

Aging Exchange

News about the study of aging at Purdue University

Spring 2002

The Purdue Adult Health & Development Program: Intergenerational Service Learning

Using a modified version of a program at the University of Maryland, the Purdue Adult Health & Development Program is in its second year of operation. The purpose of the course (HPER 490S) and program is to offer training to students regarding gerontological health and well-being followed by practical application by working on a one-to-one basis with older adult members from the community to positively affect their health and well being.

The goal of the Adult Health & Development Program is to spur *intergenerational interaction* that will positively affect the health, sense of well-being, and health knowledge of the older adult "partner", enabling him/her to gain a greater control over their health and well-being. At the same time, each student learns about aging, history and different generations/cultures in their environment from the perspective of an older person.

During the first half of the semester, student staffers meet two hours a week in class to discuss readings and be trained to work with their older adult community member. Students also work at least one hour outside of class on project development for program activities with their "members" later in the semester.

During the second half of the semester, students meet one hour a week with their adult member in a variety of activities designed to stimulate healthy living (i.e., physical, social, and health education activities). To date, these have included:

- health/fitness assessments
- exercise activities in the A. H. Ismail Center
- education regarding recovery from falls
- stress management techniques
- monitoring fluid intake
- mindfulness meditation.

Although each of these activities is helpful for a healthy lifestyle, past participants were enthusiastic about completing them in an intergenerational context. For additional information, contact Dr. Seehafer (494-3159).

Internet Tutorial for Senior Adults April 13, 2002

The Gerontology Student Organization (GSO) is hosting an Internet tutorial for older

adults on Saturday morning, April 13, 2002 at Purdue University from 9 to 11 AM. Adults over the age of 65 are the fastest growing group of Internet users. However, many older adults have never explored the World Wide Web or are unaware of all that the Web has to offer.

In conjunction with Westminster Village and the Lafayette Senior Center, organizations that serve the older adult population, the GSO will offer two separate tutorial programs: beginning and advanced. Each participant will be able to progress at an individual pace, aided by a student member of GSO paired with him/her. The program is free-of-charge for senior adults.

The overarching goals are twofold: (1) help older adults become more familiar with the Internet and (2) promote intergenerational communication. Light refreshments will be served at the end of the program while GSO leads a discussion about technology and aging, in an effort to open dialogue across age groups. Transportation from Westminster Village and the Lafayette Senior Center is available. We are looking for volunteers to provide individual help for each senior. If you are interested or want more information, please call 765-494-4701.

Interdisciplinary Research on Life Course Inequality: Year 1 in Review

The first year of the project on Life Course Inequality, sponsored by the National Institute on Aging, included two symposia, convening research clusters, and awarding three pilot grants.

Symposia

The kickoff symposium was scheduled for September 13, 2002, but our national tragedy prompted us to reschedule. We were able to keep our three speakers intact, and over 60 people gathered for the first symposium entitled: Life Course Inequality: Antecedents and Consequences.

Dr. Angela O'Rand, Duke University, spoke about Selection as a Life Course Process: The Impact of Education. O'Rand showed that a college degree, no matter when it's completed, has "an enduring effect on wealth, health and well-being." It also "helps mediate or eliminate early childhood adversity" based on race, poverty,

and the socioeconomic status of parents, O'Rand said.

Women tend to realize more economic benefit from a midlife college career than men. Black men don't benefit as much from finishing a degree as do black women, the study found. Hispanic women were able to do "four times better" by returning to college than Hispanic men, O'Rand said.

Dr. Felicia LeClere, Notre Dame University, spoke about Immigrant Differentials in Health and Mortality: The Role of Duration of Residence and Ethnicity. LeClere finds that health and longevity are related to ecological arrangements such that persons living in disadvantaged neighborhoods suffer additional health risks.

Charles E. Boulton, Johns Hopkins University, discussed The Future of Health Care for Older People: Will the Disadvantaged Be Left Behind? In his presentation, he showed that there are innovative ways to improve health care delivery to older people such that longevity is extended. Unfortunately, most managed care plans do not cover services provided by such alternative arrangements.

The symposium also featured ten posters and announced the plan to award pilot grants to persons interested in studying life course inequality.

The spring symposium was held on February 20 and featured Dan Black, Syracuse University addressing the question: Why Do Minority Men Earn Less? Evidence from the Highly Educated. Black, a graduate of Purdue University, returned to provide insight as to why college educated minority men earn less, on average, than do college educated White men. Although Black admits that "there could be a subtle form of cultural discrimination" that influences wages, he found that many "pre-market" factors such as college major and language skills are critical to explaining the gap. About 50 people attended the event.

Research Clusters

Three groups of researchers were convened during the first year to explore mutual research interests related to life course inequality. The three groups focus on: *health inequality*, *financial security*, and *racial and ethnic variation over the life course*.

The groups are meeting to explore collaborative research projects as well as to help one another with current projects. Many cluster

group members are reviewing drafts of grant proposal and research articles from other cluster members. The goal is to build a critical mass of scholars who will be nationally recognized for research into life course inequality. If interested in joining one of the three research clusters, contact Janet Wilmoth (wilmothj@sri.soc.purdue.edu).

Pilot Grants and Funding Opportunities

Three faculty were awarded 2002 gerontology pilot grants. They are:

- Sandra Barnes, Sociology and Anthropology, Urban Renewal in Gary, Indiana and the Effects of Neighborhood Concentrated Poverty
- Sharon DeVaney, Consumer Sciences and Retailing, Economic Behavior of Male and Female-Headed Baby Boomer Households
- Kevin Roy, Child Development and Family Studies, Race/Ethnic Variation in Father Involvement Across the Life Course

The Academic Career Leadership Award also provides support for other mechanisms to support research. One such mechanism is the **Support for Summer Research Training**.

Applications are sought to support Purdue University faculty who are interested in improving their research and methodological skills in order to conduct research on life course inequality. Numerous educational opportunities are planned each summer at workshops, conferences, and summer training programs. Faculty can apply for travel grants to attend one workshop or summer training program.

More information about this is available in the Research page of the web site for the Gerontology Program (<http://omni.cc.purdue.edu/~geron/callforproposals.html>).

Transitions

Nicholas Popovich, Pharmacy Practice, retired from Purdue on January 4, 2002. He accepted a position at his alma mater, the University of Illinois-Chicago, College of Pharmacy, as Head of the Department of Pharmacy Administration.

Kudos!

Mary Brintnall-Peterson and Dena Targ, Child Development and Family Studies, were the co-recipients of the 2001 AARP Grandparent Award presented by Generations United. The award is designed to honor outstanding contributions to the field of grandparents and other relatives raising kin.

Gerontology T-Shirts

The Gerontology Student Organization (GSO) is selling T-shirts. The black, short-sleeved shirt features the Purdue Gerontology logo "Tracking the Way We Age." For more information about how to purchase a shirt to help support GSO, please contact Pei-Chun Chen (chenp@sri.soc.purdue.edu). The cost is \$15.00.

Recent Grants

B.A. Almanza, Sharon DeVaney, Consumer Sciences and Retailing, **J.A. Ismail, A.C. Mason**, and **D.C. Nelson**, from Cooperative State Research Service, September 15, 2001 through September 30, 2003, "Safe Handling of Home Delivered Meals to Older Americans."

James Anderson, Sociology and Anthropology, and **S.R. Byrn**, from Indiana University, September 30, 2001 through September 29, 2002, "Rural HIV/AIDS Prevention and Education."

Wayne Campbell, Foods and Nutrition, **Michael Flynn**, Health and Kinesiology, and **Roseann Lyle**, Health and Kinesiology, from National Cattlemen's Beef Association, September 1, 2001 through August 31, 2003, "Effect of Dietary Beef on Weight-Loss Induced Changes in Immune Function, Indicators of Zinc and Iron Status, and Body Composition, in Older Women."

Wayne Campbell, Foods and Nutrition, from Cooperative State Research Service, November 15, 2001 through November 14, 2002, "Do Elderly Women Have a Higher Protein Requirement Than Young Women?"

Kenneth Ferraro, Sociology and Anthropology, and **George McCabe**, Statistics, from Public Health Service, September 1, 2001 through August 31, 2002, "Aging and Health Trajectories Among Black and White Adults."

Kenneth Ferraro, Sociology and Anthropology, **Janet Wilmoth**, Sociology and Anthropology, **Gerry Hyner**, Health and Kinesiology, and **Sharon DeVaney**, Consumer Sciences and Retailing, from National Institute on Aging, March 1, 2002 through February 28, 2003, "Interdisciplinary Research on Life Course Inequality."

Michael Flynn, Health and Kinesiology, from Cooper Institute, April 1, 2001 through March 31, 2002, "Elisa Cytokine Analysis."

M.B. Kays and **Kevin Sowinski**, Pharmacy Practice, from Bayer Corporation, December 1, 2001 through September 26, 2002, "Serum Bactericidal Activity Following Single Dose Administration of Moxifloxacin and Azithromycin Against Streptococcus

Pneumoniae."

James McGlothlin, Health Sciences, from Eaton, August 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001, "Ergonomic Study."

James McGlothlin, Health Sciences, from University of Cincinnati, September 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002, "Development and Use of a Real-Time Video Exposure Monitoring System to Train Workers How to Prevent Excessive Occupational Radiation Exposure."

James McGlothlin, Health Sciences, from Fundacao De Apoio a University De Sao Paulo, November 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001, "Videotape Presentation on the Safety and Health and the Quality of Worklife in America."

James McGlothlin, Health Sciences, from Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation, January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002, "Using Sensing Technology to Improve the Quality of Life for College Students with Spinal Cord Injuries."

Michael Murray, Pharmacy Practice, from Indiana University, September 1, 2000 through August 31, 2002, "Clinical Pharmacology of Loop Diuretics."

Michael Murray, Pharmacy Practice, from Public Health Service, September 30, 2001 through August 31, 2002, "Improving Medication Use in Patients with Hypertension."

David Waters, Veterinary Clinical Sciences, from Murphy, Gerald P. Cancer Foundation, September 1, 2001 through March 31, 2002, "Evaluation of a New Anticancer Agent."

Connie Weaver, Foods and Nutrition, **D. Elmore**, **R.D. Mattes**, **George McCabe**, Statistics, **D.J. Morré**, **Dorothy Morré**, Foods and Nutrition, and **C.R. Santerre**, from National Institutes of Health, September 15, 2001 through July 31, 2002, "Botanicals for Age Related Diseases."

Connie Weaver, Foods and Nutrition, **D. Elmore**, **George McCabe**, Statistics, **D.J. Morré**, **Dorothy Morré**, Foods and Nutrition, and **David Waters**, Veterinary Clinical Sciences, from National Institutes of Health, September 30, 2000 through July 31, 2001, "FY 2001 Supplement for Center for Dietary Supplements Research."

Howard Zelaznik, Health and Kinesiology, from National Science Foundation, September 15, 2001 through August 31, 2002, "The Cerebellum and Cognitive Timing Processes."

L. Ziemer, **D.M. Abraham**, **Carl Botan**, Communication, and **James McGlothlin**, Health Sciences, from Argonne National Laboratory, August 15, 2001 through September 30, 2002, "Risk-Based Approaches to Environmental Management."

Graduate Courses in Gerontology at Purdue, Fall, 2002**Primary Content**

CDFS	565	Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Aging (2-3 cr.), Prof. Wilmoth (also listed as HPER 590M, SOC 591A)	TTh 10:30-11:45
CSR	630	Social Policy and the Economics of Aging (3 cr.), Prof. DeVaney	MWF 11:30
PE	668A	Exercise and Aging (3 cr.)	T 6:00-9:00
PSY	537	Family in Adulthood (3 cr.), Prof. Cicirelli	TTh 9:00-10:15
PSY	660	Cognitive Functioning in Older Adults (3 cr.), Prof. Cicirelli	TTh 3:00-4:15

Related but not primary content

AUS	540	Augment. & Alter. Com. (3 cr.), Prof. Lloyd (also listed as EDPS 562)	TTh 4:30-5:45
BIOL	495N	Introduction to Neurobiology (3 cr.), Profs. Fekete & Rosen	MWF 12:30
BIOL	559	Endocrinology (3 cr.), Prof. Anderson	TTh 1:30-2:45
CDFS	434	Aging and the Family (3 cr.)	TTh 3:00-4:15
CSR	631	Consumer Behavior Theories (3 cr.), Prof. Liu (also listed as PSY 585)	Th 6:00-8:50
HPER	490S	Adult Health and Development Program (2 cr.), Prof. Seehafer	S 9:00-11:50
SOC	674	Seminar in Medical Sociology (2-3 cr.), Prof. Ferraro	TTh 1:30-2:45

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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