Thirty-eight student and faculty members from Gerontology @ UMass Boston presented at the 68th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA). The conference took place November 18-22 at the Walt Disney World Swan & Dolphin Resort in Orlando, Florida. The theme for this year’s conference was “Aging as a Lifelong Process.” Over 4,000 gerontologists from around the world participated in over 450 scientific sessions, including symposia, paper and poster presentations. UMass Boston students and faculty presented over 50 posters and presentations at this year’s conference. Students and faculty also assisted at the UMass Boston booth, where attendees could stop by and learn about UMass Gerontology programs. The department also hosted its annual GSA reception on November 20th for students, alumni, faculty and friends to gather and network. Next year’s conference will be in New Orleans from November 16-20 with the theme “New Lens on Aging: Changing Attitudes, Expanding Possibilities.”
Prior to attending the conference, the Gerontology Honor Society, Sigma Phi Omega, sponsored a practice day for students to present their posters to other members of the department.

Below is a list of UMass Boston faculty, students and alumni’s GSA posters and presentations:


Amy Horowitz, Emily Schryer, Joann P. Reinhardt, Kathrin Boerner, & Steven E. Mock. *Is it More Important to Give Than to Receive: Social Network Predictors of Driving Cessation Over Two Years*, poster.

Bernard A. Steinman & Caitlin E. Coyle. *Does Mobility Mediate Associations between Self-Rated Vision and Social Outcomes in Older Adults?*, poster.

Bernard A. Steinman, Shuangshuang Wang, Ceara Somerville, Maryam Khaniyan, Hayley Gleason, Mai Yang, & Jan E. Mutchler. *Mapping Assets to Improve Livability for Older Adults: Boston's Age Friendly Community Initiative*, poster.

Brittany Gaines, Elizabeth Dugan & Chae Man Lee. *Geographic Variation in Driving Cessation among Older Adults with Arthritis*, poster.

Bryceon T. Proctor, Chae Man Lee, Yang Li, Krystal R. Kittle, & Elizabeth Dugan. *Medical Costs and Credit Card Debt in Older Adults: Findings from the Health and Retirement Study*, poster.
Caitlin E. Coyle & Hayley Gleason. Implementation of a Managed Care Plan for Dual Eligible Beneficiaries: Implications for the Direct Care Workforce in Massachusetts, poster.


Chae Man Lee & Elizabeth Dugan. Individual, Vehicle, and Environmental Factors for Car Accidents Resulting in Driver’s Injury among Older Drivers aged 65 and older from Massachusetts Department of Transportation Crash Data 2009 to 2013, poster.


Second year students Bryceton Proctor (left) and Haowei Wang (right) presented posters at GSA.

Student Joyce Wang presented about the Affordable Care Act.


Emily Schryer, Kathrin Boerner, Amy Horowitz, Joann P. Reinhardt, & Steven E. Mock. The Social Impact of Driving Cessation: Examining Well-Being in the Social Partners of Drivers and Ex-Drivers, poster.


Haowei Wang, Chae Man Lee, Myeong Sook Hwang, Maryam Khanyan, & Elizabeth Dugan. The Association of Childhood Health and Depression in Older Adults: Evidence From Health and Retirement Study, poster.

Hayley Gleason, Caitlin E. Coyle, & Lisa Gurgone. Preparing Home Health Aides to Provide Care to Clients with Mental and Behavioral Health Diagnoses, poster.

Hayley Gleason, Megan Staley, & Kathrin Boerner. Caring for the Caregiver: Who can Home Health Aides Turn to After a Client’s Death? poster.

Jan E. Mutchler, Ping Xu, Yang Li, Christopher Carreiro, & Nhung Vo. The 2015 Elder Economic Security Standard Index: Geographic and Demographic Changes, poster.


Kathrin Boerner, Daniela S. Jopp, Isabelle van Riesenbeck, & Christoph Rott. Aging Together: Relationship Dynamics Between the Very Old and Their Old Children, poster.


Kathrin Boerner, Susanne Scheibe, & Robyn Stone. Ensuring Occupational Well-Being in Long-Term Care Professionals, poster.

Kelli Barton. Gender Difference in Socioecological Predictors of Driving Cessation among of Older Adults, poster.
Second year Gerontology PhD student Yi Jung Kim presented her poster at GSA in Orlando, FL this year.

Kyungmin Kim, Steven H. Zarit, Lauren R. Bangerter, Yin Liu, & Karen L. Fingerman. Caregiving Transitions in the Context of Family, presentation.

Lien Quach, Elizabeth Dugan, & Jeffrey A. Burr. The Relationship between Chronic Health Conditions and Falls: Do Social Factors Mediate this Relationship among Community-Dwelling Older Adults?, poster.


Molly Evans, Chae Man Lee, Yi Jung Kim, Megan Staley, Ian Livingstone, & Elizabeth Dugan. Religiosity and Optimism in Older Adults: Findings from the Health and Retirement Study, poster.

Myeong Sook Hwang, Chae Man Lee, Haowei Wang, & Elizabeth Dugan. The Relationship Between Trauma in Childhood and Depression in Late Life, poster.

Naomi Gallopyn, Skye N. Leedahl, Erica Estus, Jessica Corio, Monica Dougherty, & Amber Rollins. Successful Aging in Older Adults: A Survey of Health Behaviors, Life Satisfaction, and Subjective Health, poster.


Pamela Nadash; Allison E. Cuellar; Pamela Doty; Matthias von Schwanenflügel. The Expanding Private Long Term Care Insurance Market in Germany, poster.

Pamela Nadash, Edward A. Miller, & Bryceton T. Proctor. Insufficient Preparation of Long-Term Services and Supports in Retirement: Towards a More Robust Market for Private Long-Term Care Insurance, poster.


Renee Oscarson, Kristen Porter, & Vern L. Bengtson. Religiosity and Spirituality in Chronic Disease: Good, Bad, or Indifferent? poster.

Sae Hwang Han, Jane L. Tavares, Molly Evans, Jane Saczynski, & Jeffrey A. Burr. Social Engagement, Cardiovascular Disease, and Mortality: Evidence from the Health and Retirement Study, poster.

Gerontology students Yang Li and Ping Xu presented the 2015 Elder Economic Security Index at GSA.
**Sae Hwang Han, Ping Xu, & Bon Kim.** *Productive Activities and Depression among Chinese and Korean Older Adults: Cross-national Comparison*, poster.

**Shuangshuang Wang & Maximiliane E. Szinovacz.** *Grandchild Care, Spousal Involvement, and Grandparents’ Marital Quality*, poster.

Steven E. Mock, Emily Schryer, **Kathrin Boerner**, Joann P. Reinhardt, & Amy Horowitz. *The role of loss-based selection in the impact of visual contrast sensitivity on driving cessation*, poster.


Verena Cimarolli, Daniela S. Jopp, & **Kathrin Boerner.** *Perceived Quality of Vision and Hearing and Everyday Competence in the Oldest-Old*, poster.

**Yang Li, Chae Man Lee, Bryceton T. Proctor, Ceara Somerville, & Elizabeth Dugan.** *The Association between Financial Literacy and Depression in Older Adults: Findings from the Health and Retirement Study*, poster.

**Yi Jung Kim, Kathrin Boerner,** Daniela S. Jopp, Christoph Rott, & Verena Cimarolli. *Social Network and Care Arrangements: Are Today’s Centenarians Better off than Previous Cohorts?* poster.
Gerontology Faculty Members Offer Expertise to Legislative Committee on Elder Affairs

In October, members of the Gerontology Institute spoke to members of the Joint Council on Elder Affairs, co-chaired by Senator Patricia Jehlen and Representative Denise Garlick. They discussed long-term services and supports, health care and caregiving, transportation, and income security in retirement. Gerontology professors Nina Silverstein, Jan Mutchler, and Elizabeth Dugan also presented research and policy implications on dementia, elder economic security, and transportation for older adults.

Gerontology Institute director Len Fishman highlighted the importance of long-term services and supports to seniors, their families and caregivers, and to the Commonwealth: “We need innovation in this area to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness long-term services and supports, while matching the individual needs of people who depend on these services. We are standing on the threshold of the most dramatic demographic shift in human history. We’ve added roughly 30 years to the human life span since the turn of the last century and the full effect of that longevity bonus is being felt now.”

Gerontology Department Throws Annual Holiday Party

On December 15th, 2015, the UMass Boston Gerontology Department and Institute hosted its annual holiday potluck. Faculty, students and staff celebrated the holidays and the end of the semester by sharing their favorite homemade recipes.
Age-Friendly Boston Initiative

One of the first things Martin Walsh did when elected mayor was to enroll Boston in the World Health Organization’s Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities. The network was developed through a partnership with AARP and UMass Boston’s Gerontology Institute.

According to Mayor Walsh, the guiding principle of the Age-Friendly philosophy “focuses on designing livable communities that promote good health, strong civic participation, and clear communication. That means adopting safe, walkable streets; offering better housing and transportation options; enabling access to key services; and providing opportunities to be socially engaged. It means sustaining economic growth and enabling happier, healthier residents. In other words, an Age-Friendly city is a thriving and inclusive city for all.”

While 88,000 residents over 60 lived in Boston in 2010, that number is projected to hit approximately 130,000 by 2030: By then, one-fifth of Boston residents will be over the age of 60. The Age-Friendly Boston Initiative aims to address the potential implications of this significant population shift.

Left to Right: Commissioner Emily Shea, AARP Massachusetts Director Mike Festa, and UMass Boston Gerontology Professor Jan Mutchler.
The Age-Friendly Boston Initiative requires a five-year commitment and addresses eight aspects that affect seniors’ daily life: housing, civic participation and employment, social participation, respect and social inclusion, transportation, communication and information, outdoor spaces and buildings, and community support and health services.

The UMass Boston Gerontology Institute’s Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging is the research partner for the Initiative. Jan Mutchler, director of the Center, created a survey to assess the needs of Boston’s 20+ neighborhoods. Members of the Initiative held over 20 listening sessions throughout Boston to obtain feedback on challenges and concerns, strengths, and recommendations related to aging in Boston. Information from survey responses and listening sessions will inform a report and action plan within the next year.
Publications


Han, S. H., Tavares, J. L., Evans, M., Saczynski, J., & Burr, J. A. (Forthcoming). Social Activities, Incident Cardiovascular Disease, and Mortality: Health Behaviors Mediation. *Journal of Aging and Health*.


Gerontology Institute fellow and McCormack Public Policy Professor Christian Weller’s new book proposes policy interventions to increase savings and lower wealth uncertainty.

“If we want to solve this financial crisis, the first step is to understand the mechanisms by which household risk exposure has increased amid rising labor and financial market risks. Policy interventions then can address each of these mechanisms and help households gain more risk protections. The end goal is to increase savings and lower wealth uncertainty, so American families can re-gain retirement income security,” Weller explained.

In Retirement on the Rocks, Weller offers insight into certain causes of the retirement savings shortfall. Additionally, Weller advocates for policy changes that will enable older Americans to remain self-sufficient throughout retirement. Such changes might include the creation of better savings opportunities outside of the typical employer-employee relationship, enhanced target savings incentives for low-income individuals, simplified savings procedures, and improved risk protections as an element of retirement savings policy.
Congratulations to UMass Boston’s Newest Gerontology PhDs!

Elizabeth Chen, PhD
Committee members: Dr. Jan Mutchler, Dr. Edward Alan Miller, and Dr. Jerry Cromwell from RTI International and UMB School of Nursing.

Judith Conahan, PhD
“Negotiation Experiences of Agency and Independent Home Care Aides of Chronically Ill Older Adults” on December 9, 2015.
Committee members: Dr. Frank Caro (chair), Dr. Ellen Bruce, Dr. Donna Haig Friedman from the Center for Social Policy, and Dr. Sharon Keigher from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

Lauren Martin Palmer, PhD
“Marital History and Retirement Security: An Empirical Analysis of the Work, Family, and Gender Relationship” on November 7, 2015 (shown below).
Committee members: Dr. Maximiliane Szinovacz (chair), Dr. Ellen Bruce, and Dr. Adam Davey from Temple University.
Celebrating UMass Boston Gerontology’s Big Moments

The Gerontology Department would like to offer its warmest congratulations to:

**Jane Tavares** and her wife on the birth of son (and future UMass Boston Beacon!) Beckham Ashe Tavares on December 28, 2015. Both moms and baby are doing great!

Gerontology professor **Maximiliane Szinovacz** on her retirement. She will be missed!

**Edward Alan Miller** on taking over the editorial leadership of the *Journal for Aging and Social Policy*. Gerontology student **Corina Ronneberg** has taken on the role of Managing Editor.

Gerontology alum **May Aydin** (formerly Jaward) on her new position as Director for the Information and Technology Services Program within the National Science Foundation’s National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics in Arlington, VA. She was previously the Research and Survey Support Manager for the California Health Interview Survey at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.

Gerontology student **Sharon Rose** on her new position as social media specialist with the McCormack Graduate School's dean's office. She will be supporting Gerontology's social media efforts.

Recent graduate **Kristen Porter** (shown right) on being elected chair of GSA's Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO). This is a three year term, first year as chair-elect, second as chair, and third as outgoing chair. Look out for ESPO events at GSA 2016, such as the Presidential Symposium and the Wine & Cheese Networking Event!
Associate Professor **Pamela Nadash** on her $120,000 award from the Donaghue Foundation for the project, "Nursing Home Satisfaction Measures: What is Their Relationship to Quality?" Co-investigators are Gerontology Professors **Jennifer Gaudet Hefele**, **Edward Alan Miller**, and **Kathrin Boerner**.

Gerontology alum **Kelly Fitzgerald** on her return to UMass to teach the Management of Aging Services Capstone seminar this semester. Welcome back, Kelly!

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**Gerontology Speaker Series**

December 7, 2015  
Michelle M. Washko, PhD  
UMass Boston, Gerontology Alum 2006  
Deputy Director, National Center for Health Workforce Analysis, Health Resources and Services Administration  
*Reflecting on a career path: From academic gerontology into federal government*
Upcoming Speakers

April 4, 2016
Kali S. Thomas, PhD
Assistant Professor (Research) of Health Services, Policy and Practice, Brown University, Research Health Science Specialist, Providence VA Medical Center
More Than a Meal: Research Documenting the Impact of Home-Delivered Meals Programs

April 25, 2016
Steven H. Zarit, PhD
Distinguished Professor, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Pennsylvania State University; Adjunct Professor, Gerontology Institute, University College of Health Science, Jönköping, Sweden
The Missing Link: The Critical Role of Respite in Dementia Care

May 9, 2016
Anica Pless Kaiser, PhD & Brian N. Smith, PhD
National Center for PTSD, VA Boston Healthcare System; Boston University School of Medicine
The Stress, Health, and Aging Research Program (SHARP) at VA Boston: Overview of Research Program, Opportunities for Collaboration and Student Involvement, and VA Research Career Options

SAVE THE DATE!

Sigma Phi Omega Gerontology Honor Society
Gamma Upsilon Chapter, University of Massachusetts Boston

Careers in Aging Event and Induction Ceremony
Monday, April 4, 2016
3:30 - 5:00 PM
2016 Academic Calendar

Spring Semester

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<td>Classes Begin</td>
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<td>February 2</td>
<td>Add/ Drop Ends</td>
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<td>February 15</td>
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<td>March 21</td>
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<td>April 18</td>
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<td>May 12-13</td>
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<td>Final Exam Period</td>
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Upcoming National Conferences 2016

AGHE Annual Meeting
“Developing Educational Leadership in Gerontology Worldwide”
March 3-6, 2016 in Long Beach, CA

ASA Aging in America Conference
March 20-24, 2016 in Washington, DC

GSA Annual Meeting
"New Lens on Aging: Changing Attitudes, Expanding Possibilities”
November 16-20, 2016 in New Orleans, LA