensen	Arrange
VCS 602	Biology of Aging (1 cr.), Prof. Waters	M and/or W 4:00-5:00 Discussion 4:00-6:00

Related but not primary content

AUS 531	Language Disorders in Adults (3 cr.), Prof. Wohlert	MWF 1:30
AUS 538	Motor Disorders of Speech (2 cr.), Prof. Hammen	MF 9:30-11:20 Jan 11-March 7
BIOL 466	Developmental Biology (3 cr.), Prof. Iten	TTh 2:30
BIOL 466L	Developmental Biology Laboratory (0 cr.), Prof. Iten	TTh 3:30-5:20
BIOL 562	Neural Systems (3 cr.), Prof. Meiser	MWF 12:30
CDFS 502	Survey of Human Development (3 cr.), Prof. Frazier	T 6:30-9:20
PSY 502	Survey of Human Development (3 cr.), Prof. Frazier	T 6:30-9:20
PSY 512	Neural Systems (3 cr.), Prof. Meiser	MWF 12:30
PSY 553	Development in the Adult Years (3 cr.), Prof. Cicirelli	TTh 12:00-1:15
SOC 574	Social Organization of Health Care (3 cr.), Prof. Anderson	TTh 12:00-1:15
