Four New Hartford Fellows Selected

Four 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 four 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.

Robin Bonifas
University of Washington
School of Social Work
Dissertation Title: Factors Associated with Effective Psychosocial Care in Washington State Skilled Nursing Facilities

Through my experience as a Hartford Doctoral Fellow I hope to hone my teaching, research, and leadership skills and thereby enhance my future ability to contribute meaningfully to the field of gerontological social work, especially the long-term care arena. In addition, I hope to develop my professional network and begin building a foundation for future research collaborations.

Mythu Chiem-Lu
University of Washington
School of Social Work
Dissertation Title: Immigration, Aging and Life Satisfaction Among Older Vietnamese Refugees: A resilience perspective

I hope the Hartford Geriatric Social Work Doctoral Fellowship will provide an opportunity to develop a life-long supportive network with geriatric social work faculty and students. I am excited and honored to be a part of such an esteemed group of scholars, and I look forward to meeting, learning, and working with each of them to advance research and practice in the area of aging.

Rita Chou
University of Wisconsin-Madison
School of Social Work
Dissertation Title: Institutional and Social Support at Work and Job Satisfaction of Direct Care Workers in Assisted Living

As a Hartford Doctoral Fellow, I look forward to the many opportunities for professional development provided through the Program in the form of training workshops, mentoring, and networking. My goal is to take full advantage of these opportunities so that I may acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for becoming, and inspiring others to become, a gerontological social worker, teacher, and researcher.

Tara Nickle
SUNY, Albany
School of Social Welfare
Dissertation Title: Systematic Review and Meta Analysis of Interventions Relevant to Quality of Life for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia

As a Hartford Doctoral Fellow, I hope to build teaching/methodological expertise and share with the members of this gerontological network as much as I will undoubtedly receive.
Announcing the 2005 AGHE Election Results!

We are pleased to announce the election of the following officers to serve AGHE during the 2005-2007 term. The candidates were elected by electronic ballots cast by AGHE’s Institutional Representatives.

President-Elect
Marie Bernard, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Treasurer
Marilyn Gugliucci, University of New England

Members-at-Large
James Ellor, Baylor University
Margaret A. Perkinson, Washington University

In addition to these officers, the Board of Directors will include the following persons serving the second year of their term of office:

President
Betsy Sprouse, AARP

Secretary
Cathy Tompkins, George Mason University

Members-at-Large
Betty Alexander, Winston-Salem State University
Phoebe S. Liebig, University of Southern California
Joan B. Wood, University of California, San Francisco

Committee Chair appointments will be made by Betsy Sprouse this spring and will be announced in the fall issue of the AGHEExchange.

Special Thanks to the 2005 Annual Meeting Sponsors

We are most grateful to the organizations, businesses, and schools that contributed to AGHE’s 31st Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City. These meeting donations made it possible for us to provide an excellent conference while keeping the registration fees modest. Thanks for your generous support!

AARP Office of Academic Affairs
Merck Institute of Aging & Health
OKDHS Aging Services Division
The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Campus
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center College of Medicine
Oklahoma State Department of Health
Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Forest Pharmaceutical Inc.

Oklahoma Gerontological Nursing Association / University of Central Oklahoma
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center College of Allied Health
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center College of Nursing
Terra Nova Films
Scripps Gerontology Center
Sigma Phi Omega
University of North Carolina at Charlotte

New Category of AGHE Membership Available!

As a way of introducing AGHE to our international colleagues, AGHE’s membership recently approved a new introductory category of membership, the International Affiliate. International Affiliate membership is available for one two-year period, only to educational institutions outside the United States which do not qualify for or wish to join under other membership categories. After the two-year period, International Affiliates may join under one of the other membership categories at the reduced international member rate. If you have colleagues abroad who you think may be interested in this new membership opportunity in AGHE, please send their contact information to dstep@aghe.org and we would be happy to send appropriate materials.
Give the Gift

Give the gift of GSA membership. It’s the perfect gift for graduation or any occasion!

Visit www.geron.org and click on “gift of membership” for details.

New Book by Member

The New Politics of Old Age Policy,
edited by Robert B. Hudson.
Published by Johns Hopkins University Press.

Lebowitz leaves NIMH for University Post

Barry D. Lebowitz, Ph.D., Chief of the Geriatrics Research Branch of the National Institutes of Mental Health’s Division of Adult Translational Research, will be stepping down after more than 25 years of service. Lebowitz has accepted a position as Professor of Psychiatry and Deputy Director of the Sam and Rose Stein Institute for Research in Aging at the University of California, San Diego. His efforts have resulted in an impressive growth of knowledge about the biological underpinnings and treatment of late life depression and other mental illnesses, and recognition of his contributions include designation as an Honorary Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and the M. Powell Lawton Award from GSA. In recognition of his dedication to the career development of new researchers, the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry has designated an annual award as the “Barry Lebowitz Junior Investigator Award.”

In Memoriam

Emeritus Fellow Betty Havens passed away on March 1, 2005 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She had been an active GSA member since 1956 and was a former fellow at the Midwest Council for Social Research. During her career with the Manitoba Provincial Government, she was instrumental in the establishment of the Manitoba Home Care, Pharmacare, and Support Services to Seniors Programmes and in extending provincially insured services to include personal care homes. She initiated and maintained the Aging in Manitoba (AIM) longitudinal study, which thirty years later continues to be a valued resource for researchers worldwide. As a Professor and Senior Scholar in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba, Havens acted as a mentor and advisor to future researchers in the field of aging while contributing her vast knowledge and expertise to seniors, policy makers, and colleagues. In February, she was awarded The Order of Canada, which is the highest honor a Canadian can receive, for her work in health care.

Correction

In the March 2005 issue of Gerontology News, there were several errors in the pie charts that accompanied Sandra Reynolds’ GSA Treasurer’s Report. The editorial staff would like to issue a sincere apology to Dr. Reynolds, because the problem was introduced after she had supplied the correct figures. An unaltered version of the charts is presented here.
Vaitukaitis Takes on New Post at NIH
Judith Vaitukaitis, M.D., has announced that she is stepping down from her position as Director of the National Center for Research Resources to begin working with National Institutes of Health Director Elias Zerhouni as Senior Advisor on Scientific Infrastructure and Resources. Barbara Alving, M.D., currently Deputy Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, will serve as Acting Director of NCRR while a search is conducted for a new permanent Director of the Center.

Vaitukaitis guided the creation of one of the earliest strategic plans developed by any component of the NIH; built the Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Program that helps institutions in states that receive few NIH grant awards; and directed the funding that supported the initial isolation of thes and marmoset embryonic stem cells, which led to the isolation of human embryonic stem cells.

NIH Panel Calls for “Demedicalization” of Menopause
An independent panel convened this week by the National Institutes of Health found that many women move through the menopausal transition with few disabling symptoms, and that it is important that menopause not be viewed as a disease. The tendency among women and their healthcare providers in the U.S. to medicalize menopause concerned the panel because the tendency can lead to overuse of treatment approaches that are known to carry serious risks, or the safety of which is as yet unclear. However, many women, particularly those with surgically induced menopause, do experience significant symptoms that greatly diminish quality of life. For women whose menopausal symptoms are severe and persistent, the panel found nothing as effective as estrogen therapy for alleviating those symptoms. Low-dose estrogen has been shown to be effective for many women, although some require larger doses to relieve hot flashes. Concerns about the risks associated with estrogen use may rule out this treatment option for some groups of women. The panel cautioned women to carefully weigh their personal risks and potential benefits before starting treatment, noting that for some women whose symptoms create a serious burden on daily life, the benefits of symptom relief may outweigh the risks. In addition to learning more about safe use of hormones, the panel urged further research into non-hormonal treatment approaches.

Nystrom Named Executive Director for 2005 WHCoA
Josefina G. Carbonell, assistant secretary for the U.S. Administration on Aging, announced in late March that Scott Nystrom, Ph.D., will serve as Executive Director of the 2005 White House Conference on Aging. The 2005 WHCoA, of which GSA is an active participant, is scheduled to occur from October 23 to 26, 2005, in Washington, DC. The mission of the conference, which is held once every decade, is to report policy recommendations to the President and the Congress and help guide national aging policy. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Nystrom was a senior policy advisor with the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, chaired by Senator Larry Craig. He was previously a consulting health economist, academic researcher, and university professor.

AACN Provides Funds for Nursing Schools
The American Association of Colleges of Nursing has awarded grant monies to 18 nursing schools across the country to increase the pool of nurses prepared as experts in providing health care to older adults. With funding from The John A. Hartford Foundation of New York, grant monies will be used to provide scholarships for more than 70 new graduate students pursuing careers as geriatric advanced practice nurses. Through the Creating Careers in Geriatric Advanced Practice Nursing project, AACN awards scholarship monies to schools of nursing with existing geriatric advanced practice nursing programs to increase student enrollment. The project was launched in 2001 using $2 million in funding from the Hartford Foundation.

NIH’s Center for Scientific Review Finds New Director
National Institutes of Health Director Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D., has announced the appointment of Antonio Scarpa, M.D., Ph.D., as the new director of the Center for Scientific Review (CSR). Scarpa is currently the David and Inez Myers professor and chair of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. He will replace Brent Stanfield, Ph.D., who has been acting director of CSR since October 2003, following the departure of Ellie Ehrenfeld, Ph.D. Scarpa has conducted biophysical research into the cellular and molecular mechanisms of ion transport and homeostasis and the metabolic consequences induced by transport. His investigations have been supported by grants from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism; and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. He has published more than 225 peer-reviewed articles and has edited or co-edited nine books or special journal supplements. He will join NIH on July 1, 2005.

FDA To Launch New Oversight Board
In recent meeting with Food and Drug Administration employees, Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt shared his vision for the FDA that included a new culture of openness, improved oversight, and enhanced independence. In keeping with this vision, the FDA will create a new independent Drug Safety Oversight Board to oversee the management of drug safety issues, and will provide emerging information to doctors and patients about the risks and benefits of medicines. More details about the initiative are available at http://www.fda.gov/cder/drugsafety.htm.

Older Women’s League To Observe Mental Health Week
To attract public attention to issues associated with mental health and aging, the Older Women’s League urges organizations to once again participate in Older Americans’ Mental Health Week, a public health observance during the last full week of May. For 2005, OWL intends to build on the attention and visibility of mental health and aging issues gained through prior years’ public education, advocacy, and media outreach activities. To become an OAMHW partner, visit http://www.owl-national.org/mentalhealthweek/invitation.php.
AFAR Releases Survey Data on Osteoporosis
The Alliance for Aging Research recently collaborated with Opinion Research Corporation, with support from GlaxoSmithKline and Roche, to conduct a new survey called the Women's Bone Health Survey. The results of the survey highlight the importance of doctors understanding their patients' fears about osteoporosis and how those fears can motivate them to take their medication. A synopsis of the survey results can be found at http://www.agingresearch.org/brochures/osteo/osteo_factsheet.pdf.

Book Addresses Impact of Aging Population
The Population Council, a not-for-profit research organization, has just published Aging, Health, and Public Policy: Demographic and Economic Perspectives, a book that examines the dramatic changes ahead due to population aging in the United States. The authors address the resulting pressure on programs, such as Medicare and Social Security, that provide financial support for the aging and on social institutions, such as the family, that provide instrumental, financial, and emotional support for elderly persons. More information can be found on The Population Council's website at http://www.popcouncil.org.

HRET Releases New Toolkit for Collecting Demographic Information
The Health Research and Educational Trust has just released a new Web-based toolkit for collection of race, ethnicity, and primary language information by hospitals and other health care providers. The toolkit, which was developed with support from The Commonwealth Fund, can be accessed by going to www.hretdisparities.org/. This toolkit has been developed to help hospitals collect accurate information from patients to meet regulatory and local community demands. The data can be used for monitoring health care delivery and quality of care by linking to clinical measures and targeting appropriate interventions to specific groups.

NIH To Create New Strategic Initiative Office
In FY 2006, the National Institutes of Health plans to create a new office within the Office of the Director—the Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives—which will provide tools to facilitate planning for trans-NIH initiatives. The office will also develop common processes and formats, where necessary, for the conduct of NIH-wide planning and evaluation. For trans-NIH planning efforts, the office will seek broad public input—from the public, health care providers, policymakers, and scientists—in addition to soliciting advice from within NIH. The office will also coordinate and make more effective use of the NIH-wide evaluation process.

Congress To Vote on Stem Cell Limits
The House leadership has agreed to allow a floor vote on a bill that would loosen the restrictions on human embryonic stem cell research imposed by President Bush in 2001, according to members of Congress and others privy to the arrangement. The vote, expected to take place within the next two to three months, would be the first of its kind on the politically charged topic since President Bush declared much of the research off-limits to federal funding. The cells show promise as treatments for many diseases, but have stirred intense controversy because they are retrieved from human embryos, which are destroyed in the process.

New Medicare/Medicaid Guides For the Disabled Now Available
The Kaiser Family Foundation in March released new guides, prepared by Bob Williams and Henry Claypool of Advancing Independence and Jeff Crowley of the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute, that explain the role of Medicare and Medicaid for roughly 20 million children, adults, and seniors with disabilities. These guides offer a basic introduction to the Medicare and Medicaid programs, including answers to questions such as: How do people with disabilities apply for coverage under Medicare or Medicaid? What is Medicare's policy for covering durable medical equipment? Where can people with disabilities turn if they need help in applying for Medicaid? How do people with disabilities appeal Medicare coverage decisions? Can people with a disability who have Medicare and/or Medicaid be employed and still keep their coverage? These guides are available online in both PDF and HTML formats at http://www.kff.org/medicare/7240.cfm.

New Booklet Assists in Older Volunteer Searches
Experience Corps has released a new publication detailing how to use successful recruitment messages to engage older volunteers. They cite research that states most older adults will volunteer when asked, but that less than half are ever asked. The 40-page booklet—available free while supplies last—includes information gathered from advertising executives, academic researchers, focus groups, nonprofit organizations, federal agencies, volunteer recruiters, photographers, and storytellers. Much of the research was funded by a grant from the U.S. Administration on Aging. To get a free copy of “Appealing to Experience: Zeroin On the Right Message,” visit http://www.experiencecorps.org. The booklet is also available for downloading in PDF format.
New Award Seeks High-Caliber Safety Researchers
The Decade of Behavior (2000–2010) is a multidisciplinary initiative to focus the talents, energy, and creativity of the behavioral and social sciences on meeting many of society’s most significant challenges. These include improving education and health care; enhancing safety in homes and communities; actively addressing the needs of an aging population; and helping to curb drug abuse, crime, high risk behaviors, poverty, racism, and cynicism towards government. The Decade of Behavior invites nominations for its Annual Research Award. This award recognizes excellence in the behavioral and social sciences for research that has impacted policy or has made other concrete contributions to solving social problems. Up to five Research Awards will be given annually in one of the Decade’s major themes areas. A different theme will be selected each year; the theme for 2006 is Safety. (Themes in future years will include Education and Prosperity.) Awardees will be invited by the nominating organization to Washington, DC to present their research at a Congressional Briefing on Capitol Hill. The nominating organizations will be responsible for organizing and planning the briefing(s) for the award recipients. The Decade of Behavior awards each organization with $2,000 to assist with planning the briefing and covering the travel costs of the award winner. The deadline for submission of nominations is August 15, 2005. For application details or further information, please visit www.decadeofbehavior.org.

NIH Establishes Memorial Lecture
The Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research of the National Institutes of Health has established an annual lecture in the behavioral and social sciences named in honor of Matilda White Riley (1911–2004). In addition to serving as the Associate Director for Behavioral and Social Research at the National Institute on Aging, Dr. Riley provided leadership across the NIH in her role as chairperson of landmark committees regarding health and behavior. She was co-chair of the joint ADAMHA and NIH Steering Committee for the Institute of Medicine’s Project on Health and Behavior (1979–1982) and chair of the trans-NIH Working Group on Health and Behavior (1982–1991). In these capacities, she served as the senior NIH spokesperson on the behavioral and social sciences, encouraged coordination among NIH Institutes, oversaw the production of numerous reports to the Congress on behavioral research at the NIH, provided advice to several NIH Directors, and initiated the behavioral and social sciences seminar series at the NIH. In effect, she laid the groundwork for and was the precursor to OBSSR.

The Lecture Selection Committee is seeking nominations of an accomplished behavioral and social scientist to deliver the first Matilda White Riley Lecture in the fall of 2005 or winter of 2006. The annual award will honor an individual whose research has contributed to behavioral and social scientific knowledge and/or the application of such knowledge relevant to the mission of the National Institutes of Health. The nomination deadline is June 1, 2005, and more information can be found at: http://obssr.od.nih.gov/Activities/MWR_Lecture/index.htm.

Funding Available for Elder Mistreatment Research
The National Institute on Aging has announced the availability of Exploratory/Developmental awards (R21) to initiate the systematic scientific study of elder mistreatment. Several of the more basic priority areas elaborated in the National Academy of Sciences publication “Elder Mistreatment, Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation in an Aging America” (2003) are included in this solicitation. This RFA will address initial scientific stages for understanding elder mistreatment in community and institutional settings. These research priority areas include: (1) innovative methods for estimating incidence; (2) standardization of definitions and measurement; (3) elaboration of risk factors; (4) methods of clinical and psychosocial identification of elder mistreatment; and (5) identification of elder mistreatment in institutional settings. Because of the paucity of research in this area, NIA is intent upon expanding the research infrastructure for elder mistreatment and therefore solicits applications from scientists with expertise in related areas (e.g., child abuse; sexual behaviors; other illicit behaviors) as well as those with expertise in elder mistreatment. Finally, NIA seeks the judgment of the scientific community, based upon evidence collected in these grants, on the feasibility of conducting a national incidence study of elder mistreatment. NIA expects to award approximately $1,700,000 annually. Six to eight awards are anticipated. The application receipt deadline is June 23, 2005. For more information, visit: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-05-009.html.

“Research on Environmental Effects in Genetic Studies of Aging”
A special issue of:
The Journals of Gerontology: Psychological and Social Sciences
Guest edited by:
James F. Crow, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Thomas E. Johnson, University of Colorado at Boulder

View the table of contents and ordering information online at: www.geron.org/specialissue1.htm
Or call (202) 842-1275 to order over the phone • Price: $20
Careers in Gerontology
(Congratulations Graduates!)
On behalf of the Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization, we would like to extend our congratulations to all of the graduates of 2005! We wish you the best of luck in your future occupational endeavors. For those of us who still have a few years of our graduate (or undergraduate) careers ahead of us, it is never too early to begin thinking about our future occupational options. Here are some suggested settings (both academia and non-academia related) that offer careers in aging:

• Long-term Care and Health Care Facilities
• Retirement Communities
• Universities and other Educational Settings (research and teaching oriented)
• Government Agencies (federal, state, and local)
• Professional Organizations
• Business and Industry
• Religious Organizations
• Community and Human Services
• Advocacy Groups

For anyone interested, Adult Development and Aging (Division 20 of the American Psychological Association) will be holding a graduate symposium entitled “Non-academic Careers in Adult Development and Aging.” The symposium will feature talks by Dr. Thomas H. Crook (President and Chief Executive Officer of Psychologix, Inc.) and Dr. Roger W. Morrell (Director of Research at GeroTech Corporation). Additional information on the time and place of the symposium will soon be available. For more information regarding the symposium, please contact Meredith Patterson at Meredith.patterson@cgu.edu or Christie Chung at Christie.chung@cgu.edu.

ESPO Awards Committee Volunteers Needed
Volunteers (3–5) are needed to serve on the GSA ESPO Paper and Poster Awards Committee. Committee members will assist in the judging of abstracts, papers, and posters to be presented at this year’s Annual Meeting in New Orleans. All potential committee members must be members of ESPO (all sections acceptable), plan on attending the Annual Meeting in November, and have daily e-mail access (including summer). Committee member responsibilities are listed below:

• Review abstracts and submit ratings to committee co-chairs
• Review and rate 10–12 papers
• Participate in a conference call to evaluate paper finalists as a committee
• Evaluate poster finalists during the annual meeting

This is a great way to become involved in ESPO/GSA activities, meet people, and learn about the latest research in the field. Please contact the committee co-chairs via e-mail if interested: Jim Konopack (jkonopac@uiuc.edu) and Julie Sergeant (juliesgt@mail.ku.edu). Volunteers will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.
BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE (BCM):
The Huffington Center on Aging and Section of Geriatrics, Department of Medicine Seeks a fellowship trained BC/BE geriatrician (2 years minimum) to expand our ongoing programs of education, research, and clinical care in Geriatrics. The position is a tenured-track position in the Section of Geriatrics, Department of Medicine, BCM. Faculty appointment will be reflective of qualifications. The geriatrician is envisioned to have an important role in the education of BCM medical students as well as clinical responsibilities. Other opportunities at BCM are also developing so we encourage all inquiries. Please address inquiries with CV to: George Taffet, M.D., Chief, Geriatrics Section, Department of Medicine, One Baylor Plaza, M320, Houston, TX 77030. Email: gtaffet@bcm.tmc.edu • Website: http://www.hcoa.org/

BCM provides a competitive salary with excellent benefits and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

THE RESEARCH TRAINING IN MENTAL HEALTH AND AGING PROGRAM AT PENN STATE UNIVERSITY: announces the availability of a postdoctoral position. The program provides research training in two substantive areas: 1) assessment of risk in individuals and populations; 2) intervention research. These areas are integrated with three cross-cutting themes: methodology, research with minority and other underserved populations, and ethical conduct of research. We are looking for a candidate with a background in the social and behavioral sciences and commitment to a career in research that focuses on mental health issues in later life. Review of materials is on-going and will continue until the position is filled.

Applicants should submit a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and three letters of references to:

Steven H. Zarit, Ph.D., Department of Human Development and Family Studies
Penn State University
S-211 Henderson Building, University Park, PA 16802

For more information, contact:
Dr. Zarit at Z67@psu.edu, or (814) 865-5260.

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity and the diversity of its workforce.