

GeroNews

A Newsletter About the Gerontology Graduate Programs
John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies
University of Massachusetts Boston

Volume 9
Issue 1
Fall 2007

Welcome New Students!

For this academic year, the Gerontology Department is excited to introduce six students who have been admitted into the PhD Program. As seen in their introductions below, these students possess qualities that demonstrate their ability to succeed in the program.

ChaeMan (Jay) Lee is a full-time PhD student. He originally is from Korea, and he is an international student. ChaeMan received a BA degree in Gerontology from San Diego State University. His current academic interests include elder immigration issues and alternative health care services for older adults. His hobby is playing sports. In particular, his favorite sport is tennis.

Lauren Martin is a full-time doctoral student. She received a BS degree in Behavioral Neuroscience from Northeastern University. Lauren previously worked and volunteered at the Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly. She worked in the fitness/wellness center at the on-site gym and exercise room, and she volunteered on the weekends teaching art courses to residents. That job confirmed her interest in working with the elderly. Lauren's

academic interests are the fitness/wellness aspect of older adults' lives, which include exercise, mentally stimulating activities, and lifelong learning programs. She would like to encourage older adults to care about their health more than ever before and to live a healthy, productive life until the very end. Lauren's hobbies are tennis, painting, reading, knitting, and traveling.

Bob Melaugh is a part-time PhD student. He currently is the President of the UMass Boston chapter of Sigma Phi Omega (SPO), which is the national academic honor and professional society in gerontology. As a lifelong Massachusetts resident, Bob has an MS degree in Computer Science and an MS degree in Gerontology from the Management of Aging Services Track at UMass Boston. For many years he has worked as a software engineer. Bob has a strong interest in the use of technology to improve and facilitate home care and transportation for older adults. In addition, he is interested in planned, mission-oriented intergenerational communities. His hobbies include listening to live music, sailing and downhill skiing.
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Welcome New Students!

Rick Nichols is honored to be a new member of the PhD Gerontology team at UMass Boston. He currently is a part-time student and plans on changing to full-time status next year. In addition to being a student, Rick teaches full-time at Northeastern University, both on campus and on-line. Rick's background is in the sciences. He completed a BS in Math/Chemistry, an MS in Exercise Physiology from Indiana University, and an MBA. His work experience is in fitness/wellness testing and research and management development training programs. He became interested in gerontology because of longevity in his family of origin, and therefore having witnessed relatives re-inventing themselves and continually learning as they have grown older. His goals are to become invested and involved with research in one of the following areas: *The effects of fitness and wellness on glucose utilization as we age*, *The long-term effects of exercise in decreasing exacerbation of chronic illness*, and *Gender differences in managing stress after retirement*. Rick desires to immerse himself in research and teaching at the university and community level. His hobbies are oriented towards fitness: running, swimming, triathlons, and volunteering at the YMCA in the Partnership Program with members, of all age groups, whom are physically challenged.

Susan Parker joins the program as a part-time PhD student. She received a Bachelor's degree from Boston University Cum Laude School of Nursing and a Master's degree from the University of Lowell Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Program. Her work experience includes more than thirty years as a registered nurse (RN) working in various settings focusing on the care of the elderly. Susan's academic interest is health care for the elderly. She is interested in research, teaching, and care with the focus of end of life care and palliative care. Susan loves being back in school with the stimulation provided by ideas, focus and expertise of the professors. Her hobbies are gardening, decorating, and traveling.

Abigail St-Hilaire is a full-time doctoral student. She received a BA degree in Psychology and minored in Spanish from Gordon College. Abigail's work experience includes clinical research in geriatric psychiatry at Harvard Medical Center teaching affiliate hospitals. Her current academic interests in gerontology are many and varied. Some of them include post age 65 people in the work place, aging related to culture, and demographics. Her hobbies include snowboarding and longboarding, gardening, volunteering, sun-bathing on the North Shore, and staying up too late doing homework.

WELCOME

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the Spencer House

On September 21, 2007, the ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the Spencer House took place. The Spencer House was named in honor of Marian Spencer. Located in Roxbury, the Spencer House provides affordable and attractive housing for the elderly. In addition to affordable and attractive housing, the newly constructed 46 unit building promotes healthy physical lifestyles for older persons. The Spencer House is the site of Rogerson Fitness FIRSTSM which is an innovative adult day health program that daily serves 50 resident and neighborhood elders to work with an exercise physiologist. The ribbon cutting ceremony was a special event in recognition of the work of Marian Spencer who is a long-time activist in her neighborhood. In celebration with Marian Spencer attendees of the event included Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino; Jamie Seagal, President of Rogerson Communities; and students and friends of Marian.



From left to right: Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino; Jamie Seagal, President of Rogerson Communities; and Marian Spencer.

Recent Accomplishments by Faculty, Students, and Alumni

Publications

- Chen, Y-P.** (2007) "Flexible work options for all," *European Papers on the New Welfare*, No. 8.
- Davey, A. & Szinovacz, M. E.** (2008). Introduction: Caregiving in context. In M.E. Szinovacz & A. Davey (Eds.), *Caregiving contexts: Cultural, familial, and societal implications* (pp. 1-9). New York: Springer.
- Davey, A. & Szinovacz, M. E.** (2008). Division of care among adult children. In M.E. Szinovacz & A. Davey (Eds.), *Caregiving contexts: Cultural, familial, and societal implications* (pp. 133-159). New York: Springer.
- Goins, R. T., Moss, M. P., Buchwald, D., & Guralnik, J.** (in press). Disability among Older American Indians and Alaska Natives: An analysis of the 2000 Census Public Use Microdata Sample. *The Gerontologist*.
NOTE: Expected to be published in October 2007 issue.
- Higgins, J.** (in press). The art and science of community-based clinical trial recruitment. *The Montior*.
NOTE: Forthcoming in December 2007.
- Hyde, J., & Neagle, J.** (January/February, 2007). Assisted living (AL) resident assessment and the future of long term care (LTC). *Assisted Living Consult*, 31-34.
- Mutchler, J. E., Baker, L. A., Lee, S. A.** (2007). Grandparents responsible for grandchildren in Native-American families. *Social Science Quarterly*, 88(4).
- Okoro, C. A., Denny, C. H., McGuire, L. C., Balluz, L. S., Goins, R. T., Mokdad, A. H.** (in press). Disability among older American Indians and Alaska Natives: Disparities in prevalence, health-risk behaviors, obesity, and chronic conditions. *Ethnicity and Disease*.
NOTE: Expected to be published in late 2007.

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Recent Accomplishments by Faculty, Students, and Alumni

(continued from page 3)

Publications (continued)

Porell, F. W. (2007, March). Intermetropolitan migration and quality of life. In D. Plane, L. Mann, K. Button, & P. Nijkamp (Eds.), *Regional Planning, Classics in Planning Series*, No. 4. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.

NOTE: One of Frank's older journal articles from 1982 was selected as one of 30 articles published between 1973 and 2004 to be reprinted in a new edited book.

Szinovacz, M. E. (2008). Children in caregiving families. In M.E. Szinovacz & A. Davey (Eds.), *Caregiving contexts: Cultural, familial, and societal implications* (pp. 161-191). New York: Springer.

Szinovacz, M. E. & Davey, A. (Eds.). (2008). *Caregiving contexts: Implications for research and policy*. New York: Springer.

Szinovacz, M. E. & Davey A. (2008). Caregiving contexts: Implications for research and policy. In M. E. Szinovacz, & A. Davey (Eds.), *Caregiving contexts: Cultural, familial and societal implications* (pp.269-278). New York: Springer.

Szinovacz, M. E. & Davey A. (2007). Changes in adult child caregiver networks. *The Gerontologist*, 47 (3), 280-295.

*Angela T. Rouse and Jill E. Neagle participated in running the data analyses, developing the tables, and compiling the references.

Szinovacz, M. E. (2007). Commentary: The future of intergenerational relationships-variability and vulnerabilities. In K.W. Schaie & P. Uhlenberg (Eds.), *Social structures: The impact of demographic changes on the well-being of older persons*. New York: Springer.

Szinovacz, M. E. (2007). Grandparenthood. In G. Ritzer (Ed.). *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology, Vol. 4.* (pp.2017-2020). Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

Presentations and Workshops

Fitzgerald, K. (2007, September). *How can nursing homes improve their disaster preparedness?* Presented at the 2007 British Society of Gerontology Annual Scientific Meeting, Sheffield, England.

Fitzgerald, K. (2007, May). *Disaster preparedness of Massachusetts nursing homes: Are they ready?* Presented at the 2007 Network of Gerontology Students (NOGS) Student Event: Research Directions 2007, Keele University, Staffordshire, England.

Fitzgerald, K. (2007, April). *Avoiding a personal disaster during a disaster-Why age matters.* Presented at the Rhode Island College Mini-Conference "Weathering Old Age," Providence, Rhode Island.

Hyde, J., & Neagle, J. (2006, December). *Assisted living resident assessment and the future of long term care.* Presentation at the Center for Excellence in Assisted Living Conference, Arlington, VA.

Laura Henze Russell presented two workshops on the *Elder Economic Security Standard* at the Massachusetts Councils on Aging annual fall conference in Sturbridge, MA and gave a workshop at the National Aging and Law Conference in Washington, DC.

Silverstein, N. M., Brotchie, K., Pohotsky, D., Tudisca, K., & Wong, C. M. (2007, October). *Getting around without driving: How senior-friendly is transportation in your community?* Presentation at the Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging, Sturbridge, MA.

Presentations and Workshops (continued)

Szinovacz, M. E., Chung, E., Quinlan, J., & Davey, A. (2007, August). *Entries into retirement: Gender and race variations*. Roundtable paper presented at the 2007 American Sociological Association, New York.

Grants

"Understanding the Long-Term Consequences of Injury among Older Adults"

Funding Agency: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Principle Investigator: **Mary W. Carter**, West Virginia University

Co-Principle Investigator: **Frank W. Porell**, University of Massachusetts Boston

Contract Period: August, 2007– July, 2009

Awards and Scholarships

Rosemarie B. Barker was selected by The Massachusetts Nurses Association to receive the \$1,000.00 Unit 7 Registered Nurse Scholarship.

In June, **Jay Bulot's** Gerontology Program (long term care concentration) from the University of Louisiana at Monroe received the distinction of being the first NAB accredited graduate program in the U.S.

In August, **Jay Bulot**, was awarded the Endowed Professorship in Gerontology. Jay was also granted promotion and tenure this year. He now is an Associate Professor of Gerontology. He was asked to serve as head of the department of Political Science as well as Gerontology and Sociology.

Dissertation Proposal Defense

Kerstin Gerst successfully defended her dissertation proposal entitled: Supplementary Security Income Use by Older Hispanic Immigrants: Impact of Federal and State Policy. Kerstin's committee members include Jeff Burr, chair; Jan Mutchler; and Jennifer Van Hook from Penn State.

Archana Prakash successfully defended her dissertation proposal titled, Tax Work-Off Program: A Unique Approach to Balance the Social and Financial Needs of Senior Homeowners and Local Governments of Massachusetts. Archana's committee members include Frank Caro, chair; Frank Porell; and Maurice T. Cunningham from the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Other Accomplishments

In May, **Kelly Fitzgerald** was co-organizer and moderator at the 2007 Network of Gerontology Students, student section of the British Society of Gerontology (NOGS) Student Event: The Future of Ageing– New Gerontologists and Their Research Directions, Keele University, Keele, Staffordshire, England.

Dena Schulman-Green's biggest news is the birth of her daughter, Lily Sarah Green, on April 20, 2007, 6lbs 14oz.

Jennifer Higgins has begun a campaign for the Board of Trustees of the Forbes Library located in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Editorials

We welcome contributions to GeroNews and encourage you to submit opinion pieces and letters to the editor in one of the following ways:

1. Leave typed items in the GeroNews mailbox located in the Gerontology Institute mailbox on the 3rd floor of the Wheatley Building. Please type your contribution; handwritten letters will not be accepted.
2. Opinion pieces and letters may be submitted by email to:
cathymae_wong@yahoo.com

All submissions may be edited for clarity, style, size, and content.

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Faculty Advisor: Dr. Maxi Szinovacz, maxi.szinovacz@umb.edu
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A Walk to Remember by Kerstin Gerst

On Sunday, September 30th, the UMass Boston Gerontology student team laced up their running shoes to participate in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk for the second year in a row. The team of 13 walked over three miles along the Charles River to support the Alzheimer's Association, which provides research, support and education for those living with the disease, their families and caregivers. After last year's rainy walk, the team was thrilled with the gorgeous fall weather. Thanks to many generous donations, the team raised a total of \$1,360!



From left to right: Nate, Lauren's guest; Lauren; Kerstin; Eilon; Samantha; Kaori; Ngai; Eileen, Judy's guest; Judy; ChaeMan; Cathy; Yuenan, Cathy's guest; Ryan, Jill's guest; and Jill.

Activities and Announcements

Upcoming Conferences

The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) 60th Annual Scientific Meeting
'The Era of Global Aging: Challenges & Opportunities'
at Hilton San Francisco and Towers
San Francisco, California
November 16-20, 2007

34th Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference of the
Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE)
'Disciplinary Convergence: the Nexus of Gerontology and Geriatrics Education'
at Renaissance Harborplace
Baltimore, Maryland
February 21-24, 2008

2008 Conference of the National Council on Aging and the American Society of Aging (ASA)
at Marriot Wardman Park Hotel and the Omni Shoreham Hotel
Washington D.C.
March 27-30, 2008

Lunch with the Speakers

The Gerontology Program invites scholars to present their research at the multidisciplinary seminar in aging speaker series. Before the presentations, students are given the opportunity to attend a luncheon with the speakers. During the luncheon, the speakers have a wealth of advice to offer graduate students. Mark Hayward PhD, from the University Texas at Austin, states that it is important for students to have good mentors. Donald Cox PhD, from Boston College, emphasizes that a dissertation proposal should reflect these three elements: interesting, original, and feasible. The Gerontology Department encourages all students to attend the luncheons. It is an enjoyable and valuable opportunity for students to learn new ideas from experts in the field.

Steven Wisensale, PhD
University of Connecticut/Storrs
"Aging Policy after Communism: The Case of the Czech Republic"
Monday, October 22, 2007

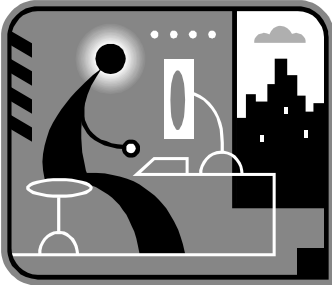
Maria Glymour, DSc
Columbia University & Harvard University
"Is the Stroke Belt Worn from Childhood? Risk of First Stroke and Place of Residence in
Childhood and Adulthood"
Monday, December 10, 2007

GeroNews

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Academic Calendar

Fall Semester 2007

September 3	Labor Day Holiday
September 4	Classes Begin
September 11	Add/Drop Ends
October 8	Columbus Day (Holiday)
October 22	Mid-Semester
November 8	Pass/Fail Deadline & Course Withdraw Deadline
November 11	Veterans Day (Holiday Observed on 11-12 Monday)
November 22-25	Thanksgiving Recess
November 26	Classes Resume & Spring Registration Begins
December 14	Classes End
December 15-16	Study Period
December 17-21	Final Exam Period
December 22	Snow Day

Winter Session 2008

January 7	Classes Begin
January 21	Martin Luther King Day (Holiday)
January 25	Classes End & Emergency Snow Day

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