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New Harford Fellows Further Social Work Agenda

Six outstanding social work students have been chosen as the newest recipients of the prestigious Hartford Doctoral Fellowship, a program funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation, administered by The Gerontological Society of America, and directed by Dr. James Lubben.

The following individuals will each receive a $50,000 dissertation grant plus $20,000 in matching support from their home institutions that will enable them to more fully concentrate on their dissertation research projects over the next two years:

James Masten  
New York University  
School of Social Work  
Dissertation Title: “Aging with HIV/AIDS: The Experience of Gay Men in Late Middle-Age”

Amanda K. Toler  
University of Michigan  
School of Social Work  
Dissertation Title: “Social Support and Patterns of Formal and Informal Help Use for Mental Disorders: Understanding the Effect of Age Using the National Survey of American Lives”

Gretchen E. Alkema  
University of Southern California  
Leonard Davis School of Gerontology  
Dissertation Title: “Translating Research Into Practice: A Community-Based Medication Management Intervention”

Nancy Giunta  
University of California, Berkeley  
School of Social Welfare  

Marylin Denise King  
University of Maryland, Baltimore  
School of Social Work  
Dissertation Title: “Religious Coping, Formal Service Use, and Gain Among African American Caregivers of Persons with Alzheimer’s Disease”

Keith A. Anderson  
University of Kentucky Center for Gerontology, College of Public Health  
Dissertation Title: “Death in the Nursing Home: An Empirical Examination of the Grief Experiences of Nursing Assistants”

This fellowship program is a component of the nationwide Geriatric Social Work Initiative, which seeks to expand the training of social workers in order to improve the health and well-being of older persons and their families. It was created to help social work doctoral students overcome their greatest obstacles, such as limited teacher training and career guidance. These fellowships cultivate the next generation of geriatric social work faculty as teachers, role models, and mentors for future generations of geriatric social workers.

Lubben, the Louise McMahon Ahearn University Chair at Boston College, directs the program with input from the National Program Committee of Leaders in Doctoral Education for Social Work and Gerontology. GSA provides overall administration and fiscal management.
Letter to the Editor

The so called “data asphyxiation” presented in the article “Googling Gerontology – A Message from the AGHE President” by Betsy M. Sprouse in the August issue of Gerontology News is certainly a real problem for many researchers and people interested in aging and gerontology. It tells us that the world produces between one and two exabytes of unique information per year, which is roughly 250 megabytes for every man, woman, and child on earth.

However, if you happen not to live in the United States, not to speak English, and not to have Internet access everywhere and all the time – and believe it or not there are still places on this planet where this is possible – you may actually find not enough data available in many scientific fields, including gerontology.

The situation in the Czech Republic, a central European country with a population of approximately ten million, could be a good example. As a consequence of the pro-Soviet communist government, which had been in power for forty years and collapsed only at the end of 1989, there is still a substantial number of middle-aged and senior scholars who struggle with the English language or do not speak it at all. The government discouraged people from studying English and other western European languages and emphasized the importance of Russian instead. For these scholars, the amount of information on gerontology and aging is certainly very limited.

Among the several very useful websites concerning gerontology Dr. Sprouse provides us is the AgeSource Worldwide (www.links.aarp.org/asw), which is supposed to provide information about and access to more than 300 significant information resources about aging from almost 30 countries. It is certainly an extraordinary source; however, when you decide to search through it and exclude all English language articles and websites, the on-line and full text information available becomes very scarce and disorganized.

This lack of even general information on some major issues of aging in the Czech language induced me to write a book with the title Gerontopedagogika, which could be translated as Gerontology and Education. It is one of the first Czech texts available for the non-English speaking population interested in aging as a social and educational phenomenon.

The book introduces internationally covered topics that still needed to be introduced to the Czech readers, i.e., Old Age as a Social Phenomenon, Dementia Syndrome, Seniors and Social Pathologies, Institutional Care as a Form of Socio-Educational Intervention, Education of Seniors as a Form of Socio-Educational Intervention, and Taboos in the Senior Population.

This book has been published for the middle-aged and senior Czech-language-only readers that certainly do not suffer from “data asphyxiation” when it comes to the issues of aging and gerontology. However, as the young English-speaking generation of Czech scholars emerges and takes the lead in research and science, there will hopefully be no need for a second edition of my book.

Pavel Mühlpachr, PhD., Masaryk University in Brno

GSA Signs On To Support New PBS Project

The Gerontological Society of America has agreed to partner with "Almost Home," a PBS documentary and outreach project operating in association with the Peck School of the Arts and Center on Age & Community at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The feature length program chronicles a year in the life of a vibrant retirement community implementing “culture change,” a revolutionary new approach to the challenge of making a nursing home feel more like home. “Almost Home” aims to give viewers an inside and personal look into the lives of many residents, their families, and those who care for them.

GSA encourages its members to tape the program off the air and use it to spark discussion around issues of aging, culture change and continuing care, or as part of existing educational efforts (off-air record rights allow for taping the program and using the tape for up to one year from the date of broadcast). Several PBS station-led coalitions in various cities are also trying to organize outreach events, such as community screenings with follow-up discussions.

Further information is available at www.almosthomedoc.org, where visitors will find a curriculum featuring essays, interviews, discussion guides, resources, and additional film clips. A DVD loaded with resources for educational programming is also available by contacting Lauren Burke of 371 Productions at laburke@uwm.edu.
Utah Welcomes Supiano to Top Post
Effective October 1st, Mark A. Supiano has been appointed chief of the Division of Geriatrics in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Utah. He also will serve as executive director of the Center on Aging and director of the Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center at the George E. Whalen Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Supiano comes to Utah from the University of Michigan, where he was a professor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine. He also served as director of the Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Barshop Institute Faculty Noted For Research Efforts
Several GSA members who serve as faculty at The Sam and Ann Barshop Institute for Longevity and Aging Studies at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio were recently recognized for their achievements in acquiring research monies. A team of economists at Columbia University named Edward Masoro, Arlan Richardson, and James R. Smith as being among the top five percent of those receiving the most research funding from the National Institutes of Health between 1977 and 2003.

Student Member Acquires Multiple Distinctions
Brenda Sulick, a Public Administration and Policy student at Portland State University and a graduate research assistant at PSU’s Institute on Aging, has been named an AARP Scholar and awarded a $10,000 scholarship to help with the costs of her dissertation research. She was nominated by Professor Elizabeth Kutza. Sulick has also been invited to participate in a 15-person national pilot program sponsored by the National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI) and the Ford Foundation. She spent a week in Washington, DC in May being trained to speak to younger voters on the Social Security debate. NASI knew of Sulick’s excellence because she was selected as a Somers Aging and Long-Term Care Research Intern sponsored by NASI in the summer of 2002. Her internship was with Robin Stone at the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging in Washington, DC.

New Member Publications
Lessons from Joan: Living and Loving with Cancer, a Husband’s Story, by Eric R. Kingson. Published by Syracuse University Press.
Gerontological Nursing, by Patricia A. Tabloski. Published by Pearson Prentice Hall.

Top NIH Award Bestowed Upon Richardson, Herman
The National Institutes of Health’s National Institute on Aging has honored the research of two GSA members with one of its most prestigious funding awards. Individual MERIT (Method to Extend Research in Time) awards were granted to Arlan Richardson for his investigations into protein oxidation as a mechanism of the aging process and to Brian Herman for the studies of cell death processes. Institutions within the NIH confer MERIT awards to experienced investigators who have an outstanding track record and allow them to continue their research without having to submit the typical five-year competitive renewal. These awards will allow the two to continue their research through 2015.

In Memoriam
Robert Morris, who served as GSA President in 1967, passed away on October 14th. He had also served as chair of the SRPP section and received the Donald P. Kent Award in 1987. In 1970 he became director of the Levinson Policy Institute at Brandeis University. He was a very instrumental figure in the development of the university’s role in social policy studies and research. Morris received research awards from the Ford Foundation, Veterans Administration, National Science Foundation, and the Department of Health Education and Welfare and was a visiting lecturer professor at several other schools of social work. He served on technical advisory committees of the National Institute of Mental Health, Veterans Administration, Social Security Administration, and the HEW Office of Human Development Services. His publications include several books and numerous articles in the fields of social planning, gerontology, and medical care.
This year, the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) general membership approved the formation of an AGHE Student Committee. With this development, ESPO and the new AGHE Student Committee hope to collaborate on future projects together. ESPO members will benefit from increased opportunities to become engaged with AGHE, as well as from the products of this partnership.

The Mission of AGHE
AGHE, GSA’s educational unit, is a national membership organization committed to gerontological education and advancing the field of gerontology within higher education institutions. The mission of AGHE and its members is to:

1. Prepare service delivery personnel who will work directly with elderly adults;
2. Train educators who specialize in the physical and social attributes of aging;
3. Educate society at large about the processes of aging and the implications of an aging society; and
4. Instruct older adults seeking to maximize their options in a complex and challenging age.

AGHE is dedicated to providing students with multiple opportunities to become more involved within the professional gerontological community. The Executive Committee of AGHE includes an AGHE Student Representative, which is an excellent leadership opportunity for students who are preparing themselves professionally. The Student Representative position allows for individuals to establish important networks, serve on various committees, and attend the annual AGHE meeting.

Additional information regarding the Student Representative position can be found in The Handbook for the AGHE Student Representative and Student Representative Designee, found at AGHE’s website (www.aghe.org). You may also contact the current AGHE Student Representative, Leanne Clark, at LClark4@umbc.edu.

ESPO’s partnership with AGHE is sure to provide many benefits for students pursuing a higher education in various gerontological fields. Additional details regarding ESPO’s collaboration with AGHE will be available soon.

For more information regarding resources, becoming a Student Representative, and details about AGHE’s 32nd annual meeting in February, please visit www.aghe.org.
Graduate Research Training in Aging

Communication Sciences & Disorders
- Changes in Hearing
- The Aging Voice
- Language Use

Nursing
- Recognizing Pain
- Caring for the Caregiver
- Improving Quality of Life

Psychology
- The Aging Mind
- Training & Intervention
- Social Cognition

Sociology
- Demography
- Family Structures
- Health & Health Disparity

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Baltimore and Baltimore County Campuses (UMD & UMBC)

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- Policy
- Social, Cultural & Behavioral

RESEARCH EMPHASSES:
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- Community Environments of Aging
- Public Policy Outcomes
- Social Context of the Aging Self
- Hip Fracture and Related Disorders
- Emotional Well-Being
- Quality of Care/Quality of Life
- Obesity and Nutrition
- Recovery after Acute Events
- Family & Caregiving
- Health Disparities
- Exercise & Physical Activity
- Frailty and Disability

The program is located in the Baltimore/Washington corridor in close proximity to agencies such as the Social Security Administration, National Institutes of Health, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

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www.geronontologyphd.umaryland.edu  410.706.4926

AFFILIATED PROGRAMS:
- Center for Aging Studies (UMBC)
- Center for Health Program Development and Management (CHPDM)
- Center for Research on Aging (UMB)
- Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center
- Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC)
- Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research (GGER)
- Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging
- The Erickson School of Aging Studies (UMBC)

Over Twenty Nine Million Dollars in Funded Gerontology Research
Graduate Research Assistantships, Traineeships, Fellowships Available
Three tenure-track Assistant Professor positions in Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Health Policy are currently being recruited at the College of Public Health at The University of Georgia. These positions will be available in the Fall of 2006. The research and teaching specialties within these positions are open and aging is one of the areas of expertise under consideration.

http://www.uga.edu/publichealth/

The Institute of Gerontology, formerly known as the UGA Gerontology Center, moved to join the College in 2005 and has a 40-year history at UGA. Successful candidates in aging will be jointly appointed in the appropriate department within the College and the Institute of Gerontology.

For further information, please contact Dr. Leonard Poon at lpoon@geron.uga.edu or Dr. Anne Glass at aglass@geron.uga.edu.

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The Collaborative on Aging works to enhance USF’s capacity and reputation as a center for excellence in aging research, education, policy and service. Educational programs include:

Ph.D. in Aging Studies
This interdisciplinary doctoral program draws on USF’s campus-wide expertise in aging. First year full-time students receive $15,000 plus tuition waivers. Part-time students are occasionally admitted. Areas of concentration include:

• Aging and Health
• Aging and Mental Health
• Cognitive Aging and Alzheimer’s Disease
• Public Policy and Long-Term Care

Undergraduate programs
• Minor in Gerontology
• B.A. in Gerontology
• B.S. in Gerontology / Long-Term Care Administration

Other Graduate degrees and certificates
• M.A. in Gerontology
• Graduate Certificates
• Gerontology
• Hospice, Palliative Care, and End-of-Life Studies
• Geriatric Social Work/Clinical Gerontology
• Aging and Neuroscience
• Geriatric-Psychiatric Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (GerPsych ARNP) Program

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• Geriatric Medicine Fellowship
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Miami University’s Department of Sociology & Gerontology, in conjunction with the Scripps Gerontology Center, seeks applicants for a tenurable appointment at the assistant or associate professor level beginning August 2006. A Ph.D. is required by the start date. We seek a scholar with strong quantitative and methodological skills applicable to aging studies. The successful applicant will have an active program of research and a strong track record of, or potential for, securing external funding. Teaching responsibilities are at the undergraduate and graduate levels. We will consider candidates from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds and substantive research interests. The department has offered a Master of Gerontological Studies degree since 1977 and launched a doctoral program in social gerontology in fall, 2005. The Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University provides support for the academic programs and for faculty who conduct aging-related research. For more information, please visit the departmental website at http://www.units.muohio.edu/sociology/ and the Scripps website at http://www.Scrippsaging.org.

Applicants should send a cover letter, curriculum vitae, evidence of teaching excellence and scholarship, and three letters of recommendation to:

C. Lee Harrington, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Sociology & Gerontology
Miami University • Oxford, OH 45056
Phone: 513.529.3437 • Fax: 513.529.8525
Email: harrincl@muohio.edu

Screening begins November 1, 2005. Women and minorities are especially encouraged to apply. Miami University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.
Have you been a contributor to the field of gerontology?
Have you been a member of GSA for 5 or more years?
If so, apply for Fellow status within the Society!

Fellowship is a recognition by peers for outstanding contributions to the field of gerontology and represents the highest class of membership in GSA.

For more information, please contact:
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Deadline for Applications: January 15th

Visit the Society Website for an application and more information!! www.geron.org